



Helping *the*
Community
from Within



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement, Agency Goals & Philosophy	3
Executive Director's Letter	4
History	5
Capital Campaign	7
Program Information	8
After-School/Summer Youth Program Goals	9
2008 Highlights & Successes	10
Board of Directors	11
Staff List	13
Financial Summary	14
Donor Recognition	15



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Running Rebels Community Organization is to provide programs that will assist Milwaukee's youth in developing mentally, physically and spiritually, while also promoting community unity.

AGENCY GOALS

- Create safe after-school and summer environments for at-risk youth
- Provide structured activities fostering a positive group experience
- Educate at-risk youth in life skills training, including AODA education, and job seeking skills to prepare them for adulthood
- Provide tutoring to improve academic performance and school attendance
- Avoid negative police contact by youth and no involvement in corrections system
- Provide mentoring for adult guidance and support
- Improve youth self esteem, self-care and self-reliability

PHILOSOPHY

To nurture the development of youths' human potential and reduce violence, drug usage, and gang activity by:

- Keeping young people involved in wholesome, fun activities including money earning potential.
- Tapping into-or sparking-each youth's deeper motivations, hopes, and dreams, and helping the youth to achieve them.
- Emphasizing successful academic achievement essential for responsible adult functioning and citizenship.
- Employing supportive, caring adults who inspire trust & model the values, skills, and mores that we want at-risk youth to develop.

Dear Friends of Running Rebels Community Organization,

Running Rebels Community Organization was very fortunate this year to experience increased program and capital funding. This allowed us to initiate several new programs and complete Phase I of the building renovation project.

From a Program standpoint, we had several new programs begun this year. The programs allowed us to offer our youth new ways to express themselves creatively, socially, and through personal development while strengthening our core educational and preventative offerings. We were able to address pressing needs for innovative and responsive programs.

Our Capital Campaign concluded Phase I. This consisted of completing design/build plans, installing a new roof on the building, and a new outdoor asphalt basketball court with a new fence and gate. We also removed the second and third floor windows and installed new energy efficient windows and sills during the first quarter of 2008. The campaign has raised over \$467,000 for the renovation but due to campaign start-up costs, Phase I costs, and emergency capital repairs, we were left with only \$117,000. Efforts have begun to raise funds for Phase II, which consists of upgrading/replacing electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and fire safety systems and elevator replacement at a cost of \$929,516.

We continued our collaboration with local businesses to sustain the Fresh Coast Basketball Classic. Four black colleges came to Milwaukee promoting educational and scholarship opportunities for minority youth while providing competitive basketball games.

Looking to 2009, we will carry over the \$134,000 Gang Prevention/After-School Program funded by the federal government begun late last year. This program uses education and mentoring to teach personal responsibility, self-respect, cooperation, and life skills to the “most at-risk youth” not covered by other social programs or involved in juvenile corrections programs in our community. On the capital side, we will carry on with our Phase II fundraising to upgrade our building mechanical systems. However, the uncertainty of the nation’s economic recovery casts a cloud over private funding sources.

I want to thank the foundations, corporations, governments, and individuals who donated their money and services this past year. I am also grateful to all staff, volunteers and the Board of Director for making this a successful year.

Victor Barnett
Executive Director



HISTORY

Running Rebels Community Organization (RRCO) is a private, non-profit youth agency established in 1980 by its Founder and Executive Director Victor Barnett. His vision is to provide positive options for youth facing the daily challenges of delinquency, drug abuse, truancy and teen pregnancy. RRCO targets inner city at-risk youth ages 8-19 coming mostly from single parentage, low-income, and often volatile environments. These young people are often turned away by other inner city youth serving agencies.

The agency became incorporated in 1996 and was granted contracts in 1998 by Milwaukee County to provide services to serious chronic offenders, firearms offenders and first time juvenile offenders. Because of our success with these hard-to-reach youth, the contracts have been renewed annually and expanded. Through our After-School/Summer Program, we have provided critical after-school services that have helped inner city youth to make life affirming choices that may not have been possible otherwise.

