

2006  
Annual Report



DAVE THOMAS  
FOUNDATION  
FOR ADOPTION®

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption  
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[www.DaveThomasFoundationforAdoption.org](http://www.DaveThomasFoundationforAdoption.org)



DAVE THOMAS  
FOUNDATION  
FOR ADOPTION®





**Vision:**

*Every child will have  
a permanent home  
and a loving family.*

**Mission:**

*Dramatically increase  
the number of  
adoptions of waiting  
children in North  
America.*

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**Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption**

**Who We Are**

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a 501(c)3, non-profit public charity dedicated to dramatically increasing the number of adoptions of foster care children in North America.

Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's, established the Foundation in 1992. He had a vision that one day every child would have a permanent home and loving family, and he entrusted the Foundation with his vision. He knew first-hand how important home and family are because he was adopted. And he wanted every waiting child to have the same opportunities he had.

**The Children We Serve**

Every day in America, children are abused, abandoned and neglected. Through no fault of their own, many end up in foster care, separated from family and community, and too often move from home to home without a sense of belonging. This year alone, nearly a quarter of the 517,000 children in foster care will be permanently separated from their families and in need of safe, loving adoptive families. Consider the following:

- More children in the foster care system become available for adoption each year than are adopted.
- A child available for adoption often moves three or more times.
- Once in foster care, a child can wait five years for an adoptive family. Five years is a lifetime to a child.
- Twenty percent of these children turn 18 in foster care and then leave the system, without a family to call their own.

**We Believe**

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption views the urgency of this issue through the eyes of these children. As we work to make foster care adoption a streamlined process that is accessible and affordable to every family wanting to adopt, we remain dedicated to critical core beliefs:

- Every child deserves to live in a safe, loving and permanent family.
- No child should linger in foster care or leave the system at age 18 without a permanent family of their own.
- No child is unadoptable.

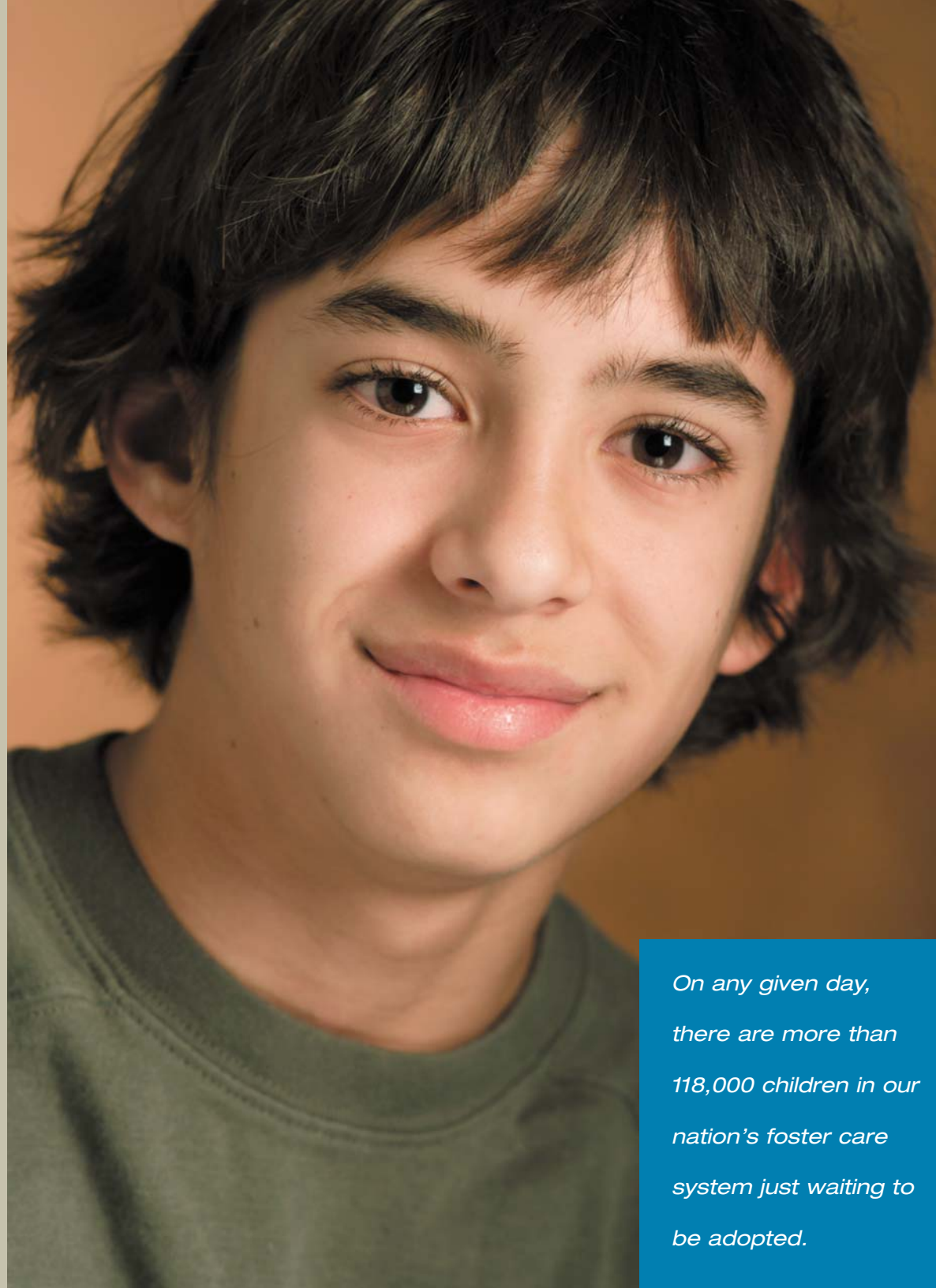
**What We Do**

As an independent public charity, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption raises national awareness about the need for adoptive families for foster care children and awards grants to adoption organizations that aggressively move children from foster care to adoptive homes.

