

# BakeMeHome

ANNUAL REPORT • July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

“I learned this year from Bake Me Home that you get more joy from giving than getting.”

–Emma

“With Bake Me Home I have a chance to know other people are happy and that makes me a happier person each day knowing that at least someone is sharing the joy of making our cookies.” – Amy

*Bake Me Home is a charitable organization dedicated to providing homeless and disadvantaged moms and kids with direct services that encourage shared family experiences.*

## FROM THE FOUNDERS

To say this year has exceeded my wildest expectations is the biggest understatement of my life.

We have been blessed with everything we have needed at every turn. I am so lucky to be part of a mission that brings out the best in people all around me. A year ago I thought it would be great if we could give families at the Bethany House Shelter a simple jar of homemade cookie mix. Thanks to the over-

whelming generosity of more than 200 donors, we now serve families at the YWCA Battered Women's Shelter, the Tom Geiger Guest House, and the Bethany House Shelter with our Tote Bag Program and Family Portrait Program. The local publicity was another unexpected blessing. We are very grateful to Fox19 for the two Morning Show invitations (*although the girls still believe they only invited us for the warm cookies!*). And how many second graders have been named two of Cincy Magazine's Most Interesting People? Of course, none of this seems to impress Amy and Emma. They are happiest playing with other kids at the shelters, filling jars of cookie mix with their friends, and waiting for warm cookies to come out of the oven. If I do my job right, it will stay that way, for a while anyway. It's hard to keep them from growing up!

– Alison



Emma, Alison, & Amy Bushman at the YWCA Annual Meeting with the Bake Me Home 2009 Volunteer Service Award



## TOTE BAG Program

What began with a simple jar of cookie mix has grown to include a Bake Me Home Tote Bag filled with a mixing bowl, wooden spoon, baking sheet, pot holder, spatula, toothbrushes (6), toothpaste, a recipe book, and a \$20 Kroger gift card. Many of our additions, such as a potholder, may seem obvious. Others, like the toothbrushes and toothpaste, were added after we learned that they cannot be purchased with food stamps. Pop and candy bars can be purchased with food stamps, but not toothpaste; it's not food. This was a gap we were not comfortable with after serving cookies to kids! The Kroger gift card was initially conceived of as a way for our families to purchase the stick of butter and 2 eggs needed to make their cookies. However, for some of our families this is the only food money they have immediately available to them when they move out of the shelter. Our hope is that the little extra we provide can enable them to get a few essentials. After receiving her Bake Me Home Tote Bag one mom said "It's just nice to know somebody out there cares about you." In nine months of distribution we provided bags for 81 families. We are on target to serve 210 families in the upcoming year! We are extremely grateful to the more than 40 volunteers who have helped us fill our cookie mix jars. This task has turned in to such a fun time of service, and an opportunity for even the youngest volunteers to learn about giving back to their community. An extra thank you has to go to Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church for donating time to us in their Health Department approved kitchen.

## FAMILY PORTRAIT Program

We owe the development of the Bake Me Home Family Portrait Program entirely to Annette Bryant of Bryant Photography. We are pleased to have been the instrument for executing her amazing and generous idea. Annette sets up her backdrop, lights and camera, while we unpack our printer and a wide assortment of donated 5x7 picture frames. She takes beautiful professional portraits for our families at our shelters, while Amy and Emma consider it their job to stand behind her and make silly faces at all of the babies! At one of our photo shoots a mother of four said "This will be great. I don't have any pictures of my kids." At the Battered Women's Shelter another mother said, "I just got here last night, and felt pretty bad, but when I got up this morning and was told that they were doing free family portraits I thought maybe things were going to be OK, there are people out there willing to come do something so nice." There cannot be many, if any, other programs out there that can have such an impact on an entire family for only \$1.00. We've provided portraits to 29 families since the program's inception in February. We hope to reach 100 families in the upcoming year.