In 2006, RRCO began a pilot project with Milwaukee Public Schools, The Center for Neighborhood Enterprise and Latino Community Center known as The Violence Free Zone. RRCO Youth Advisors were placed on-site during school hours at two high schools, Marshall Montessori and South Division, to reduce the occurrence of classroom disruption and incidents of youth violence. The program’s success allowed us to expand to 4 high schools in 2007: Washington, North Division, Custer and Marshall high schools. Besides providing on-site intervention services, we also offer our After-School/Summer Program to these youth as follow-up care after school hours.

We have become a leader in serving at-risk youth through our ability to connect with these youth when others could not, which is our passion and strength.



SUCCESS STORY

Our Capital Campaign completed Phase I of a four phase project in 2008. We began fundraising efforts to begin Phase II which will cost \$929,516.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Running Rebels Community Organization (RRCO) has occupied a 90+ year old building since 1999 and purchased it in 2005 fulfilling the vision of a permanent home for our agency. A Capital Campaign Committee was created in 2005 which identified the needs and developed a strategic plan. The fundraising campaign commenced on April 27, 2006. Since we are mostly funded by government sources, our campaign goal is to raise awareness and funds throughout the Milwaukee area from monetary donations from private foundations, corporations, and individuals to achieve the \$3,690,000 overall goal. The benefit of this capital campaign will be to the 1300+ youth that we will serve annually, the local community we serve and our employees having updated facilities to do their work.

There are two major components of the Capital Plan:

- Renovate existing building
- Construct new building addition

This year saw the Capital Campaign progressing into its third year:

- Phase I was completed in 2008 which accomplished this work:
 - finished design/build plans,
 - installed new roof,
 - installed energy efficient windows and sills;
 - installed new outdoor basketball court with new fence and gate
- Phase II. Fundraising for this Phase is in progress. However, due to the cost of Phase I and other capital expenses during the past 3 years, we only have \$117,000 left to apply toward the Phase II goal of \$929,516. We continue our efforts to raise funds for this important phase of work.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Our After- School/Summer Program consists of:

Education Program

This program emphasizes improving academics.

- Mentoring - one to one guidance, role modeling, and oversight by an adult staff person; one of our longest running programs
- Academic achievement - tutoring, literacy and academic assistance
- Course Curriculum - computer training, life skills, cultural awareness, AODA education, home economics, financial literacy, social and relationship classes
- Community Involvement- service, projects, and cultural awareness

Preventative Program

This program provides structured positive activities as alternatives to crime, delinquency, substance abuse and teen pregnancy.

- Entrepreneurship - employment training, job-seeking skills, vocational opportunities, career options, small business opportunities
- Recreation - indoor/outdoor games, team sports including a nationally recognized basketball program
- Music/Performing Arts - music, dance, vocals, instrument lessons, art, sketching, painting, sculpturing
- Gang Prevention - anger management, ethics, jobs, social skills, music

SUCCESS STORY *New youth programs beginning in 2008 included Express Yourself Milwaukee Art Program, Wood Stripping Program, Audio/Visual Program, Job Preparation Program, Track Team Program, ROSES(Reaching Out to Sisters Educationally and Socially) Program, Crime Prevention Strategies Program, Health and Fitness Program, and Financial Literacy Program.*

Intensive Monitoring Program

This program is a merger of the two programs listed below that treats youth assigned by the Milwaukee County Children's Court.

- Firearms Program (FA) is a special program, beyond a probation officer, that gives daily supervision to youth having a non-violent gun offense through the Milwaukee County Children's Court Center.
- Severe Chronic Offenders Program (SCOP) provides strict supervision, support and guidance, life skills training, AODA education and positive alternative activities funded by the Milwaukee County Office of Justice.

Other Programs

These Programs reinforce values such as accountability, integrity and recognition while emphasizing achievement in school and service to the community.

- The Violence Free Program (VFZ), in conjunction with Milwaukee Public Schools, The Center for Neighborhood Enterprise and Latino Community Center was expanded from a pilot program in 2006 to 6 high schools in 2007. RRCO provides on-site intervention services at Washington, Marshall, North Division and Custer High Schools to reduce violence and classroom disruptors.
- We also administer these programs: Milwaukee City Aftercare; State of Wisconsin Aftercare, and Safe & Sound, Inc.

