



A Note From Mary Heathman

Dear Friend of WGA,

As we prepare our annual report, I think back over the past year, remembering general themes and specific incidents of how the Lord has worked through the ministry of Where Grace Abounds (WGA).

I hope it is as encouraging to our supporters as it is to us, to see the activities and accomplishments of 2004. We did it together—our intercessors, financial supporters, volunteers, leaders and staff. We have invested time, energy, prayer and money, sometimes seen as “blood, sweat and tears” into the Lamb’s War, especially that battlefield known as “sexual brokenness.”

This past year saw the arrest of a serial sex offender who terrorized our own neighborhoods; the political battle continued to rage over same-sex marriage. And the APA, under pressure from ministries like Where Grace Abounds, modified their censure of reparative therapy.

Meanwhile, “in fields white unto harvest,” WGA staff and leaders labor in truth and love. And men and women in our support groups receive God’s provision through biblical teaching and discipleship.

Every month, in the WGA orientation, men and women are introduced to our services, or come back again after a long detour, and we hear comments like:

“I’ve been so discouraged about my sexual struggle until I heard your story.”
“I am so glad you are still here; when I got back on track, I was afraid I wouldn’t find you here to help me.”

Last year marked nineteen years of full-time ministry in the midst of the ebb and flow of the controversy of sexual issues in our culture. Our four staff members have now served a combined total of forty-two years in furthering the vision and purposes of WGA.

We want to continue making a place available to men and women to experience God’s grace and truth in the area of their broken sexuality. With the help of our supporters we have done it for nineteen years. With their help we will keep on doing it as long as the need is there.

Thank you for your interest in WGA. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Mary Heathman
Executive Director

Pornography: A Growing Concern

By Roger Jones

In preparation for a recent presentation, I came across some startling figures regarding pornography. One study claims that pornography generates \$57 billion worldwide, with \$12 billion of that figure coming from the U.S.¹ If like me, “billion” doesn’t mean the same thing it used to. We hear it all the time. Hurricane Katrina damage estimates are \$100+ billion; the war in Iraq is eating up who knows how many billions of dollars.

For my own sake, I wanted to have something with which to compare the \$12 billion figure. While I was reading up on some of the issues facing voters on Election Day, I noticed that the spending limit for the State of Colorado in 2005 was just over \$8.5 billion. I was shocked . . . pornography is generating almost \$4 billion more in the U.S. than Colorado spends for its entire budget!

And pornography isn’t the “men’s only issue that it has been believed to be. *Today’s Christian Woman* did a study in 2003, which found that 17% of the female population, (1 out of every 6), including Christians, struggles with an addiction to pornography.² Another study claims, “Half of cyber-sex addicts are men, and half are women; with men preferring pornography pictures and women preferring sexually explicit chat rooms; noting, however that 23% of women preferred pictures.”³

According to *Webster’s Dictionary*, pornography is defined as:

- a) the depiction of erotic behavior (as in pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement
- b) material (as books or a photograph) that depicts erotic behavior and is intended to cause sexual excitement

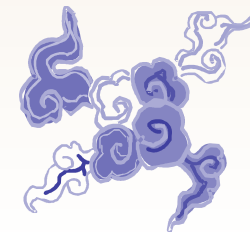
With this definition in mind, it is clear that there are many other areas with which we should be concerned. Romance novels (which generate over \$1 billion per year and account for 48% of all popular paperback fiction⁴) and many “Soap Operas” are clearly intended to cause sexual excitement. A number of magazines are designed to be titillating without crossing the line of our cultural taboos. According to Webster, then, so much of what we see without even trying is pornographic.

