



**TIDES FAMILY SERVICES | ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS**

**TIDES TIMELINE: 25 YEARS**

**1983** ▶ Tides is founded with a \$10,000 grant from the Diocese of Providence and a \$5,000 grant from the Governors Justice Commission.

**1987** ▶ Youth Outreach Project begins with a contract from the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF).

**1990** ▶ Tides moves to West Warwick from Providence.

**1992** ▶ Tides begins a tutoring program, parents' group and counseling at Barton Street Community Center.

**1993** ▶ Tides Outreach Project begins in Pawtucket and Central Falls with six staff members and one clinician.

**1995** ▶ Tides opens an office in the Barton Street Community Center conducting peer and parent groups, tutoring and mentoring programs.

**1996** ▶ Managed care changes the way Tides does business; DCYF becomes a major funding source.

# Introduction

## TIDES FAMILY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2008

**W**E'RE FOCUSING ON GIRLS AND WOMEN IN THIS SPECIAL 25TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL REPORT. Why? Because girls account for one in four arrests of young people in America; because the lack of appropriate services for females — from arrest to incarceration — is driving them deeper into the criminal justice system; because girls and women are often the victims as well as the offenders.

According to a 2000 study conducted by the National Institute for Justice, "...abused and neglected girls are nearly twice as likely to be arrested as juveniles, twice as likely to be arrested as adults and 2.4 times more likely to be arrested for violent crimes. Data also indicate that physical and sexual abuse and neglect lead to increased risk of arrest for violence among women..."

Not every girl who suffers abuse will end up in prison, some like Joanne, who you will read about in this report, escape through education and work. Others and in alarmingly growing numbers end up in prison. In these pages we put a face on the statistics.

Her name is Alicia and her story is not unlike the stories we hear every day.

For those women who live in or near poverty, opportunities for success are severely limited. It is far more likely they will do whatever it takes to survive. And sometimes that means staying in abusive relationships, keeping silent to repeated molestations and rape, selling drugs to earn food money and selling their bodies for rent.

Since 1980 the number of women entering prisons in the United States has risen nearly 400 percent. As of 2006, more than 950,000 women are in criminal justice custody in the United States with thousands of those living under other forms of social control such as parole or probation.

In a 2006 address before the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Bonnie Kerness, a human rights advocate, said “...without any fanfare, the ‘war on drugs’ in this country has become a war on women and it has clearly contributed to the explosion in the women’s prison population.”

Tides is all too familiar with the hardships facing young women who live in the urban centers of our state. We see the results of violence against young girls that turn them away from school and toward the streets. Our caseworkers get the calls in the middle of the night pleading for help. We always respond. We are doing all we can to keep our young clients — both male and female — in the community, with their families, whenever possible, through counseling and interventions and to advocate for them in the schools and the judicial system.

And sometimes it is as simple as becoming their family when they have no family to turn to. ■

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**1997** ▶ Tides begins a tutoring program, parent groups and counseling at the West Avenue Community Center, partnering with the Pawtucket police.

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**1998** ▶ Mike Capalbo begins a certified Special Education Day School in Pawtucket with a \$75,000 grant from the Rhode Island Department of Education.

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**2001** ▶ Juvenile Justice Commission awards Tides a Truancy Prevention Grant to counsel families.

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**2003** ▶ In the aftermath of the Station Nightclub fire, West Warwick offices temporarily moves to Sacred Heart School while repairs are made to bring the building up to code.

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**2005** ▶ Tides holds its first golf tournament at the Rhode Island Country Club.

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**2006** ▶ Champions in Action awards Tides with a \$25,000 grant. Tides first gala, Tides at The Dunes, raises \$60,000 for repairs and renovations of buildings.

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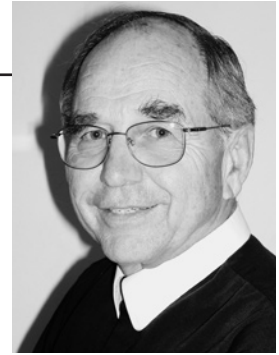
**2007** ▶ Tides begins the Preserving Families Network.