After-School/Summer Youth Program Goals

- Successful completion of the current school year
- Satisfactory school and classroom attendance
- Satisfactory GPA and test scores especially in math and reading
- No incidence or suspensions and/or classroom disruption
- No negative police contacts or involvement in the correctional system
- Development of cultural pride and self-esteem
- Development of a feeling of community and helping others
- Development of relationships with positive, caring adult role models

SUCCESS STORY

The first alumnus from our Basketball Program, Kyle Weaver, was selected as the 38th pick of the 2008 NBA draft by the Charlotte Bobcats. Kyle attended Washington State University for 3 years on a basketball scholarship majoring in Sports Management. He was also one of the first two WSU Cougars chosen to play on the 12-man 2007 Pan-Am team and was first team 2008 all PAC-10 Conference guard.

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF SUCCESS: FIREARMS PROGRAM AND SEVERE CHRONIC OFFENDERS PROGRAM

Two programs funded by Milwaukee County Children's Court marked their 10th anniversary with our agency: Firearms (FA) Program and Severe Chronic Offenders Program (SCOP).

The FA program was developed to keep certain youth who have committed a crime with a weapon out of corrections, with extra monitoring above and beyond that provided by the probation officer. Rob Wollner, Deputy Director, has been with the program since its inception.

The Severe Chronic Offenders Program (SCOP) works with youth who have a history or juvenile crime/incarceration and are provided with extra monitoring, life skills training, mentoring, education and structured activities as an alternative to further incarceration. Craig Greene has been directing this program since 2004.

- Both programs graduated 72% of the youth participants in 2008, which has reduced juvenile incarceration costs for the county during our tenure. "(Milwaukee County) can send eight to SCOP for the cost of sending one to an institution such as Ethan Allen.... judges say they trust programs such as Firearms not only as cost savers, but also as good ways to ensure community safety." (Ethan Allen Costs to Rise Steeply", Sarah Carr, JS Online, August 14, 2007).
- On December 20th, 2007, our FA program received national recognition from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for its successes with the program.

- Success of the FA Program here has resulted in the establishment of a similar program in Rock County in 2007.

Congratulations to both FA and SCOP staff for their fine work over the years and making the programs' success so remarkable in affecting the lives of the youth they served.

SUCCESS STORY

The Violence Free Program, in conjunction with Milwaukee Public Schools, the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, and Latino Community Center, placed counselors on site resulting in a 25% decrease in violence and classroom disruptors.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OFFICERS

Tasha Jenkins, President*
Karen Avery, Secretary

Fighting Back, Inc.
IndependenceFirst

BOARD MEMBERS

Ingrid Jagers
Mia Lott-Rogers
Michael Mayo Sr.
Cecilia Smith-Robertson

United Healthcare
IndependenceFirst
Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Cecelia Smith-Robertson Consulting LLC