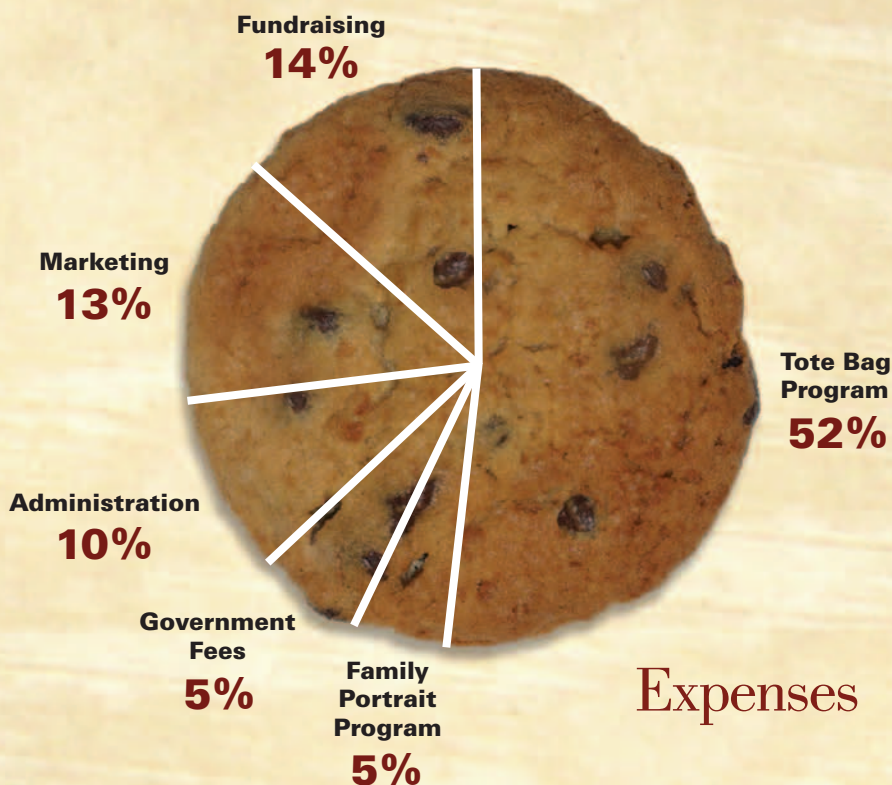
# 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

## Financial Summary

Total Cash Donations .....	\$11,223.92
Total In-kind Donations .....	\$1,276.89
Tote Bag Program Expense .....	\$3,783.91
Family Portrait Program Expense .....	\$351.14
Government Fees .....	\$425.00
Administrative Expense .....	\$779.36
Marketing Expense .....	\$995.49
Fundraising Expense .....	\$1001.26
Total Fund Balance .....	\$3,887.77



Thanks from the Board of Directors:  
 Jenifer Burt, Alison Bushman, Marianne Falk,  
 Donata Guessford, Emma Bushman & Amy Bushman



*thank you!*

## Thanks to the following individuals & organizations for assisting us this year:

Aldrich's Creative Design  
 A.M. Allen & Associates  
 Annette Bryant, Bryant Photography  
 Lynn Barnett  
 Ian Burt  
 Barbara and Jim Bushman  
 Lee "The Cookie Dad" Bushman  
 Cast-Fab Technologies  
 Cincy Magazine  
 Coldstream Country Club  
 Julia Elmer

Jessica Folz  
 Luke and Aidan Guessford  
 Fox 19 Morning Show  
 Greater Cincinnati Nutrition Council  
 Debra Kopena  
 Kroger (Anderson Towne Center)  
 Dave Kuhar, The Media Cellar  
 Kim Long  
 Market Place Printing  
 Mercy HealthPlex  
 Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church

Alex Nyktas  
 Anne Nyktas  
 Lori Naseef, provideInc.  
 The Recovery Center  
 Erich Stegmaier  
 Krista Watchorn  
 Diane Ziegler, advance4  
 Over 40 Jar-Fillers!

*Please forgive us if we have forgotten anyone, it has been a chaotic year!*

*Many special thanks to Debra Kopena for donating her graphic design services, Market Place Printing for their discounted printing costs, and Dave Kuhar of The Media Cellar for designing and maintaining our website free of charge!*