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## **ANNUAL REPORT July 2019 - June 2020**

***TEAM for West Virginia Children, Inc.***

***Many thanks to our grant funders:***

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund  
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources  
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation  
West Virginia Children's Trust Fund  
Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA)  
The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation  
United Way of Central West Virginia  
River Valley Child Development Services  
Pallottine Foundation of Huntington  
West Virginia Perinatal Partnership  
West Virginia Child Advocacy Network  
Aetna Better Health  
Alliance for Early Success  
Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights

***And many other contributors!***

**Our Initiatives:**

Mountain State Healthy Families • Western Regional CASA • Partners in Community Outreach  
Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia • West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association

[www.teamwv.org](http://www.teamwv.org)

The TEAM continues to sponsor several initiatives to carry out its mission:

**Western Regional CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate):**

Western Regional CASA is a court-based advocacy program utilizing screened, trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in out-of-home placements. CASA Volunteers must complete an application, participate in a two-person interview, complete 30 hours of training utilizing National CASA/GAL Association's curriculum, successfully pass criminal and CPS background checks, and take the Oath of Confidentiality from a Circuit Court Judge before case assignment.

The TEAM's CASA program was the first in West Virginia and began as a one-county program in Cabell County in 1991. Since that time, Western Regional CASA has expanded to cover 10 counties and remains the largest CASA program in the state. Western Regional CASA has successfully completed National CASA/GAL Association's Quality Assurance/Standards three times and will begin the process again in 2022. CASA Volunteers are appointed to children from birth to the age of 18 and can remain assigned to youth aging out of the foster care system until the age of 21. Western Regional CASA's goal is permanent placement for CASA children, which can be reunification, adoption or legal guardianship. CASA Volunteers and staff will advocate for reunification first if this can be safely achieved. CASA Volunteer Advocates submit court reports to Judges via their staff supervisor and make recommendations on what is in the best interests of their assigned children.

Western Regional CASA has 1 Program Coordinator, 6 CASA Volunteer Supervisors and 1 CASA Volunteer Trainer for the 10 counties. During this year, CASA volunteers and staff advocated for 588 abused/neglected children. CASA staff supervised 90 volunteers. Twenty of those volunteers were newly trained during this time period. CASA staff participated in 1,581 court hearings and 780 multi-disciplinary team meetings to advocate for their CASA children. Frequent community recruitment activities, volunteer training classes and in-services were regularly scheduled for much of the year until mid-March 2020, when the region shut down due to COVID-19. Western Regional CASA had to regroup and, with guidance from National CASA/GAL Association, switched to mostly virtual advocacy from mid-March until June. With community events and buildings shut down, CASA staff transitioned to virtual training and recruitment activities through social media. Some home visits with children were still permitted but had to take place outside, with masks on and while maintaining social distancing to limit exposure. Virtual home visits were also used to continue advocacy efforts. CASA staff focused on staying connected to volunteers and each other by frequent virtual networking sessions, CASA Book Club meetings, staff meetings and in-services.

Western Regional CASA took delivery of Comfort Cases and duffle bags in April 2020 and distributed them to children entering out-of-home care, so they did not have to transport their belongings in garbage bags. Two laptops and other needed school items were purchased with a small grant and provided to children in relative care who were being educated virtually.

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### **Mountain State Healthy Families:**

Mountain State Healthy Families is accredited through Healthy Families America (HFA). HFA is a national initiative by Prevent Child Abuse America to establish a universal, voluntary home visitor system for all new parents to help their children get off to a good start in life. Research over the last two decades has consistently confirmed that providing education and support services to parents around the time of a baby's birth – and continuing for months or years afterward – significantly contributes to positive, healthy child-rearing practices, thereby reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect. The goals of the model are (1) to systematically reach out to parents to offers resources and support; (2) to cultivate the growth of nurturing, responsive parent-child relationships; (3) to promote healthy childhood growth and development; and (4) to build the foundations for strong family functioning.

During this year, Mountain State Healthy Families continued providing the universal screening, assessment and referral system for expectant women and new parents. Medical providers and social service agencies provided information about the program and invited families to participate. In-home family educators then engaged the families in conversations about their parenting backgrounds, hopes and concerns related to parenting, and plans for the future of their families. This information was used to connect families to community resources and plan for support services.

The TEAM entered into its 24th year of providing support to parents who face many challenges and offering them voluntary, intensive home visitation services through Mountain State Healthy Families. In FY20, those challenges were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this obstacle, home visitors served 270 families, facilitating 3,659 home visits, a 3% increase over FY19. This was accomplished, in part, due to the implementation of virtual visitation methods. Over 900 visits were conducted via virtual platforms during the months of April, May, and June 2020. Virtual visits will continue to be used to meet the needs of our families.

