

# **Lula Belle Stewart Center History**

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ARCHIVES**

### **In Celebration of Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

#### **1971**

**November 1971** – Lula Belle Stewart Center was incorporated by Founding Board Members: Eloise Whitten, William Hawkins, Pat Conner, Nellie Tyler, Arthelia Ford, Claudia Mallett, Edward Tucker and Roger Miller.

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#### **1972**

**January 1972** – Lula Belle Stewart Center program implemented, under the direction of Emily Palmer, who has provided executive leadership for the agency for 25 years. William Hawkins was the first Board President.

The agency staff in 1972 consisted of eleven (11) employees and a budget of \$100,000. The sole funder was United Community Services, now known as United Way Community Services.

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#### **1973**

The agency funding was almost doubled in 1973, when we served 1,100 teen parents at an average cost of \$175.00 per client.

In 1973, we instituted a high school outreach program and developed an Advisory Council composed of service consumers.

During 1973 we received requests from other agencies in Detroit suburbs, other cities and states to provide consultation as they began to plan services for young single parents.

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#### **1974**

A Program Effectiveness Study was commissioned by the Board of Directors and published in 1974.

One of our consumers of service, Betty Witherspoon, became 3rd Vice President of the Board.

Ms. Witherspoon, who chaired the Advisory Council then, is now Mrs. Betty Allen, an employee of LBSC for the past 7 years.

An Eastside Rap Session and Sex Education groups were added in 1974.

Our staff size had increased to 15, augmented by 7 graduate students.

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## Lula Belle Stewart Center History Cont. p2

### 1977

By 1977, Lula Belle Stewart Center had established a national reputation as a model program.

In a Public Affairs Pamphlet published by the U.S. government that year, Lula Belle Stewart Center was described as:

"a comprehensive Center with one of the most innovative programs in the country."

The Child Welfare League of America reported that:

"The Center's material has been widely used by Florence Crittenton Agencies in designing programs across the nation."

Accredited membership in the Child Welfare League of America was granted in 1977.

Lula Belle Stewart Center began a specialized program for teen mothers with infants in foster care.

A grant was also received from the Michigan Department of Social Services to provide Protective Services for children of teen parents.

Funding increased to **\$345,000**

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### 1979

The Center continued to grow. Funders now included United Community Services, CETA grants through the City of Detroit and Wayne County, two grants from the Department of Social Services and a school program supported by the Detroit Board of Education. The staff had increased to **35 full time employees** with an annual budget of **\$891,000**.

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### 1980

On April 16, 1980, a new wing to our building at **1534 Webb** was dedicated. The new wing was made possible by a United Way Capital grant and a small grant from the Florence Crittenton Mission.

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### 1982

Lula Belle Stewart Center had enjoyed ten years of continued growth and development. Our Board President was Mrs. Claudia Mallett. Our first Long Range Plan was completed in 1982. The agency was reaccredited by the Council on Accreditation for Families and Children.

Our Day Care program was licensed by the State of Michigan. **J. LeRoy Bywaters**, who was program Coordinator at this time, provided leadership in obtaining licensing for our Day Care Center. Mr. Bywaters, who worked at the Center for 19 years, departed this life on **3/1/96**.

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## **Lula Belle Stewart Center History Cont. p3**

### **1984**

Two Primary Prevention programs were implemented for the first time.

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### **1984**

Lula Belle Stewart Center, under the leadership of its Executive Director, **Emily Palmer**, was successful in getting a bill introduced by State Representative **Alma Stallworth** and passed by the Michigan Legislature as **Act No. 153 of 1984** that enabled adolescent parents to consent for their own prenatal and pregnancy related health care as well as health care for their children. This new law eliminated one barrier to prenatal care and health care for teens and their children.

In 1984 our budget exceeded **one million dollars** for the first time.

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### **1985**

Our first transitional living home for teen mothers and babies was opened on **Monterey near Dexter**. It was funded by the Michigan Department of Social Services.

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### **1986**

An East side branch office was opened at the **Harper-Gratiot Multi-Service Center**.

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### **1991**

The **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** granted LBSC **3.2 million dollars** to reinstitute the transitional living program for teen mothers and infants. Funding for the transitional living program had been terminated by the Michigan Department of Social Services in 1989 due to budget cuts.