STAFF

Victor Barnett

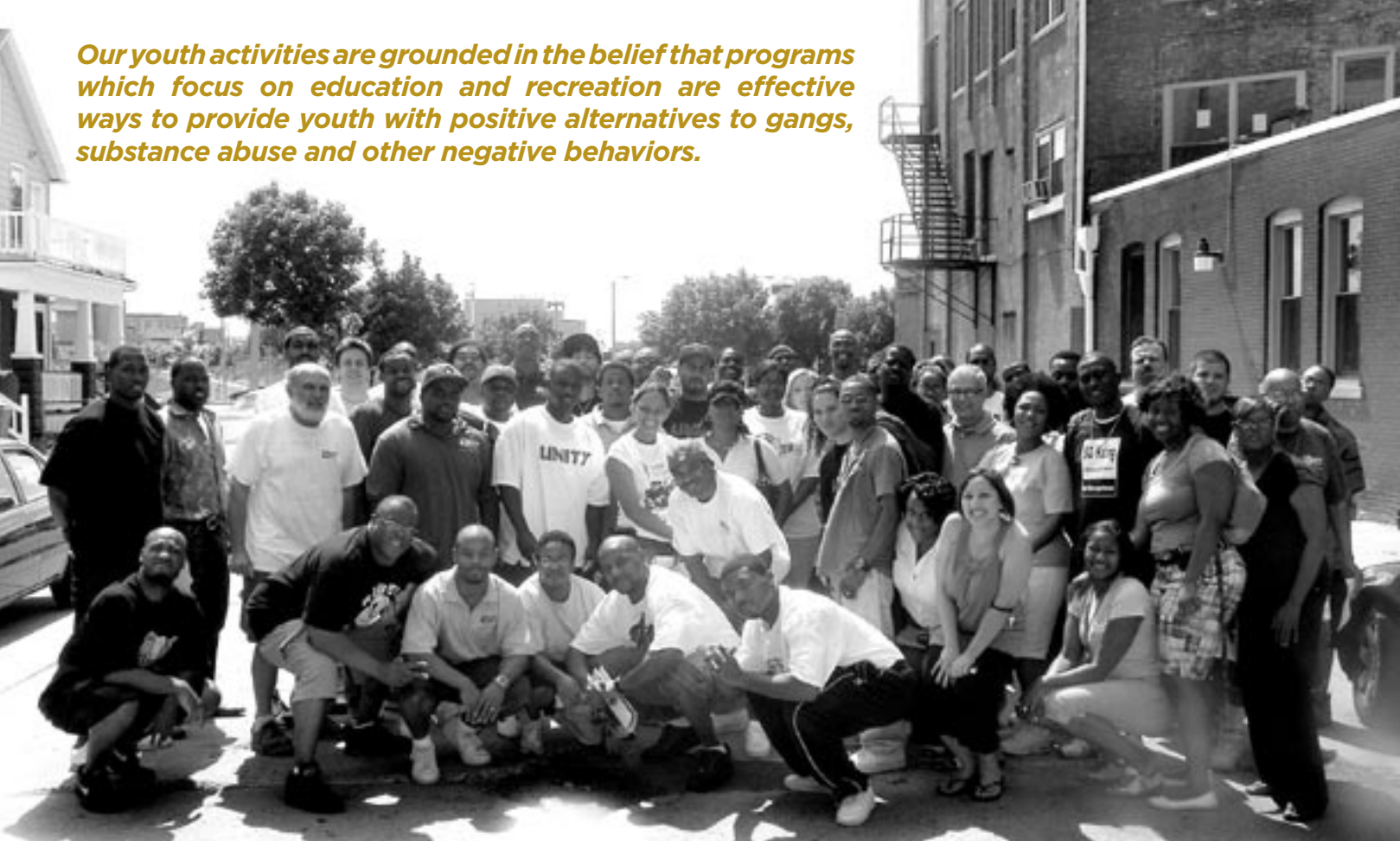
Founder & Executive Director

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Faithe Colas
Larry Hisle, Sr.
Martha Love
Wallace White

Milwaukee Courier
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball, (Ret.)
Martha Love & Associates
W2Excel, LLC

Our youth activities are grounded in the belief that programs which focus on education and recreation are effective ways to provide youth with positive alternatives to gangs, substance abuse and other negative behaviors.



STAFF

Victor Barnett - Founder and Executive Director

Dawn Barnett - Associate Director

Robert Wollner - Deputy Director /FA Program Director

Amanda O'Day - Deputy Director / Mentoring, Youth Services Director

Shelby Parrish - Violence Free Zone Supervisor (Marshall H.S.)

Branden Joseph - Violence Free Zone Supervisor (Custer H.S.)

Stanley Shelton - Violence-Free Zone Supervisor (Washington H.S.)

Maronnia Willson - Violence-Free Zone Supervisor (North Division H.S.)

Craig Greene - SCOP Director

Adrian Thomas - General Program Coordinator

Brandon Mattox - Safe & Sound Site Coordinator

Natasha Coe - Office & Public Affairs Director

Michael Peeples - Executive Assistant

Cozette McLemore - Event Coordinator & Administrative Assistant

Rolunda Dixon - Comptroller

Robert Matuszak - Development

FA

Traci Amos (Co-Lead), Damon Shoates (Co-Lead), Lizzie Addison, Amos Ashford, Katina Jackson, Richard Love, John Rakowski, Ro-vaughn Ricks, Exie Tatum III, Antonio Thomas, Darin Ware, Michael Winters, Timothy Wood

SCOP

Fredrick Caulder, Gerald Donley, Jr., Edward Easley, Jr., Victor Edwards, S. Capollo Free, Marlon Grice, Dummanick Patterson