It is no surprise that Where Grace Abounds seems to be working with more and more people whose primary struggle is with pornography. The majority of those who land on our doorstep are Christians, and pornography seems to be the “drug of choice” for a disturbingly high percentage of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

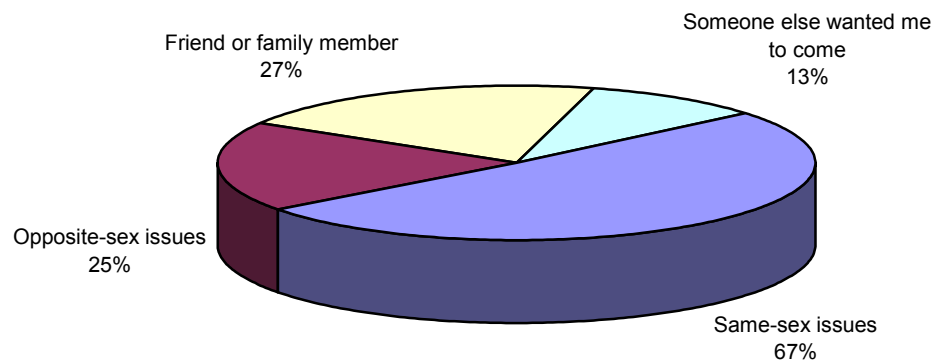
As I think back on my life, it makes perfect sense to me why pornography has been such a huge struggle for me. With the exception of a few sermons about the evils of sex before marriage and a number of jokes, sex was rarely talked about as I grew up. Being left to my own interpretation of this, I felt an enormous amount of shame when I began to have sexual feelings and urges. My perception was that sex was bad, and

2004 Donating Churches and Organizations

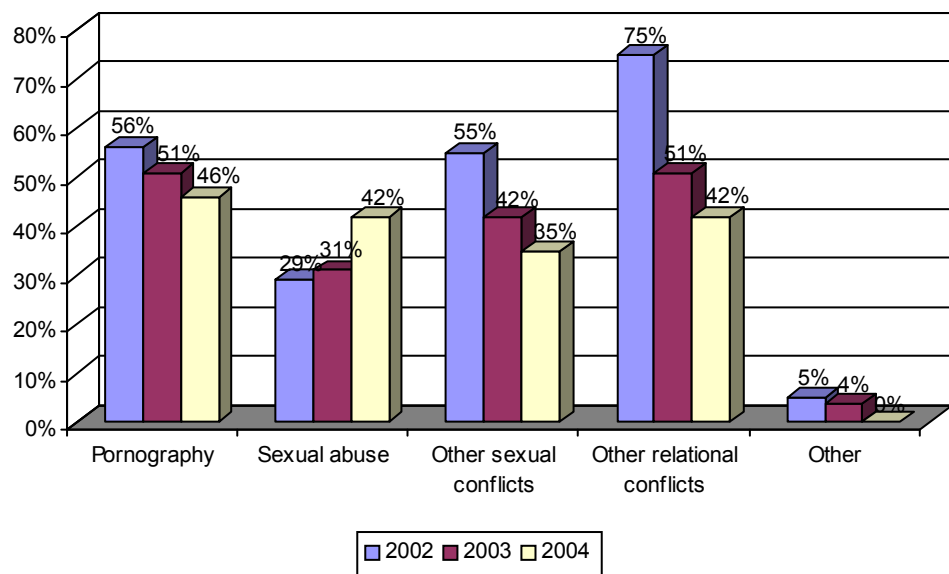
Arvada Covenant Church
Bear Creek Evangelical Presbyterian
Calvary Church
Celebration Community Church
Cherry Creek Presbyterian
Cherry Hills Community Church
Colorado Community Church
Corona Presbyterian Church
Corona Presbyterian Women
Family Harvest Church
Family Life Services
First Christian Reformed Church
First Denver Friends
First Friends Church
Galilee Baptist
Hope Centre
Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends
Lakewood Christian Fellowship
Leptas Foundation
Mile High United Way
The Next Level Church
Northwest Friends Church
Paonia Friends Church
Park Hill Presbyterian Church
Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting of Friends Church
The Third Christian Reformed Church
Trinity Presbyterian



Why Group Members Initially Came to WGA



Other Issues Group Members Have Experienced



therefore I was bad for feeling sexual.

