

THE GERBER FOUNDATION
2004 Annual Report

The first and most important step toward success is the expectation that we can succeed.

Nelson Boswell

The Gerber Foundation remains committed to continuously and intelligently evaluating programs, activities and goals. Our goals of building a strong knowledge base, translating research into practice and stimulating innovation, remain at the forefront of the Foundation's efforts to improve the care, nutrition and development of infants and young children.

Strengthening the Knowledge Base - A strong knowledge base is an essential component of evidence-based practice. This knowledge base critically needs predictive models for those "most and least at risk", as well as, identification of effective prevention or treatment modalities. The ability to predict risk allows targeting therapies to those infants and children most in need, while reducing unwarranted exposure to the "at least risk" population. Of the 16 grants awarded in 2004, 5 targeted the evaluation of new therapies, 4 targeted the identification of what does not work or may be harmful, and 5 targeted the identification of predictors of risk or outcome. Of the 5 grants targeting new therapies, 3 focused on preventive therapies and 2 focused on treatment. The 16 grants consist of 9 devoted to care, 4 devoted to development and 3 devoted to nutritional issues of infants and young children.

A trio of grants provided to Cincinnati Children's Hospital focus on necrotizing enterocolitis in infants. This devastating disease primarily affects premature infants, has a mortality rate of 30-50%, and often results in lifelong sequelae for those who survive. The grants are focused on building a predictive model for identifying infants most at risk of developing the disease, and testing both a preventive and treatment modality for the disease.

A grant provided to the Van Andel Research Institute provides an opportunity to connect researchers with bedside practitioners. A unique collaboration with the local children's hospital has researchers evaluating blood samples from children with congenital abnormalities and discussing findings, therapies, and outcomes with practitioners. This collaboration is expected to identify the more promising therapeutic regimens in terms of outcomes and result in a more rapid change in standards of practice related to pediatrics.

Two grants focused on pain assessment and management for infants and young children. A small grant made to the Starbright Foundation may help to improve pain management for young children undergoing painful procedures. This project is bringing together experts from around the country to discuss methods that can be easily taught to parents and children, providing them with some sense of control during these procedures. The methods will be presented in a series of vignettes with brief, easily understood instructions so that parents can help their children during these procedures. The second grant is focused on a new assessment technique for infants who cannot express their pain experience. The technique may provide bedside practitioners with a new tool to assess pain and provide more appropriate and adequate treatment for the pain.

Neither research nor knowledge is an end result. Unless translated into practice and applied to improve the lives of those in need, research and knowledge become wasted energy. As stewards, acting on behalf of the Foundation, the Trustees are committed to assuring that efforts result in evidence-based practice that builds on existing knowledge, and will enhance the lives of infants and young children.

Nurture great thought, for you will never go higher than your thoughts.

Benjamin Disraeli

Heritage Giving

The Gerber Foundation maintained an ongoing commitment to historic Gerber Products Company locations. Awards totaling \$213,850 were made to 39 organizations in West Michigan to expand and support opportunities for local youth. Of significance was a \$30,000 grant to the Newaygo County Conservation District to support construction of an observatory at their Environmental Education Center. Located in this rural area, the observatory will house several telescopes, which will be made available to schools for classroom instruction and to the general public. The observatory will be connected to the Internet for remote access by individuals and classrooms outside the West Michigan area.

Additional grants of \$55,400 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 \$142,641 for the year. Scholarship awards totaling \$198,937 were provided to 121 students.

GRANTS AWARDED 2004

National Grants

Children's Memorial Hospital Chicago, IL Evaluation of risk factors for iron deficiency in premature infants	\$139,668
Children's Hospital of Michigan Detroit, MI Testing of a new technique for assessing pain in infants	\$59,798
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Cincinnati, OH Development of a statistical model for prediction of development of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC)	\$76,313
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Cincinnati, OH Evaluation of Interleukin 11 as a preventive therapy against development of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC)	\$377,819
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Cincinnati, OH Evaluation of epidermal growth factor and maturation of the gastrointestinal tract in premature infants	\$247,331
Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center Durham, NC Evaluating current methods of diagnosis and treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease in very low birth weight infants	\$213,588
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center New York City, NY Evaluation of oral beta-glucan therapy as a potential additive to cancer treatment	\$529,497