### **Partners in Community Outreach:**

*Partners in Community Outreach* is the coalition of West Virginia evidence-based In-Home Family Education programs: Healthy Families America, Maternal Infant Health Outreach Workers, and Parents As Teachers. Our Training Specialist continued to offer *The Art of Home Visiting* to our Partners. A significant portion of the Training Specialist's time is spent conducting Parent and Caregiver Training and Support for the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Networks (CoiIN) project with the WV Home Visitation Program.

A consultant was engaged to research and report recommendations on salaries in the *Partners in Community Outreach Report of Home Visitation Program Staff Compensation Review and Recommendations*. Five programs participated in the Fiscal Management Capacity/Financial Coaching Project with services provided by a consultant. We continued to offer Human Resources Consultation training and support. We paid a consultant to research grant opportunities that might benefit the Partners and create a report for the Partners.

Five Parents As Teachers programs attained Blue Ribbon Affiliate Endorsement, bringing the total to 13 in West Virginia.

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Work continued using the *MIHOW Framework* to develop specific training for the site supervisors in West Virginia to address current supervisory needs. Vanderbilt School of Nursing Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker (MIHOW) will train an internal leadership team to coordinate and lead the training within WV as well as create communities of practice for the supervisors. The ongoing training opportunities will give supervisors time to practice skills, discuss challenges, and walk away with tangible products to use in their programs.

We received and began a \$150,000 grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. Included in one of the grant outcomes was *Partners in Community Outreach will Strategically Plan their work for the 2021 – 2022 years*. Strategic Planning during a pandemic was an interesting challenge. In February 2020, the Partners in Community Outreach had scheduled a morning or afternoon with the Coordinator to have a Site Visit in March or April. One Site Visit was completed when all of the Partners transitioned to working from home and conducting virtual visits with their families. Instead of continuing with in-person meetings, a majority of the Site Visits were conducted over the telephone. A wealth of information was gathered from these conversations.

Rather than pay (HFA, MIHOW & PAT) Model Consultants as we have in the past, with the new grant we offered Training and Technical Assistance Stipends for each Partner to use for their individual site needs.

### **West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association:**

The West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association works to promote the understanding of the importance of healthy, nurturing relationships in the beginning years of life. There are three components to the Association's work— promotion of infant mental health, integration of infant mental health specific core competencies and facilitation of a national Endorsement.

From July 2019 to June 2020, there are nearly 100 members of the West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association throughout the state. Members of the Association stay connected through bi-monthly conference calls, a bi-monthly electronic newsletter, regular electronic communication, social media, and an annual full membership face-to-face meeting in September. Also, during March-June 2020, the Association worked to provide up to date COVID-19 resources for early childhood professionals and families and created "Supporting West Virginia Home Visitors" infographic and "Supporting Supervisors and Reflective Practice During COVID-19" handout.

The Association continued to host and facilitate a week of lunchtime webinars in October and May with over 160 people participating each day. Topics included Mindfulness; Reducing Social and Emotional Stigma When Working with Families; Foster Care; Medication Assisted Treatment; Pregnancy and Parenting; The Maternal Opioid Medical Support (MOMS) Program and the Neonatal Therapeutic Unit; Neonatal Abstinence Program; and Reducing Stigma to Improve Family Engagement. Also, beginning in April, the Association hosted weekly reflective calls for the West Virginia Home Visitation Program as a way to support and share information for those working directly with families during a pandemic.

There are now 38 professionals with Infant Mental Health Endorsement status within West Virginia, with an additional 39 participants in the process of becoming Endorsed.

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**Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia:**

**Partners in Prevention Community Grants:** Through Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia’s *Partners in Prevention* (PIP) program, the TEAM for West Virginia Children, Inc. has awarded mini grants since 2004 to numerous partnering organizations that work to support children and families in their local communities. These organizations promote safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments with the ultimate goal of preventing child abuse and neglect. In FY2020, grants of \$5,000 were awarded to 42 community teams with a focus on building the key Protective Factors identified by the Center for the Study of Social Policy. The Protective Factors Framework is a research-informed approach to reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment, build on family strengths, and promote the health and well-being of children and families.