For me, like so many others, this created fertile ground for fantasy and pornography. These things could be done secretly, without fear of the consequences of disease, pre-marital sex, and what my fellow Christians thought of me. After all, if I saw someone from my church at the local porn shop, they were just as incriminated as I, so “no problem there,” I told myself.

How we kid ourselves! Lies we tell ourselves come to mind. “Pornography is a victimless crime.” “Pornography is harmless.” “Pornography doesn’t impact my relationship with my spouse.” These rationalizations are all too familiar!

The victims of pornography are many. Spouse or fiancé, our children (so many of us first saw porn as a child), and the individual him/herself come to mind first, but it has struck me recently that porn actors and actresses are victims as well, aren’t they? Many have come from a background of sexual abuse. Minimally, a person making their living performing for the porn cameras has their identity wrapped up in what they have to offer others sexually.

This is an enormous problem, particularly when we, as Christians, have paid them thousands of our dollars to continue in their sin so that we can continue in ours. Matthew 18:7 reads, “Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!” We are partially responsible for the choices those with the porn industry make. Imagine if you were paid to become addicted to your

besetting sin. I think it is safe to say that we would all find it more difficult to leave our mental baggage behind.

I taught on this topic at our Thursday night group a few weeks ago. A group member commented, “a myth we often believe is that we can conquer a struggle with pornography on our own.” The very reason Where Grace Abounds exists is to offer support to those who have finally realized this myth in their own lives. We cannot adequately address sexual and relationship issues by ourselves. At their very core, sex and relationship involve other people!

I’d like to extend my thanks to our supporters who pray faithfully for Where Grace Abounds and contribute financially. Without you, we would be unable to provide the services that allow people struggling with various issues to find their way out of their addictions and bondage. On behalf of those we serve, I pray that God will pour out His blessings on you in return!

¹ 2003-2005 TopTenREVIEWS, Inc.

² *Today’s Christian Woman*, Sept/Oct 2003

³ *Sexual Addiction and Compulsivity: The Journal of Treatment and Prevention*, Spring 2000

⁴ www.rwanational.org - Romance Writers of America website



Meet the WGA Staff

Mary Heathman Executive Director

Mary is one of the founders of Where Grace Abounds and has served as Executive Director since its inception in July, 1986. She also has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of Exodus International, is a member of the Exodus Speakers' Bureau, and speaks and teaches at churches and conferences across the country. Mary's favorite ministry roles are discipleship counseling, group facilitation, and leadership development.



Mary often characterizes herself as "a seeker of truth" and has a long-standing fascination with human behavior and motivation. Her education consists of lay and discipleship counseling, independent study regarding the integration of psychology and theology, counseling, and human sexuality. She also holds a BS degree in Human Services from Regis University. Mary attends First Denver Friends Church.

Operations: In August 2003, we received notification that a grant proposal we submitted had been accepted and that we would be receiving a grant for \$99,700 for repairs to the WGA office building. Since that time, the price of building materials has increased sharply and we are facing an increase of \$85,000 for WGA's financial portion of the project.

Currently, WGA staff members are being paid about 80% of their salaries which have been determined by the Board of Directors. An monthly increase of \$5,000 would allow WGA to provide full salaries for its existing staff and begin looking for additional staff to expand services further.

Current Projects: On May 12-13th of 2006, we will host our sixth Sexuality and the Church seminar which is intended to educate pastors and ministry leaders in areas of sexuality and relationship. Again this year, we will be combining Sexuality and the Church with Redeemed Sexuality, a seminar open to anyone interested in learning more about WGA and sexual/relational issues in our culture. This seminar will be Friday night the 6th and all day on Saturday the 7th. Our keynote speaker will be Frederica Mathewes-Green.