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Rockville, MD Evaluation of effects of PCB contaminants on infant development	\$210,170
Starbright Foundation Los Angeles, CA Development of a video to teach young children self pain control methods	\$20,000
University of Arizona Tucson, AZ Continuation grant for a study to evaluate the relationship between high environmental tungsten levels and the development of childhood leukemia	\$98,900
University of Minnesota Minneapolis, MN Evaluation of the harmful effects of 100% oxygen therapy given at birth	\$223,288
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, NC Evaluation of the effects of chlorine supplementation on short term memory	\$1,022,827
University of Washington Seattle, WA Evaluation of the effectiveness of a laboratory measure as an indicator of iron deficiency in premature infants	\$4,036
Van Andel Research Institute Grand Rapids, MI Evaluation of congenital chromosomal abnormalities in newborns	\$753,665
Yale University New Haven, CT Identification of biomarkers of calcium deficiency in young children	\$844,397
Wayne State University Detroit, MI Evaluation of the harmful effects of fatty acid supplementation on cognitive development	\$304,200
Total National Grants Awarded	\$5,429,697

Heritage Grants (West Michigan)

American Diabetes Association Camp scholarships for local youth	\$1,600
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Camp scholarships for local youth	\$5,840
Camp Henry Camp scholarships to attend Day Camp for local youth	\$4,620
Community Foundation for Muskegon County Sponsorship of event to teach children about bullying	\$500
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Connection Match support for general operations	\$3,500
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Support for new after school physical activity program	\$3,200
DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation Support for the Pediatric Nephrology program	\$10,000
District Health Department #10 Support for county wide fluoride rinse program for school children (Health Care Fund)	\$2,000

Fremont Community Education Scholarships for participation in recreational programs for low-income children	\$3,360
Fremont Public Library For purchase of children's materials	\$5,000
Fremont Public Library To bring children's author to the county as part of statewide literacy program	\$3,200
FFA Scholarships for local youth to attend the Washington Leadership Conference	\$1,840
Gerber Memorial Health Services Support for First Responder training (Health Care Fund)	\$1,800
Grant Public Library For purchase of children's bilingual materials	\$6,000
Holton Public Schools Scholarships for youth to attend Close-Up in Washington DC	\$1,500
Hospice of Michigan Funding for Camp Good Grief! for children who have lost a significant other	\$2,720
Hospice of Muskegon/Oceana For purchase of furniture and toys for children's play area	\$10,000
Mercy General Health Partners For expansion of Safe Kids Buckle Up program	\$9,000
MSU Extension of Newaygo County Funding for the Eating Right is Basic in-school educational program (Health Care Fund)	\$3,000
Mission for Area People For purchase of backpacks/school supplies for children	\$1,000
Muskegon Area Intermediate School District Sponsorship of Hispanic Cultural Awareness education and events	\$2,500
Muskegon Area Intermediate School District General support for annual student Science Challenge and for four high school awards	\$8,750
Muskegon Community College General support for the Hispanic Youth and Black Youth Conferences	\$600
Muskegon Community Health Project Support of the Miles of Smiles mobile dental van	\$12,500
Muskegon County Health Department For purchase of lead testing kits for testing of children	\$5,000
Muskegon Family YMCA Camp scholarships for diversity camp	\$10,000
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	\$7,000
Newaygo County Community Services Support for youth programs and general human service programs	\$21,070
NCCS Center for Nonprofit Housing Support for Youth Financial Management program	\$3,000
Newaygo County Conservation District Support for building of observatory at environmental education center	\$30,000
Newaygo County Council for the Arts Support for Art Works program for developmentally disabled	\$2,000
Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency Support for Great Start program in county	\$5,000
Newaygo County Prevention of Child Abuse Support for lunch program for low-income children in conjunction with summer youth program	\$1,800

Newaygo County Prevention of Child Abuse Support for car seat installation training for community members	\$5,700
Sparta Health Center For purchase of Reach Out and Read program	\$3,000
Spring Hill Camp Camp scholarships for local youth	\$3,000
Steele Middle School For purchase of band instruments for loan to low-income children	\$1,800
White Cloud Lions Club For Project Kid Sight (Health Care Fund)	\$3,000
White Cloud Public Schools Support for after school youth activity program	\$7,450
White Cloud Teen Center Support for roof repair	\$1,000
Total Heritage Grants Awarded	\$213,850