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# Br. Michael's message

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**BROTHER MICHAEL REIS, FSC, MA, MSW, LICSW, Ed.D. (h.c.)**



**I****N 2008 WE CELEBRATED OUR 25TH YEAR OF PROVIDING SERVICES TO YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES.** It is fitting that as we enter our 26th year, the dreams we began with are taking root and flourishing. In the midst of one of the worse economic climates since the Great Depression, we can bring you some good news.

Last year Tides Family Services set into motion a program that will provide better and more services to a larger number of youth and their families for less money and with more success.

Until recently, 80 percent of the Rhode Island Department Children, Youth and Families' (DCYF) funds supported only 20 percent of the kids who needed the services. With recent legislation and a shift in state spending, the majority of the human services budget now goes toward keeping kids in their communities.

“I can't help but think if Joanne and Alicia — who you will meet in the page of our Annual Report — *had these full range of services available to them at the time they needed it*, their lives may have turned out differently.”

With the advent of Preserving Families Network (PFN) — a vast partnership of agencies dedicated to providing access to a full range of services for families, adolescents and children — we can eliminate duplication of services, reduce costs and most importantly, keep kids in their communities and with their families.

These wrap-around services focus on creating stable environments beginning with providing our families with the basics for survival — food, clothing and shelter — before tackling the problems that have caused fractures within the families.



With PFN, we look forward to drastically reducing residential placements, which are not only expensive, but once the youth is released, the schools are resistant to taking them back. Without education, the pull back to the streets thrusts these kids into a downward spiral of drugs, alcohol, crime and violence.

With this new program in place, we work with the schools and provide advocacy services that benefit the schools, the children, their families, and the community at large.

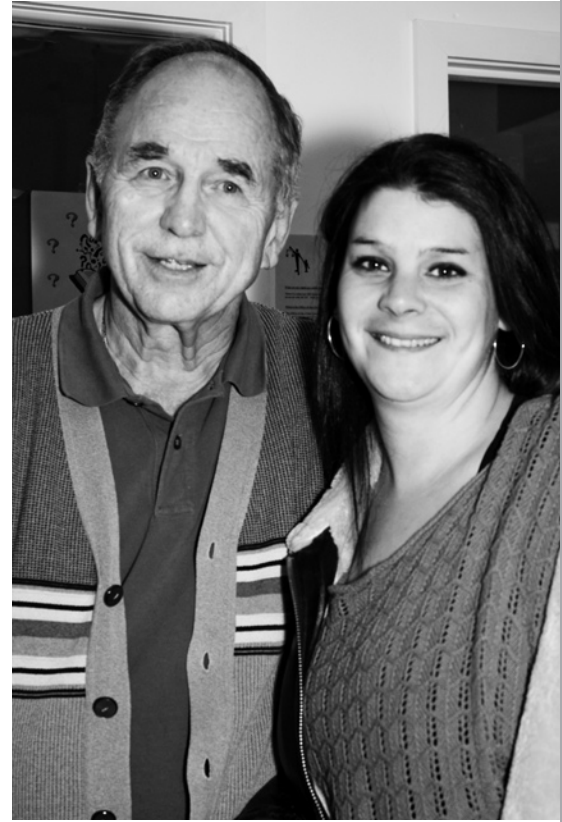
I can't help but think if Joanne and Alicia — who you will meet in the page of our Annual Report — had these full range of services available to them at the time they needed it, their lives may have turned out differently.

We dedicate this annual report to all the Joannes and Alicias who have come through our doors, have yet to find us, or are languishing in prisons or in poverty. Help is on the way because we never give up on a kid... never! ■



“Brother Michael and Tides have many of the answers to *putting kids' lives back together again after trauma*. I hope that others can see this too, and that they will *join me in supporting Tides' unique mission* in any way they can.”

► MARK MOTTE, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE



BR. MICHAEL AND JOANNE, WHO CALLS TIDES HER “SAVIOR.”



“Whenever I called, Tides was there. Sue’s been great to me. *She is the only one I felt comfortable with.* She always gave me good advice — not that I always took it.”

► **JOANNE, WITH SUE KERSHAW**

# Joanne’s story

**A REBELLIOUS TEEN TURNS HER LIFE AROUND WITH THE HELP OF TIDES**

**I T WAS 1992. JOANNE WAS 15 YEARS-OLD.** Frustrated by her rebellious behavior and constant truancy, her uncle turned Joanne over to the police who contacted Tides Family Services. Sue Kershaw, who had just been hired by Tides, was assigned to Joanne’s case.