In FY2020 local *Partners in Prevention* teams in 42 counties across the state provided the following:

<b>Public Education and/or Services, provided to</b>  <b>47,390</b>	<b>Materials Distributed</b>  <b>170,870</b>
<b>Individuals Receiving Direct Services</b>  <b>39,763</b>	<b>Number of Children</b> 33,167 (1,424 with disabilities)  <b>Number of Adults</b> 20,621 (2,825 with disabilities)
<b>Individuals Trained</b> <i>(These numbers are included in the overall “Public Education and/or Services” number above; however, are provided here to define those who participated in specific curriculum training).</i>	<b>8,292</b>
<b>Public Events Coordinated</b>	<b>538</b>
<b>Media Generated</b> (including print articles, radio & TV spots, and social media posts)	<b>Print media – 170</b> <b>Radio &amp; TV spots – 76</b> <b>Social media – 8,411</b>
<b>Matching Funds provided by grantees</b> <i>(generally in-kind)</i>	<b>\$198,000</b> <i>(rounded)</i>

The *Partners in Prevention* initiative is founded on the idea that everyone needs supportive and caring relationships in order to thrive. Never has there been a more important message to spread among children and families than now, when many West Virginians are struggling to make ends meet, are isolated from their support systems, and are concerned about the health of loved ones due to COVID-19. *Partners in Prevention* is designed to emphasize compassion, the willingness to help others, and the ability to work in a collaborative spirit so that families and children have their needs met. The community teams that participate in *Partners in Prevention* (PIP) involve a wide range of members and representatives from local school systems, government agencies, businesses, universities, social service agencies, family members, and many others. Each team member brings a unique perspective and understanding of the needs present in that particular community.

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In May, we facilitated the Annual PIP Team Leader meeting virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools and required social distancing, many Partners in Prevention activities were postponed, canceled, or revised to ensure safety standards were followed. Scheduled activities such as face-to-face family events, in-person trainings, community baby showers and afterschool programs had to be modified. For example, many PIP teams began implementing virtual trainings, drive-through baby showers, or simply delivering meals to children who were no longer being fed at school and during afterschool hours. There was an increase in direct services to meet the needs of families and children, while the number of public awareness events decreased as social gatherings were no longer permitted. The teams amped up their online social media presence and developed alternative ways to communicate and connect with those they serve. Numerous teams used their social media platform to reach out and help families in need. Many resource packets and family support kits were distributed that contained personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, and other items or information that was determined to be a need in the community. Overwhelmingly, Partners in Prevention teams adjusted their plans as necessary to feed families through pantries (including mobile pantries, scheduled meal deliveries, and curbside pick-up services), backpack programs, and assisted with school food service delivery.

**April - Child Abuse Prevention Month:** Each April, our Partners in Prevention teams are dedicated to participating in Child Abuse Prevention Month. Expressed through the *Pinwheels for Prevention* campaign, community engagement and participation in April events has proven to be one of the busiest times of the year for many PIP teams. In fiscal year 2020, this special month happened to occur at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and a statewide shutdown. Nevertheless, our Partners in Prevention teams persevered and remained devoted to the cause of child abuse prevention.

Pinwheels for Prevention took place without social gatherings or public events; however, pinwheel gardens were still planted around towns and could also be found widely across social media platforms. A variety of events were live streamed for a virtual audience. Prevention awareness messages were also mailed to families and sent home with students receiving daily school lunches.

The PCAA theme this year was “Everyone can make great childhoods happen—especially you!” to reinforce that everyone has a role to play in preventing child abuse and neglect. This year’s campaign centered on an expansive digital campaign, “Wear Blue Day”, and pinwheels & pinwheel gardens. There was increased intention on promoting awareness via social media platforms.

***WV COVID-19 Resource Guide for Caregivers:*** In May 2020, Prevent Child Abuse WV developed a *COVID-19 WV Resource Guide for Caregivers* and shared it widely among all Partners in Prevention teams and several other statewide partners. We gathered our collective resources to help families navigate life with children through the pandemic and the days that followed. As COVID-19 created a common denominator of stress and challenge for many families, we felt it necessary to develop one document where families could go to access helplines, informational websites on COVID-19, a list of family resource networks, and strategies for self-care and helping children cope, among other resources. This pandemic demonstrates for us that any family can experience problems that need to be addressed, particularly in unparalleled times such as these. Research tells us that the protective factors are all critically important for families to remain strong. This caregiver guide is organized by each of the Protective Factors and provides assistance for families who need help or have questions. The guide was utilized by PIP teams and shared widely among their local networks.