Scott Kingry Program Director

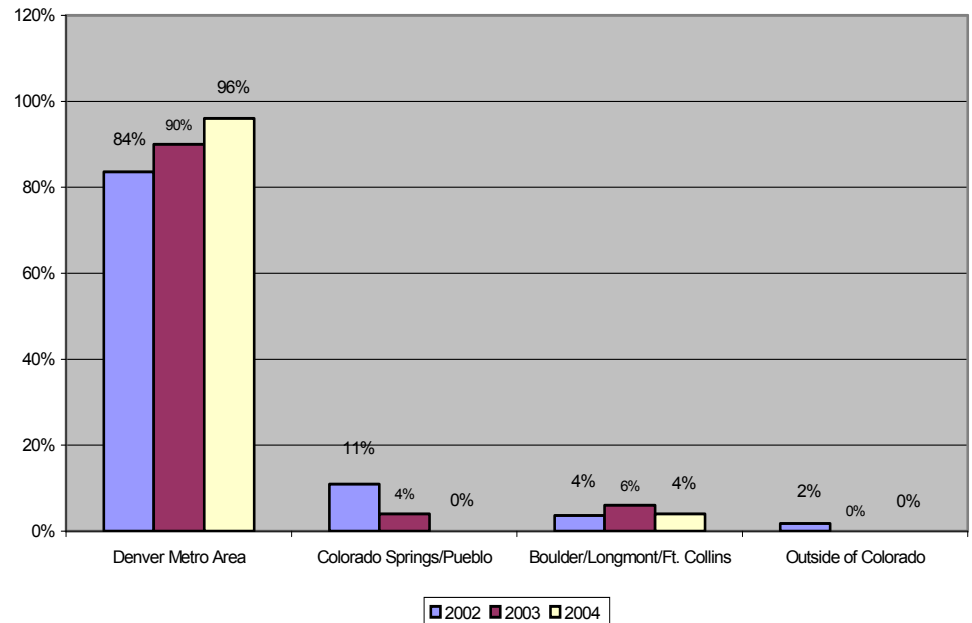


A staff member since June of 1992, Scott is a key player in the WGA discipleship ministry. He plans, organizes, and implements every aspect of the Thursday night support group. In addition to counseling group participants and training leaders, Scott maintains personal contact with many group members and is thereby often a catalyst for healing. It is to Scott's credit that many group members feel personally welcomed and cared for, and loved.

He has served as an elder of Corona Presbyterian Church and as an advisory board member and speaker for One By One, a Presbyterian denominational outreach regarding sexual issues.

Although he holds a degree in graphic arts, he attributes his ministry qualifications to the "school of hard knocks." Its curriculum included five years in the homosexual lifestyle, which he left in 1987. God's abundant grace continues to be the instrument of change in his life, and he desires to be firmly grounded in the forgiveness and freedom of relationship with Jesus Christ.

Where Group Members Live



Departmental Updates

Program: Attendance at our Thursday night group averages from 45-65 people weekly. This drop-in group continues to expand helping men and women with various issues including, men and women in conflict with homosexuality, family and friends and heterosexual men and women dealing with issues such as pornography and sexual abuse.

We had five men that signed up for the "Commitment Group" (a group which works on issues with the same sex) and eight men and women in our "Survivors of Abuse Group" (helping participants resolve emotional, sexual, spiritual and physical abuse)--both ran from January to June. Seven men and women are currently participating in our "Going Deeper with God" group.

Many discipleship counseling hours were clocked this year with the staff averaging 10-12 appointments per week. We also worked with 4 interns this year, each with different perspectives and goal.

Monthly "fun" activities were planned and well attended, some of these included an Art & Faith weekend, Picnic, BBQ and an Amazing Race at the Zoo.

Education: At our annual Pastors/Christian Leaders seminar, Sexuality and the Church, held last May 6th, 68 pastors and leaders attended workshops and listened to special guest speaker Joe Dallas regarding sexual issues.

In addition to Sexuality and the Church, we hosted a seminar on May 6-7th titled Redeemed Sexuality: Understanding God's Plan for the Church in a Sexually Compulsive Culture. Joe Dallas was also the guest speaker at this event. It was attended by 70 people.