“I remember her as a sad and lonely kid. She said she was afraid to go to school; that she was being bullied. The school tried to help but didn’t know what to do with her. Because she didn’t go to school, her grades were terrible. She was one of those kids who was falling through the cracks.”

“My dad died when I was three and my mother had mental problems. My brothers and sisters were taken in by family members and I went to live with my grandmother and uncle. I was seven when my grandmother died and my uncle was left to raise me. It was hard living with my uncle. He didn’t know how to raise a girl. Because we were poor, I didn’t have the clothes the other kids had. I was set apart and picked on.”

From ages 12 to 16, Joanne ran wild. She lost her virginity at age 13, was abused by a boyfriend and got pregnant by a man 10 years older than her. At 16, Joanne gave birth to a son with severe medical problems. She was living on welfare and barely eking out an existence.

“Her welfare check was for \$449 and rent was \$450. I used to joke that I would give her the dollar to make the rent. We helped her find the agencies that could provide formula and food stamps, but it didn’t provide for diapers or other basic essentials. We would take money out of the petty cash and buy diapers for the baby.”

“Whenever I called, Tides was there. Sue’s been great to me. She is the only one I felt comfortable with. She always gave me good advice — not that I always took it.”

With no transportation, Joanne often missed clinic appointments for her son and eventually, he was removed from her care by DCYF.

“I was very angry when they took David away from Joanne. I remember Joanne calling me and telling me that she was rescheduling her appointment because it was snowing that day and she didn’t want to sit at the bus stop with a newborn. Joanne was a good and caring mother. She fought hard and did everything she could to get her son back.”

Although it broke her heart, it didn’t break her spirit and Joanne spent those three years, while David was in foster care, earning her GED and her certification as a nurses aide. Once again, Tides stepped in and paid for her final test. For a while, she moved out of Tides geographical service area, but Sue arranged for another agency to take over the case until Tides was able to reopen her case. Joanne is no longer a Tides client, but the relationship forged between Sue and Joanne 17 years ago remains intact.

“My son David is now 13. I still struggle every day, but I am surviving. I hold down two jobs and work 60 hours a week. Tides has been my savior. It is the beam on the lighthouse. I think I will always be connected to Tides and Sue because I know they won’t let me down.” ■





“He was my friend’s counselor. *He took us out for coffee and convinced us to return to the group home...* I’d probably be dead if it wasn’t for Br. Michael. He keeps me sane.”

► ALICIA

# Alicia’s story

**A SUBSTANCE ABUSER SEES A LIFE BEYOND INCARCERATION THANKS TO TIDES**

**I**F YOU HAD SEEN HER IN ANOTHER SETTING, A GROCERY STORE, COLLEGE LIBRARY, or executive board room, you might have mistaken her for a young mom, a student or an attorney.

But here in a stark and dreary room outfitted with a conference table and several unmatched chairs, Alicia in faded sweats with her name stenciled on her shirt and pant leg, fits the image of an inmate in the Rhode Island prison system.

A mass of curly red hair is pulled back from a clear and bright face that denies its tragic past. A victim of physical and sexual abuse from the age of three, Alicia recalls a life overloaded with neglect, rejection and violence.

A child of divorced parents, Alicia lived with her mother, who suffered from alcoholism and mental disorders. When she was 11, Alicia was thrown out on the streets. By the time she was 12, she had been sexually violated by three different men, was living in her own apartment and dealing drugs on the streets of Providence.

Unable to continue living in an impossible and dangerous situation, Alicia moved to her father and stepmother’s home. “I was a terror,” she says. “My father nailed the windows shut in my bedroom to keep me from running away, but I wanted to live with my mother.”

She broke into her mother's house and was arrested and charged with breaking and entering. Given the choice of jail, a mental institution or a residential home, Alicia chose the latter, but it wasn't long before she was on the run again.

It was at this point that Alicia met Br. Michael Reis, CEO and founder of Tides Family Services.

"He was my friend's counselor," she said, recalling that first meeting. "He took us out for coffee and convinced us to return to the group home."

Over the next several years, Alicia established a pattern of behavior that involved constant runaways and truancy. But always, Br. Michael was there. He would set up family meetings and provide counseling — all in an effort to reconnect the family.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





“When I am in here, I get my head straight. *Once you are into drugs, it’s so hard to get out.* I sold drugs to survive. I hated that person I turned into.”