SCOP - Rock County

Michael Lindsay

MENTORS

Glenn Coleman (Assistant Program Director), Liddie Collins, Irene Correa, Darsha Currin, Clarence Easley, Courtney Elson, Leonard Grant, Michael Gray, Joanna Harley, Chris Hernandez, Jacqueline Hicks, Michael Hopkins, Robert Jackson, Mimmie Floyd Jones, Donald Moss, Dennis Spears, Vincent Toney, LaToya Turner, Marshall Williams, Robert Williams

AFTER CARE

Moses Brown, Miracle Colby, Clifton Phelps

VIOLENCE FREE ZONE

Trina Chambliss, Ewell Clinton, Antuane Coleman, Charles Crosby, Kevin Gaines, Lamar Gordon, Barbara Green, Raven Henderson, Anwar Jenkins, Jennifer Jenkins, Demetrius Moore, Ieesha Parr, Aaron Smith, Charles Robinson, Shawna Thomas, Billy Williams, Lloyd Willson

SUPPORT STAFF

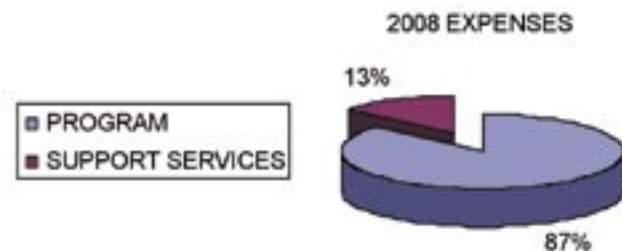
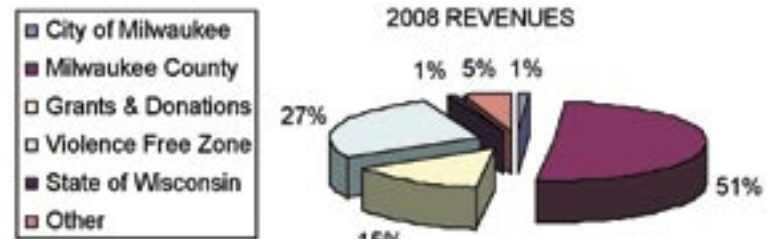
Charles Adam, Andre Burnett, Job Harper, Edward Kurhajetz, Ernest McDaniel, Jacqueline Spence

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUES	2008	2007
Milwaukee County	\$1,806,044	\$1,744,485
State of Wisconsin	53,790	12,751
City of Milwaukee	55,639	39,378
Grants Donations	516,127	486,115
Program Service Fees	5,851	14,724
Center for Entrepreneurship - (Violence Free Zone)	941,845	443,877
Other	181,585	260,213
Total Revenue	\$3,560,881	\$3,001,543

EXPENSES	2008	2007
Change in Net Assets	\$185,358	(22,595)
Net Assets Beginning of Year	449,824	472,419
Net Assets End of Year	\$635,182	\$449,824

Please contact the Comptroller for further information.



2008 DONOR RECOGNITION

(For Grants/Gifts received from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008) Running Rebels Community Organization is gratefully appreciative of all grants and Grants/Gifts donated to our agency. Your contributions sustain us in carrying out our mission statement to at-risk youth.

FOUNDATIONS

Grant/Gifts of \$25,000 to \$49,999

The Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation-
Bright Futures Milwaukee Fund
Youth in Service Fund

Grant/Gifts of \$1000 to \$24,999

Non-Profit Management Fund
Northwestern Mutual Foundation

CORPORATIONS/ ORGANIZATIONS/ INDIVIDUALS

Grants/Gifts of \$1,000,000 or more

Milwaukee County Department of Human Services-
Aftercare Program/Fire Arms (FA) Program
Severe Chronic Offenders (SCOP) Program

Grants/Gifts of \$500,000 to \$999,999

Center for Neighborhood Enterprise
- MPS Violence Free Zone Program

Grant/Gifts of \$100,000 to \$499,000

Forest County Potawatomi - Miracle on Canal Street
Milwaukee County - 1st Time Juvenile Offenders Program
- Wraparound/Safenow Program