Roger Jones Operations Director

Roger joined WGA as the Assistant Office Manager in October of 1996. Over time, his administrative responsibilities grew, and he became the Operations Director in December of 1999. As the Operations Director, Roger has responsibilities including responding to new inquiries, overseeing facilities (including WGA's historic office building and equipment purchases and repairs), and supervising an administrative assistant. He also organizes *Sexuality and the Church* and *Redeemed Sexuality*, the annual seminars WGA hosts.



His struggle with sexual issues led Roger to begin looking for answers. While he pursued a degree in music business, his search led him to Denver. In 1995, he moved from Texas to participate in WGA, where he found hope for change and a desire to serve others wrestling with sexual and relational issues.

Pat Bott Assistant Program Director

As part of the Program Department, Pat's responsibilities include group facilitation, discipleship counseling, and other activities surrounding the various aspects of the services WGA offers.

Pat first learned about WGA in 1992, at which time she signed up on the newsletter list. Over time, her heart grew closer to the ministry and she felt led to participate in WGA's groups. God began to develop a vision within her to join the staff, and at the end of 2003, circumstances made it apparent that it was time. Since Pat joined the staff of Where Grace Abounds in February of 2004, God has really opened her heart to the needs of the women participating in Where Grace Abounds.



To WGA's Supporters:

I have been on the staff of Corona Presbyterian Church for the past eight years. During this time I have grown in knowledge, love and respect of the ministry of Where Grace Abounds (WGA). This ministry has been meeting in our building for the last fifteen years and has touched the lives of many people in our neighborhood, in our church and in our state.

Scott Kingry, the Program Director for WGA is one of our Elders here at Corona. He has been and continues as a fine example of Godly leadership and is well respected and loved in our community. We have also been blessed by having Mary Heathman, Executive Director, preach for us during one of our Sunday Services this year. Mary has also been the speaker on several occasions at our Mothers of Preschoolers meetings, speaking on the sensitive subject of Sexuality. We have even enjoyed the musical gifts of Roger Jones, Operations Director, on the many times he has willingly come to do Special Music for our Sunday Worship.

It has been my privilege to be a speaker at a few of the WGA meetings during which I began to build deeper relationships with the leadership team and with some of the people who attend. Two of the most moving experiences I had were through Maundy Thursday Banquets where we shared communion and reflected on God's mercy, grace and forgiveness.

The WGA 'Values Statement': "100% Grace, 100% Truth: No Compromise On Either" is not only words on their letterhead, but it is modeled in the lives of each one of their leaders.

I have been blessed to watch this ministry grow and develop over the years and I recommend many folks to Where Grace Abounds with assurance that I could not direct them to a better place or to better people.

In Christ,

Rev. Jean Hess

Rev. Jean Hess



Frana began participating in WGA's programs in the mid-90's. She moved from Colorado Springs to Denver to be closer to the ministry and the WGA community.

She started as a volunteer stuffing envelopes and typing newsletters and brochures and helping with the office move. As time progressed Frana spoke at WGA meetings and local churches sharing her story and WGA's involvement in her life. After she joined leadership she began to facilitate small groups, and co-lead orientation meetings. She is currently passionate about both Women's Ministry and Survivors of Abuse at WGA. She helped with Survivors of Abuse (SOA) for four years and co-facilitated SOA for the last two years with Mary Heathman. In the summer of 2005, Frana began an internship with WGA with the goal of further developing the SOA curriculum and preparing for the 2006 SOA group.

Frana also builds bridges for relationships among group members. She hosts a monthly game night for WGA that provides a fun and enjoyable atmosphere for people to get to know one another outside of the WGA group meetings. She also enjoys spending time with individuals and small groups of people.

Upcoming Events in 2006

Family and Friends Retreat

When: March 31-April 2nd, 2006

Who should attend: This retreat is a time of support, education, and fellowship for the loved ones of those struggling with sexual and relational issues.

Sexuality and the Church

When: The morning of May 12th, 2006

Guest Speaker: Frederica Mathewes-Green

Who should attend: This seminar is intended for those desiring to learn how to minister to the sexually and relationally broken.