► ALICIA

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Between the ages of 14 and 18, Alicia was in and out of the training school and in 2003, she was arrested for selling drugs and sentenced to 18 months in the ACI.

After her release, she worked on construction and for a while, it appeared that she had turned her life around. A move back to Providence put her back in contact with her old drug-dealing friends, which ultimately led to her current incarceration at the ACI.

“When I am in here, I get my head straight,” Alicia says. “Once you are into drugs, it’s so hard to get out. I sold drugs to survive. I hated that person I turned into.”

Now 29, Alicia views life through the bars of a window. Br. Michael visits her every Monday night.

“I’d probably be dead if it wasn’t for Br. Michael,” she said. “He keeps me sane.”

Alicia is taking college courses and dreams of attending college when she is released. The reality, however, is as stark as the room in which she sits. She owes the state \$20,000 in court costs and another \$8,000 in traffic fines, making it impossible to receive financial aid, or even to get her driver’s license reinstated.

But Tides leaves no child behind. Remaining true to its mission, Tides never gives up on a kid no matter how old or what their past was or their future holds.

When she is released, Tides will find Alicia a job and until then, Br. Michael will be at the ACI every Monday night. ■

# Programs and services

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- ▶ **SCHOOLS** An alternative education program designed to provide at-risk students with a combination of one-on-one educational and counseling services.
- ▶ **OUTREACH AND TRACKING** An intensive program for youth involved with the justice and child welfare systems. With its goal of family preservation and school completion, staff has face-to-face contact with youth three times a day, seven days a week.
- ▶ **YOUTH NEW FUTURES** A concentrated supervision program for youth returning home from the training school, or monitored by juvenile probation.
- ▶ **YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM** An early intervention program for young people who are not yet involved in the justice system. Its focus is on keeping youth out of trouble and in school.
- ▶ **LATINO OUTREACH PROGRAM** A counseling program for children and families designed to meet the needs of the Latino community.
- ▶ **WAYWARD YOUTH ASSESSMENT** Youth are assessed to determine wayward status in cooperation with the local police departments.
- ▶ **PRESERVING FAMILIES NETWORK** Providing a broad spectrum of community-based services and support for families, children and adolescents.
- ▶ **NON-TRADITIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELING** A fee-for-services counseling program addressing the needs of youth and families, particularly in the core cities of Pawtucket/Central Falls, West Warwick, Providence and Woonsocket.

“While the breadth and scope of Tides Family Services has broadened since the beginnings when there were only a handful of us, *what hasn't changed is its heart*. People have improved their skills, programs have grown and expanded, *but the heart is still the heart* and that is what keeps me coming back over the last 25 years.” ▶ DR. ROBERT I. COHEN, CLINICAL CONSULTANT

# Board, administrators and staff



**PROVIDENCE STAFF**



**WEST WARWICK SCHOOL STAFF**



**WOONSOCKET PRESERVING FAMILIES NETWORK, TIDES OUTREACH PROGRAM STAFF**



**PAWTUCKET TIDES OUTREACH PROGRAM STAFF**

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*“Tides’ effective and efficient leadership brings together people and programs. They deserve the community’s support.”*

► U.S. SENATOR JACK REED

*“We’re not only helping young people to turn their lives around, but in doing so, we are cutting down on the incidents of crime and violence and making our community safer for all of us in the future.”*

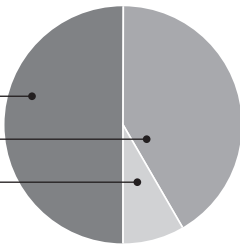
► JOSEPH L. DOWLING JR., MD,  
TIDES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# Financials 2007–2008

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008

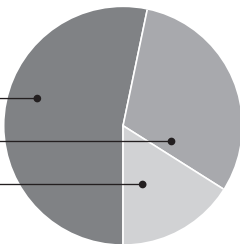
## ► REVENUES

|                  |                    |     |
|------------------|--------------------|-----|
| ■ CONTRACTS      | \$2,725,322        | 50% |
| ■ FEE PROGRAMS   | 2,265,696          | 42% |
| ■ PUBLIC SUPPORT | 455,538            | 8%  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>\$2,725,322</b> |     |



