

THE GERBER FOUNDATION 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

Every journey begins with a vision – a plan that charts where we will travel and the route we will take. As we prepare our journey, it is important to reflect on completed voyages and learn from past successes and challenges.

During 2002, The Gerber Foundation continued work, begun in 2001, on evaluating and revising the mission and focus of its grant making. We believe that the new direction will be beneficial, both to the Foundation and to grantees with whom we collaborate. We are excited and anxious to begin this new journey that will be unfolding before us. Under National Grantmaking Policies, later in this report, you will find a more detailed description of the new course that has been set.

The mission, *to enhance the quality of life of infants and young children in nutrition, care and development*, remains unchanged. We have chosen to narrow our focus for the foreseeable future, in an effort to make a greater impact on the lives of infants and young children. The aim is to make more effective use of the resources entrusted to us to advance the state of knowledge and practice within this focus area.

While we will continue to support projects aimed at improving the development and care of our youngest members of society, our focus will be on nutritional aspects of that development and care. Our goal is to stimulate innovation in nutritional science, fill gaps in knowledge, and adapt models to community needs. The Board of The Foundation also plans to emphasize early intervention efforts for the very young, thus the focus age range has been changed to one year before birth to three years of age.

Throughout 2002, as the economy remained sluggish and discussions continued on the development of our sharpened focus, grant making efforts were limited. Three grants were awarded on the national level. The first, to Jumpstart, to continue their work on development of the Historically Black College Initiative to develop and encourage college students' work with young children at area Head Start programs. The second grant was made to Zero to Three to continue work on the Healthy Minds project, preparing early childhood development materials for distribution to pediatric offices around the country. Finally, a grant was awarded to Wayne State University to study effects of prenatal alcohol exposure on the young child.

Our compass points have been set for the future. Full sail ahead!

Heritage Giving

The Foundation's commitment to historic Gerber Company locations and communities continues. Awards were made to 22 organizations in West Michigan totaling \$235,750. Of particular note is an endowment of a scholarship fund for local youth involved in 4-H. The Foundation also provided support for development of student/teacher programming materials for the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit coming to the Grand Rapids Museum in 2003. Additional grants totaling \$50,550 were made on behalf of Gerber Products Company facilities in Reedsburg, WI; Fort Smith, AR; and White Plains, NY.

Matching gifts for educational or health and human service organizations reached \$216,472. Scholarship awards totaling \$169,995 were provided to 119 students. While a difficult decision was made to end the Gerber scholarships for dependents of associates of Gerber Products Company, the Foundation also chose to begin a new era by establishing a scholarship program in honor of its founder. This new scholarship program, called the Daniel Gerber, Sr. Medallion Scholarship Program will provide up to \$6,000 in aggregate for local students who have achieved academic excellence.

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.

GRANTS AWARDED 2002

National Grants

Organization	Program Description	Award
Wayne State University	For a study aimed at reducing the effects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy on the newborn	\$202,231
Jumpstart	To continue expansion of the Historically Black College Initiative in Head Start programs	\$300,000
Zero to Three	To provide for printing and distribution of the Healthy Minds information sheets for parents	\$128,095

Heritage Grants

Bethlehem Community Park Association	For installation of a walking track around neighborhood park	\$2,500
Catholic Social Services	Local match for Healthy Families program	\$5,000
Child Abuse Council of Muskegon County	Salary for a Family Advocate position	\$5,000
City of Fremont	Sponsorship of the Kids Zone at the National Baby Food Festival	\$4,000
DeVos Children's Medical Center	Funding for child abuse prevention programs	\$10,000
District Health Department #10	Initiation of the Healthy Steps program to reduce the risk of obesity in preschool children	\$10,000
Eagle Village	Camp scholarships for local youth	\$3,000
Every Woman's Place	Support for Toddler Trauma Counselor salary	\$5,000
Fremont Area Community Foundation	Endowment of scholarships for 4-H program	\$42,000
Fremont Public Schools	Trip support for local youth to visit the Rain Forest	\$5,000
FFA	Scholarships for local youth to attend the Washington Leadership Conference	\$1,700
Grand Rapids Public Museum	Support for student/teacher materials for Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit and scholarships for students	\$100,000

Hospice of Michigan	Funding for Camp Good Grief! for children who have lost a significant other	\$5,000
MSU Extension of Newaygo County	Funding for the Eating Right is Basic in-school educational program	\$3,000
MSU Extension of Newaygo County	To provide two scholarships for youth involved in 4-H	\$2,000
Muskegon Community College	Support for Black and Hispanic Youth Career Days	\$550
Muskegon Community Health Project	Support for Miles of Smiles mobile dental van	\$10,000
Newaygo County Agricultural Fair	Purchase of hogs for donation of meat to local food pantries and shelters and for construction of handicap accessible seating	\$8,000
Newaygo County Community Services	Support for youth programs and services	\$7,000
Newaygo County Intermediate School District	Support for Community Youth Leadership program	\$500
St Mary's Mercy Medical Center	To purchase books for the ready to Read program for Hispanic children	\$1,500
YFCA of Muskegon	Building addition and remodeling to expand services for elementary children	\$5,000