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**Circle of Parents West Virginia:** Prevent Child Abuse WV officially launched Circle of Parents in West Virginia in September 2012. Circle of Parents is a national network of parent-led self-help groups, where parents and caregivers share ideas, celebrate successes, and address the challenges surrounding parenting. In FY2020 the Network had 32 groups that met during all or part of the year. The Network had 12 sponsoring organizations that offered a closed FB page for members and continued to support families throughout the pandemic by touching base virtually and helping to fulfill the needs of families in various ways.

Despite the challenges of COVID and having to navigate creative ways to keep families connected, Circle groups held a total of 209 meetings this year, with a total of 527 (unduplicated) parents/caregivers and 281 children who participated in a children's program while their parents met.

The Network hosted three Facilitator/Parent Leader training workshops in FY 2020. One of the trainings was offered virtually through a series of 8 weekly training webinars. 48 new facilitator/parent leaders were added to the Network to conduct groups.

**Our Babies: Safe and Sound:** *Our Babies: Safe & Sound* began in 2010 as an educational campaign to provide information about infant safety to parents and caregivers of infants under the age of one, as well as expectant parents, professionals and the public. The campaign focuses on 2 areas:

1. Ways to keep babies safe while sleeping, in order to reduce unintended injury or death, primarily from accidental suffocation and strangulation (the leading cause of death for babies from 1 month old to 1 year old in WV); and,
2. Ways to cope with frustrations resulting from frequent, constant or inconsolable baby crying, which is often a trigger for incidents to shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma.

The number of *Say Yes to Safe Sleep for Babies* hospitals who were awarded Cribs for Kids® National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification increased to 23 during the year, with 2 hospitals receiving certification. New parent education materials (ABCS magnetic picture frame, pre-natal anti-smoking/vaping magnetic ultrasound picture frame, new parent education kit envelope) were finalized in December 2019 to bridge and reinforce safe sleep and smoking messages. Additionally, current materials were updated with new messaging.

A new *Say YES to Safe Sleep for Babies* webcast training task module was developed in partnership with CAMC CHERI. Over the past 5 months, 700 early care providers have completed the course for WV STARS credit, and CAMC CHERI has reported over 200 partners completed the module.

**WV Children's Trust Fund Development Campaign:** Prevent Child Abuse WV runs the Children's Trust Fund Development Campaign to increase awareness and contributions to the WV Children's Trust Fund. The WV Children's Trust Fund Development Campaign had another positive year. Donations totaled \$137,685, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest total ever despite the economic insecurity of the pandemic and the delayed tax deadline of July 15<sup>th</sup>. This total is a 4.3% (\$5,648) increase over the previous year. Over 10,000 people donated to the Children's Trust Fund during the past year.

**Maternal Mental Health:** The WV Maternal Mental Health Coalition works to support maternal mental health in WV. Prior to the pandemic, the Coalition met quarterly to support programs and individuals across the state as they support mental health in pregnant and new families. During the last in-person meeting, the group discussed the possibility of becoming a state chapter of Postpartum Support International (PSI), the leading organization supporting maternal mental health, and began working on several projects that were mostly put on hold during the remainder of the grant period.

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Throughout 2020, the Coalition focused on: the development of awareness materials to decrease stigma related to accessing support and to connect individuals to local resources; providing information for providers and families regarding the impact of giving birth and parenting during a pandemic; supporting the work of local CoiIN groups addressing maternal mental health; connecting families with local resources through the PSI helpline; and supporting the use of the *Mothers and Babies* Course, a curriculum that teaches caregivers about their mental health and positive ways to cope with stress.

Materials were designed and printed, with distribution across the state now planned to begin in 2021. With this grant, we printed 10,000 rack cards and 2,000 posters that will assist the WV Maternal Mental Health Coalition in spreading the message that mood disorders around the time of pregnancy and childbirth are common and treatable. Until we can safely get printed copies into local communities, we are distributing digital versions to be shared through email and other platforms. In addition to these materials, we designed social media messages and content, as well as other printable products that can be accessed as we continue to reach out to pregnant and new parents.

**Prevention Trainers Project:** TEAM for WV Children partnered with the WV Trainers Project and Training for Change to conduct a 2.5 day in-person workshop for trainers in October. 23 participants completed the 20-hour training, learning experiential training techniques and improving their meeting facilitation skills. Given the switch to virtual trainings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we also partnered with Training for Change to provide 2 virtual workshops for trainers in Dec. 2020. We hosted a 1-hour Online Facilitation 101 workshop that was attended by 52 people, in addition to an Online 2-hr Training attended by 24 people. Trainers used their skills to revise child sexual abuse prevention training, update mandated reporter training, adapt content for Strengthening Families Workshops, provide online support groups for parents, adapt Connections Matter training for online delivery, and organize grassroots efforts to advance equity and racial justice.