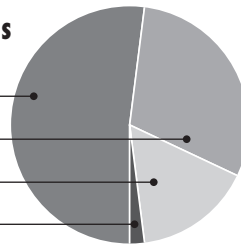
## ► EXPENDITURES

|                       |                    |     |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----|
| ■ DCYF PROGRAMS       | \$2,530,528        | 53% |
| ■ SCHOOL PROGRAMS     | 1,457,733          | 31% |
| ■ COUNSELING PROGRAMS | 761,983            | 16% |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$4,759,244</b> |     |



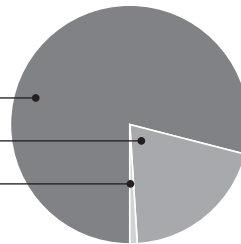
## ► PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| ■ DCYF PROGRAMS | 52% |
| ■ SCHOOLS       | 30% |
| ■ COUNSELING    | 16% |
| ■ FUNDRAISING   | 2%  |



## ► SALARY EXPENDITURES

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| ■ DIRECT PROGRAMS | 79% |
| ■ ADMINISTRATIVE  | 20% |
| ■ FUNDRAISING     | 1%  |



“...Tides program is unique and independent. *The resources go to the kids and their families, and not into some bureaucracy. I’ve been proud to be with Tides since its beginnings... it’s had a very big impact on the delinquency rate in this state.*” ► LINDA D’AMARIO ROSSI, TIDES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# Demographics

FROM JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008

## ► CLIENTS SERVED, BY COMMUNITY, GENDER AND AGE

|                  | WEST<br>WARWICK | PAWTUCKET/<br>CENTRAL FALLS | PROVIDENCE | WOONSOCKET | PFN        | TOTAL        |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| African American | 8               | 41                          | 48         | 5          | —          | 102          |
| Asian            | 4               | 2                           | 5          | 2          | —          | 13           |
| Cape Verdean     | 0               | 68                          | 2          | 2          | —          | 72           |
| Caucasian        | 252             | 93                          | 9          | 19         | —          | 373          |
| Hispanic         | 12              | 117                         | 71         | 15         | —          | 215          |
| Native American  | 2               | 5                           | 0          | 0          | —          | 7            |
| Portuguese       | 7               | 11                          | 1          | 1          | —          | 20           |
| Other            | 79              | 71                          | 8          | 11         | 158        | 327          |
| <hr/>            |                 |                             |            |            |            |              |
| Females          | 174             | 152                         | 36         | 35         | —          | 397          |
| Males            | 190             | 256                         | 108        | 20         | —          | 574          |
| <hr/>            |                 |                             |            |            |            |              |
| Age 6 to 11      | 23              | 3                           | 0          | 0          | —          | 26           |
| Age 12 to 15     | 143             | 153                         | 28         | 25         | —          | 349          |
| Age 16 to 18     | 170             | 230                         | 98         | 30         | —          | 528          |
| Age 19+          | 28              | 22                          | 18         | 0          | —          | 68           |
| <hr/>            |                 |                             |            |            |            |              |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>364</b>      | <b>408</b>                  | <b>144</b> | <b>55</b>  | <b>158</b> | <b>1,129</b> |

## ► AVERAGE DAILY CASELOAD ..... 494

## ► TOTAL CLIENT CASELOAD BY PROGRAM

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Clinical Services               | 210          |
| Home-Based Therapeutic Services | 39           |
| Tides Outreach & Tracking       | 172          |
| Tides Schools                   | 39           |
| Youth Outreach Program          | 327          |
| Youth New Futures               | 184          |
| Preserving Families Network     | 158          |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>1,129</b> |

## ► TIDES' CLIENT HOUSEHOLDS AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Kent County             | 71% |
| Pawtucket/Central Falls | 89% |
| Providence              | 95% |
| Woonsocket              | 88% |

## ► LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY CLIENTS

Cambodian: 2 / Creole: 23 / English: 754 / Spanish: 124 / Portuguese: 4 / Other: 64



**TIDES**  
**FAMILY**  
**SERVICES**

**WE NEVER GIVE UP  
ON A KID... NEVER!**

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**TIDES' MISSION**  
is to provide high-  
risk youth with  
comprehensive,  
preventive services  
that promote personal  
growth and better  
connect them with  
their families and  
communities.

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