Redeemed Sexuality

When: May 12-13th, 2005.

Seminar Info: Guest speaker Frederica Mathewes-Green will be the keynote speaker. This seminar is intended for those who wish to learn more about sexuality and relationships, whether for personal reasons or to learn how to minister.

2005 Year-to-Date Financial Position

A Testimony From a Group Member...

As our financial statement on the previous page indicates, WGA's income was higher than expenses in 2004. While monthly expenses for 2005 have averaged \$3,000-\$4,000 more than regular general fund income, several large donations given throughout the year have covered this monthly deficit.

Historically, our general fund income increases in the last quarter of the year; thus, it is our prayer that this year will find us ending the year with our general fund budget fully funded.

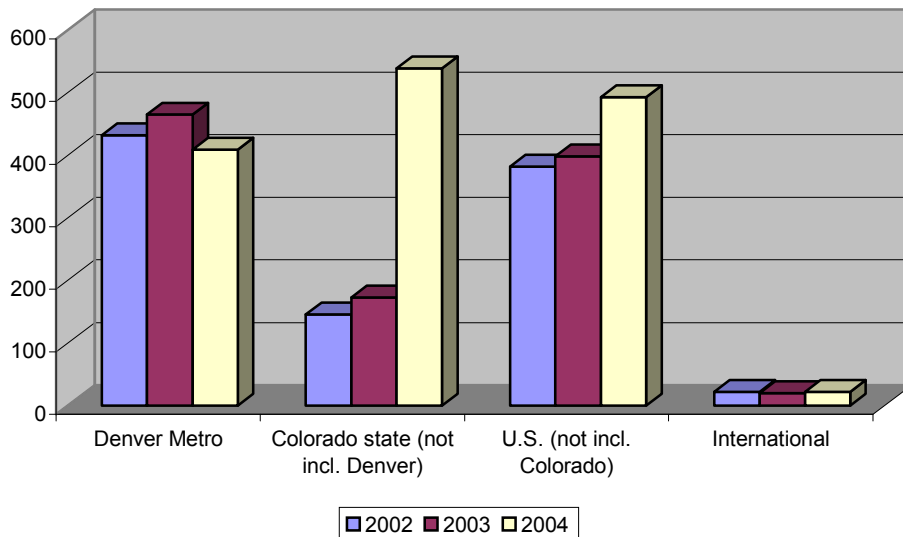
Currently, the WGA staff is receiving about 85 percent of their salaries set in place by the WGA Board of Directors. Please pray with us for God's provision for ministry salaries.

"I felt so alone! When I found Where Grace Abounds (WGA), I was amazed by the message of "100% grace, 100% truth: no compromise." Weeks before, my son had told me that he is a homosexual. What a comfort it was to be able to discuss my feelings with people who really understood how I was feeling, because they had been where I found myself.

After attending meetings for awhile and getting to know the others who were coming to WGA, I recognized the myriad of issues men and women were facing in their own lives. Homosexuality was but one of the topics discussed there. Some were there dealing with sexual abuse, others with pornography addictions, as well as family members who were there to support a loved one. It wasn't long before my focus shifted from my son and onto myself and my own sexual and relational brokenness. I thought, "This is what the body of Christ is supposed to be like. People are actually safe to talk about real issues here."

WGA helped me get through the first devastating stage of dealing with my grief over my son's homosexuality. The staff at WGA is caring and have been a blessing to me, and they continue to provide me with the guidance and support I need as I face into my own "stuff." I thank God for this ministry, without which I do not know where I would be. Thanks be to God for providing such an incredible place to learn and share and to heal."