**Strengthening Families WV:** We conducted 3 in-person workshops to train early childhood partners to teach the protective factors required in the national Project Launch grant.

**Early Learning Community Project:** TEAM for WV Children awarded mini-grants of \$3,500 to 2 communities to support their efforts in using the Early Learning Nation's Digital Progress Rating Tool to engage community partners and develop an action plan that will strengthen their local early childhood systems. In partnership with Strengthening Families WV and the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), this project provided an opportunity to improve how families access support and build on existing Protective Factors. Each team received funds, technical assistance, coaching calls and virtual cohort meetings. The grantees convened local stakeholders to assess their community's progress in forming a coordinated early learning system that is accessible to all. Together they completed the Early Learning Nation Digital Progress Rating Tool, identified gaps and opportunities, and developed an Early Learning Community Action Plan.

**Legislative Advocacy:** We continued to convene the WV Legislative Action Team for Children and Families and advocate for the passage of legislation and policies that help children and families thrive. We are pleased to have help achieve multiple legislative victories this year including the passage of HB4378- Protecting Students from Sexual Abuse; HB4559- Removing Barriers to Justice for Victims of Sexual Abuse; HB4773 - Creating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Screening Workgroup; and HB4092- Foster care reform. We also advocated for expansion of Medicaid Coverage for moms, trauma-informed education, and enactment of Paid Family Medical Leave. Although those bills advanced initially, they ultimately died in committee.

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**TEAM for West Virginia Children  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Melanie Akers, Hoops Family Children's Hospital  
Christopher Ball, Edward Jones  
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Peter D. Ray, MD, Marshall Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery  
Jolaina Russell  
Ryan Saxe, Cabell County Schools  
Martha Woodward, Community Volunteer

Each Board member is elected to serve a three-year term. Each officer is elected to serve a one-year term.

During this year, the Board of Directors held meetings on July 16, 2019; September 10, 2019; November 12, 2019; January 14, 2020; March 10, 2020; and May 12, 2020.

Board meetings were held at 4:30pm at the TEAM's new office at Campbell Woods in Huntington except for the May meeting which was held virtually because the COVID-19 pandemic.

The TEAM's Annual Meeting was held on December 3, 2019 at 6:00pm at Heritage Station, Huntington, WV.

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL**

Laurie McKeown, Executive Director  
Florence Tabor, Office Manager  
Connie Kinsey, Administrative Assistant  
Michelle Rollyson, *WV Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association Administrative Coordinator*  
Kim Runyon Wilds, *Western Regional CASA Coordinator*  
Jim McKay, *Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia Coordinator*  
Jen Freeman, *Mountain State Healthy Families America Program Coordinator*  
Michele Baranaskas, *Partners in Community Outreach Coordinator*

## Financial Information

7/1/19-6/30/20

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>Public Support &amp; Other Revenue</b>	
		Contributions	\$ 40,975
<b>Current Assets</b>		Federal & State grants	\$ 2,693,424
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 271,957	Other Grants	\$ 332,402
Accounts Receivable	\$ 2,223	<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$ 3,066,801</b>
Grants Receivable	\$ 527,449		
Other Receivables	\$ -		
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 6,297	<b>Revenue</b>	
Workers Compensation Deposit	\$ -	Fees for services	\$ 2,689
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 807,926</b>	Interest and dividends	\$ 90
		Rental Income	\$ 2,040
		Fundraising sales	\$ 29,000
Furniture, Fixtures, and Office Equipment	\$ 25,741	Miscellaneous	\$ -
Deposits	\$ -	In-kind revenue	\$ 83,946
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 833,667</b>	Total Revenue	\$ 117,765
		<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 3,184,566</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>			
		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$ 94,427	<b>Program Services :</b>	
Accrued payroll liabilities	\$ -	Advocacy	\$ 504,549
Accrued vacation	\$ 89,069	Family support	\$ 1,353,861
Deffered revenues	\$ 302,666	Education	\$ 671,803
Line of credit	\$ 363,000	State system	\$ 402,732
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 849,162</b>	<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$ 2,932,945</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>Support Services :</b>	
Without donor restrictions	\$ (15,495)	Management and General	\$ 260,285
		Fundraising	\$ 15,200
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (15,495)</b>		<b>\$ 275,485</b>
		<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 3,208,430</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 833,667</b>		
		<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	
		Excess of (deficit) for the year	\$ (23,864)
		Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 8,369
		<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ (15,495)</b>