Grants/Gifts of \$10,000 to \$99,999

City of Milwaukee- Community Development Block Grant
- School Safety Program
State of Wisconsin- Office of Justice Assistance
- Department of Corrections
Milwaukee Renaissance Academy
Safe & Sound, Inc.
Daniel M. Soref Charitable Trust
David & Julia Uihlein Char. Foundation

Grants/Gifts of \$5,000 to \$9999

Rock County Firearms Program

Grants/Gifts of \$1000 to \$4999

Anonymous
Milwaukee Urban League
PPC Foundation

Grants/Gifts of \$500 to \$999

Victor Barnett

Cedar Hills Church
Seder Family Foundation

Gifts of \$100 to \$499

America's Second Harvest
Faithe Colas
Claire Faiver
Ghost Riders
Benedetto Guido
J.G. Ventures
Mark & Stephanie Weaver

Gifts of \$99 or less

Edward Doemland
James Raleigh Meehan
Jennifer Morrison
Wallace White
Michael Zahn

GIFTS-IN-KIND

ATT of WI. Inc.
Keith Baricovich
Hadley Bay
Bonnie Belsha
Collette Coe
Art Fletcher
Gathering On the Green
Nancy Grossman
Michael Hayden

Hays Companies
Lori Heck
Home Depot- Port Washington Road
Ken Hunt
Italian Community Center, Inc.
Peggy & Thomas Jacobsen
Jonathan Kaufman
Justine Korcherer
Michelle Larsuel
Lenny's Billiards
Cozette McLemore
Milwaukee Admirals Hockey Club
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club
Milwaukee Bucks Basketball
Glen & Karen Ottoson
Clifton Phelps
Jalen Phelps
James & Lynette Phelps
Brian R. Riordan Inc.
Kelly Roberts
Brandon Schulta
Harold Scott
Latrice Shorter
Bonnie Street
Audrey Strnad
Richard Tennesen
Adrian Thomas
Antonio Thomas
Robert Williams

Matthew Wolak
Robert Wollner

**Annual Scholarship Banquet Patrons,
Contributors, Supporters**

29th Street Alumni Fund
Chuck Adam MSW, Life Coach
Asset Builders of America, Inc.
Victor and Dawn Barnett
Brown's Ham House
Byneset Consulting, LLC
Campaign Against Violence
Captain Install Inc.
Central City Valuation Appraisal
Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship
Chase Bank-Mary Wunderlich
Community Financial Service Center
Consulting On Wireless
Nathan Cooper
CNC Graphics & Design- Scholarship Sponsor
Cross Law Firm SC
CST Promotions
James & Karin Cunningham
Susan Day
Lindsay Draper
Fighting Back, Inc.- Tasha Jenkins
Garfield's 502
Gee's Clippers - Austin Brooks



Gene's Supper Club
Glory Dazze II
Harley-Davidson Corp. - Angel Sponsor
Health Center Medical Supply
HM Product Solutions Ltd.
Import Design
Independence First Inc. - Karen Avery
Indevox Studios
JCP Management Group
Rufus King Alumni - Scholarship Sponsor
Kingdom Financial Services Inc.
Edward Kurhajetz
Kathy Malone-Juvenile Justice Strategies LLC
M&I Bank- Anita Granitz
Medical College of Wisconsin- Angel Sponsor
Mequon-Thiensville Sunrise Rotary Club
Mary Jo Meyers
Miller Compressing Co. - Scholarship Sponsor
Mill Road Auto & Tires
Milltown Smooth Steppers
Milwaukee Brotherhood of Firefighters
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative
Milwaukee Public Theater
Dan Mooney
Milwaukee Public Schools- Phyllis Spence
My Power Mall
NAI MLG Management- Gold Sponsor
Northcott Neighborhood House

Phelps Internet Gift Shop
Clifton Phelps- Scholarship Sponsor
Pizza Shuttle
Roger & Rita Pulliam
QuestionsEntertainment.com
Rebel Life Entertainment
Ritz Holman CPAs
Daniel & Jessica Roberts
The Salvation Army-Faithe Colas
Scented Garden
Damon Shoates
Darrien Shoates
Deanna Singh & Justin Ponder
Cecelia Smith-Robertson LLC
Spa Cards
Stone's Throw Winery
Swick Technologies- Gary Swick
Trio Records
Tri-City Bank- Audrey Sellars
Carla Washington
WE Energies- Silver & Angel Sponsors
WE Energies Foundation
Marshall Williams
Youngstars Day Care
Your Travel Biz-Khari Phelps
Zoological Society of Milwaukee- Robert Davis

