

THE GERBER FOUNDATION
2003 Annual Report

The successes of tomorrow are made possible by the actions of today.

The Gerber Foundation is excited about the future of its grant making efforts and the impact it can make in the lives of children. After many months of serious discussions, the Board reaffirmed its mission and sharpened its focus on supporting efforts to enhance the quality of life of infants and young children. The Foundation intends to keep grant making flexible and responsive to current needs in the early childhood health and nutrition arenas. Furthermore, we envision future partnerships and links both with and among grantees to ensure a broad range of endeavors and collaborations that will enhance the lives of infants and young children.

During the course of 2003, we continued to gain momentum in our three specified focus areas: Pediatric Health, Pediatric Nutrition and Nutrient Competitors (environmental hazards). By year's end, nine grants were awarded. Two were continuation grants while the remaining seven fell under the new areas of focus. Two grants each were funded under the Pediatric Health and the Pediatric Nutrition focus areas and three under Nutrient Competitors. Grant periods ranged from one to three years in length. Study methods included laboratory experiments, analysis of tree bore samples, and intervention studies with premature infants.

We believe opportunities for discovery abound and can be greatly enhanced with collaboration and communication among researchers, the Foundation, practitioners and others. Active collaboration and communication within and among groups working toward a common goal can speed innovation and generate a web of knowledge to provide new insight, generate additional collaborations and support future endeavors. A grant made to the Van Andel Research Institute (VARI) for genechip technology is one example. Researchers at VARI are characterizing childhood tumors and collaborating with bedside physicians to improve and develop treatment protocols designed specifically for the child. This laboratory/bedside partnership provides real time results from laboratory experiments to the clinical setting and is expected to generate new ideas for future endeavors or identify new directions for study.

The Foundation encourages these partnerships and collaborations and continues to seek such projects. Additionally projects that can provide new insight and immediate benefits to the children we wish to serve will have priority in our grant making efforts. Partnerships may be created among laboratory scientists, practitioners or others who will be able to support dissemination of new information in a public venue. Our hope is that a community of collaborations will be built among researchers and others interested in early childhood health and nutrition and that the web of knowledge will continue to grow and will provide a safety net of practices that will improve and/or maintain the health and well-being of the youngest members of our society.

Change requires finding the connections between ideas and those who can bring them to life and sustain them as well as the connections among ideas.

Heritage Giving

As a means of honoring its founder, Dan Gerber, Sr., The Gerber Foundation's commitment to historic Gerber Company locations continues. Awards totaling \$212,360 were made to 27 organizations in West Michigan to expand opportunities for local youth. Additional grants of \$50,700 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 totaled \$132,576 for the year.

Scholarship awards totaling \$223,951 were provided to 128 students. Initial scholarship awards were made to 20 deserving students under the Daniel Gerber, Sr. Medallion Scholarship Program in May 2003. Participation in the awards ceremony by two grandchildren of the founder marked the start of this program and the 50th anniversary of the Foundation's first scholarship program. The Foundation also raised the level of awards to \$1,700 for The Gerber Foundation Merit Scholarship and to \$6,800 for the Daniel Gerber, Sr. Medallion Scholarship.

Our mission is in motion!

GRANTS AWARDED 2003

National Grants

Organization	Program Description	Award
Baylor College of Medicine	For a study to evaluate glutamine supplementation of formula and morbidity in low birth-weight infants	\$390,765
Baylor College of Medicine	For a study to develop determinants of feeding intolerance in premature infants	\$416,289
Children's National Medical Center	Continuation grant to complete an intervention project to reduce the incidence of SIDS in high risk populations	\$356,870
DeVos Children's Hospital	For a study evaluating the effects of low selenium levels and its relationship to development of Retinopathy of Prematurity in neonates	\$102,020
Kennedy Krieger Institute	For a study evaluating the relationship between dietary iron and lead poisoning	\$99,998
Michigan State University	For a study to evaluate the relationship between components of breast milk and development of allergic reactions	\$138,198
University of Arizona	For a study to evaluate the relationship between high environmental tungsten levels and the development of childhood leukemia	\$139,983

Van Andel Research Institute	For purchase of an Affymetrix Genechip system to study early childhood cancers	\$354,945
Zero To Three	To develop a Spanish version of the Healthy Minds parent handouts	\$98,173

Heritage Grants

Baldwin Family Health Care	Support for purchase of Panorex machine for dental clinic	\$4,500
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp	Camp scholarships for local youth	\$2,840
Camp Henry	Sponsorship of 20 youth to attend Day Camp	\$4,100
Camp Henry	Support for Children of WWINC program	\$5,600
Catholic Social Services	Local match for Healthy Families program	\$5,000
Catholic Social Services	Sponsorship for a Children of Children exhibit and events	\$1,000
DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation	Support for the Burn Center	\$10,000
DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation	Support for the Pediatric Oncology Service	\$3,000
Fremont Public Library	Support for 'Catch 'Em In The Cradle' program	\$3,000
Fremont Public Schools	Purchase of video magnifier for use with visually impaired children	\$3,095
FFA	Scholarships for local youth to attend the Washington Leadership Conference	\$2,100
Grant Public Library	Support for the children's area in the new library	\$50,000
Hackley Community Care Center	For the purchase of dental equipment to support a new dental operatory	\$10,000
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	\$2,500
MSU Extension of Newaygo County	Support for the Breast Feeding Initiative program	\$2,500
MOKA	Support for start up of resource center for the hearing impaired	\$5,000
Muskegon Area Intermediate School District	Support for Girls' Math & Science program	\$970
Muskegon Community Health Project	Support of the Miles of Smiles mobile dental van	\$11,000
Muskegon County Health Department	Support for early childhood dental health education to families and caregivers	\$2,000
Muskegon Rescue Mission	Support for children's activities	\$2,000
Mercy General Health Partners	Support for Straight Talk program for teens	\$5,000
Neway Center	Support for Parents as Teachers program	\$5,000
Newaygo County Agricultural Fair	Purchase of hogs and steers for donation of meat to local food pantries and shelters and funding support for 4-H youth programs	\$6,000
Newaygo County Community Services	Support for youth programs and services	\$11,500
Newaygo County Community Services	Support for the building campaign	\$20,000
Newaygo County Council for the Arts	Support for Art Works program for developmentally disabled	\$2,000

Newaygo County Council for the Arts	Support for Youth Arts Month	\$2,000
Newaygo County Intermediate School District	Support for Partner's Clock	\$1,000
Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency	Scholarships for the Girls' Math & Science Conference	\$975
Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency	Support for Young Authors program	\$2,500
Newaygo County Prevention of Child Abuse	Support for youth activities at annual city run	\$1,070
Newaygo First Responders	Support for purchase of radios for Explorer group	\$2,800
Telamon Corporation	Purchase of computer and programs for Migrant Head Start program	\$4,510
White Cloud Public Schools	Support for Love and Logic parent training	\$9,800