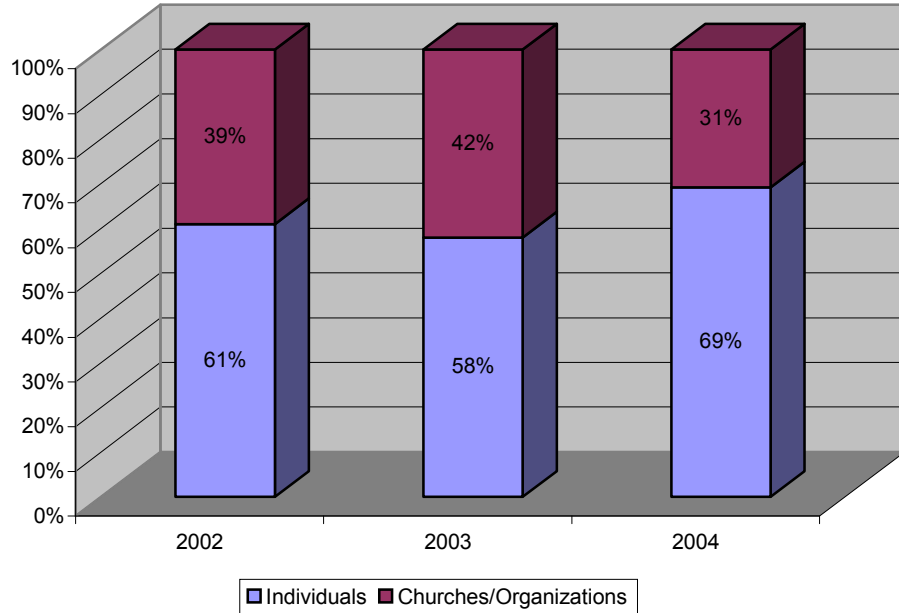
Geographic Reach of the WGA Newsletter



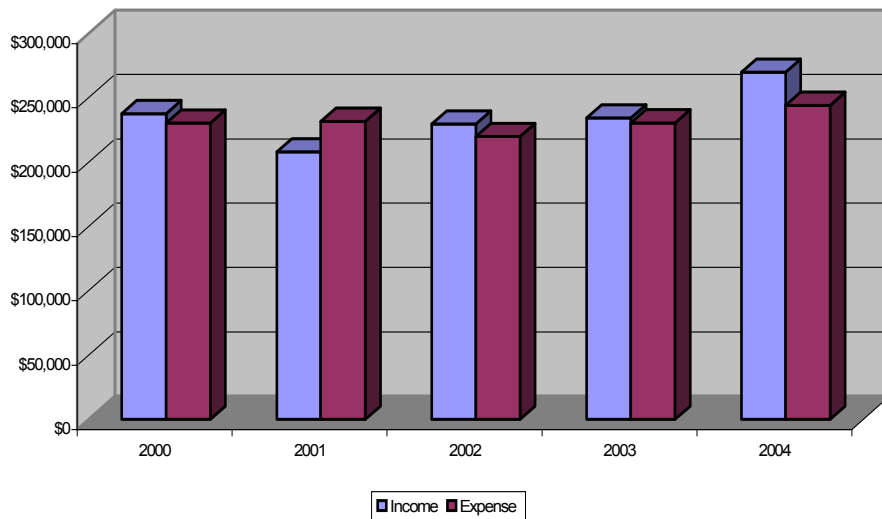
2004 Financial Information

Statement of Activity For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

Source of Income



Year-to-Year Income/Expense Comparison



Jan. – Dec.

‘04		
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Contributions Income		
	71,528	Staff Support
	5,136	Stock Gift
	6,033	Seminars
	<u>181,512</u>	Undesignated
	Total Contributions Income	264,209
	Other Income	1,863
	Reimbursed Expenses	<u>3,760</u>
	Total Income	269,832
	Expense	
Program		
Payroll & Benefits	68,761	
Facilities	25,097	
Program Expenses	<u>41,077</u>	
Total Program Expenses	134,935	
Education		
Payroll & Benefits	17,005	
Facilities	8,500	
Education Expenses	<u>5,647</u>	
Total Education Expenses	31,152	
Operations		
Payroll & Benefits	53,427	
Facilities	6,881	
General Operating Expenses	<u>17,742</u>	
Total Operations Expenses	<u>78,050</u>	
Total Expense	<u>244,137</u>	