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

FOUNDATIONS

Gifts of \$25,000 to \$50,000

Elizabeth A. Brinn Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Richard & Ethel Herzfeld Foundation

Gifts of \$1,000 to \$24,999

Ralph Evinrude Foundation
Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation
Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation
Krause Family Foundation
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation
Rexnord Foundation

CORPORATION/ ORGANIZATIONS /INDIVIDUAL

Gifts of \$500 to \$999

Natasha Coe
Edward Kurhajetz
Suzanne & Richard Pieper Foundation
Michael and Margene Zimmer

Gifts of \$100 to \$499

Chuck Adam
Amos Ashford
Frederick Caulder
Glenn Coleman
Rolunda Dixon
Gerald Donley, Jr.
Jerome Drinkard
Edward Easley, Jr.
Robert Matuszak
Donald Moss
Amanda O'Day
Karen Ottoson
Michael Peeples
Clifton Phelps
Stanley Shelton
Damon Shoates
Dennis Spears
Wireless Toyz
Robert Wollner

Gifts up to \$99

Sheila Boyd
Aristea George
Quincy Young

GIFTS-IN-KIND

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Ben Clark, GSI General Contractors

Chester Oszkandy, MLG
Troy Reese, T. L. Reese Corporation
Doug Reiske, Marshall & Ilsley Bank
Steve Smith, Stephen Perry Smith Architects
Margene Zimmer, MLG
Cecelia Smith-Robertson
-Cecelia Smith-Robertson Consulting LLC
Gabriele VanderVeen
- Prochnow, Couri Financial Services
Mike Zimmer, MLG
Victor Barnett, RRCO
Dawn Barnett, RRCO
Robert Matuszak, RRCO

We acknowledge and give special thanks to our Board of Directors for their continued support and dedication to our Capital Campaign:

BOARD MEMBERS

Tasha Jenkins, President
Karen Avery, Secretary
Ingrid Jagers
Mia Lott-Rogers
Michael Mayo Sr.
Cecilia Smith-Robertson

Please notify us in writing of any corrections at:

WAYS OF GIVING

Running Rebels Community Organization accepts monies and gifts-in-kind to further its mission to inner city at-risk youth. Your support is essential so we can continue to provide the high quality of services our youth need during these challenging times.

UNRESTRICTED GIFTS These are gifts that are given with no particular purpose and are especially encouraged. This gives the flexibility to take advantage of special opportunities and to meet emergency needs.

DESIGNATED GIFTS Donors may designate a specific program for use. These can be used for scholarships or specific program needs. We can help you meet your specific goal.

Pledges Donors may make pledge commitments payable over several years.

Real Estate and Other Personal Property Gifts of real estate, equipment, art, jewelry and other personal property may be made. Such gifts will be determined at fair market value by a qualified, independent third-party appraiser, subject to IRS rules and regulations.

Planned Gifts Planned or deferred gifts allow donors to make a significant gift that will benefit our agency in the future, typically at the donor's or beneficiary's death. We welcome the opportunity to work with donors and their legal and financial advisers to establish planned gifts.

Bequests

Bequest provisions in a donor's will are always welcomed by our agency.

Other Gifts And Pledges Cash is the simplest, easiest, and most popular way of giving. Please make checks payable to:

Running Rebels Community Organization • 1300A W. Fond du Lac Ave. • Milwaukee, WI. 53205

For more information on these options or other gift plans, please call the Associate Director-Administration at **414-264-8222**. You may also visit our web site at: **www.runningrebels.org**.

Save The Date *for our* **30th Anniversary** **Scholarship Banquet** **10.29.2010**

For banquet sponsorship opportunities, contact info@runningrebels.org



1300A W. Fond du Lac Ave. • Milwaukee, WI. 53205

Tel: (414) 264-8222 • Fax: (414) 264-8233

Email: info@runningrebels.org • www.runningrebels.org

To sign up for the eRebel News email list, go to www.runningrebels.org and add your email to the "Join Our Mailing List" box, or email info@runningrebels.org