## Highlights and Accomplishments

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption funds results-driven programs targeted specifically at finding adoptive families for children waiting in foster care and at raising awareness about the joys of foster care adoption. Following is a list of highlights from this reporting period.

- Expanded Wendy's Wonderful Kids, a groundbreaking direct-service signature program designed to find adoptive families for foster care children, to 41 recruiters in 30 states.
- Impacted 4,500 adoptions.
- Served 2,000 children (non-finalized adoptions).
- Launched the Every Child Needs a Family endowment campaign.
- Assisted 19,146 individuals and organizations who contacted us through 1-800-ASK-DTFA, Adoption-Friendly Workplace, and adoption@wendys.com.
- Distributed 77,756 Beginner's Guides; 33,287 posters; 5,679 educational videos; and more than 4,000 Adoption-Friendly Workplace toolkits to callers.
- Presented the seventh annual "A Home for the Holidays" CBS television special with Children's Action Network.



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there are more than  
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system just waiting to  
be adopted.



## Dear Friends

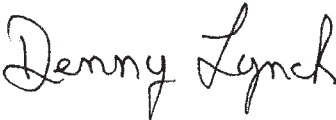

When we began this journey nearly 15 years ago, we had two powerful reasons to plan forward – a commitment to elevating the cause of foster care adoption and Dave Thomas' passionate belief that this was the right thing to do. We are proud to share with you that today our commitment to the children impacted by foster care adoption is stronger than ever, and the legacy of Dave Thomas, who was adopted as a child, weaves into and embraces every effort of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

There is a sense of urgency in all that we do. Today, more than 118,000 children live in temporary care waiting to be adopted. These children entered foster care through no fault of their own as a result of abuse, neglect or abandonment and, once freed for adoption, they may move multiple times often waiting more than five years for an adoptive family. Five years is a lifetime to a child. And sadly, more than 20,000 of these children will celebrate their 18th birthday by leaving foster care without a family to call their own.

The board and staff of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption are dedicated to planning strategically, working aggressively for results and, most importantly, seeing the world through the eyes of a child. Through signature programs like Wendy's Wonderful Kids; Adoption-Friendly Workplace; National Adoption Day; National Adoption Awareness Month educational, policy and media efforts; benchmarking adoption attitudes research; and national poster and public service announcement campaigns, we are indefatigably committed to realizing the vision of a safe home and loving family for every child.

This is not an effort accomplished alone. Our partners and supporters help us change children's lives every day. We value your encouragement, your support, and your input. Working together, we will continue Dave Thomas' legacy and assure that every child has a safe, nurturing and permanent home. They deserve no less.

All good wishes,



Rita Soronen  
Executive Director

Denny Lynch  
President, Board of Trustees

*The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption awards grants to support local and national programs that aggressively promote the adoption of foster care children in the United States and Canada. In addition, the Foundation works independently and with partners throughout North America on specific projects designed to raise awareness about foster care adoption.*

*During this 18-month reporting period, the Foundation issued more than \$5.4 million in support of direct-service and awareness building programs, which have, in turn, impacted tens of thousands of waiting children and adoptive parents.*

### **Wendy's Wonderful Kids**

On any given day, there are more than 118,000 children in our nation's foster care system just waiting to be adopted. There are 30,000 in the Canadian system.

Wendy's Wonderful Kids, a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is making a difference – one child at a time. It combines the fundraising efforts of Wendy's and its customers, results-driven grant management of the Foundation and the talent of seasoned adoption recruiters to find permanent, loving homes for foster care children.

The Foundation awards grants to local adoption agencies to hire recruiters and execute aggressive child-focused recruitment programs targeted exclusively on placing foster children in loving, permanent adoptive families.

Since the program began in April 2004, more than 1,200 children have been served, 55 have been adopted, and more than 500 are matched with families and moving toward adoption. Grant support of \$5.2 million has been issued to local adoption agencies to fund aggressive adoption programs focused solely on finding families for foster care children in their communities.

As of June 30, 2006, there were 41 Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters in 30 states and two provinces in Canada, and we are on goal to have recruiters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia by 2007. Additionally, long-term, rigorous research is in place so we can use the learnings from this innovative program to drive effective policy and practice across the nation on behalf of all waiting children.

### **Adoption-Friendly Workplace**

Thousands of U.S. employers offer financial reimbursement, paid leave and unpaid leave to employees who adopt. The Adoption-Friendly Workplace, a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, encourages employers to offer adoption benefits and celebrates those who do.

Our expertly staffed toll-free telephone line, as well as our dynamic website, provide easy access to free tools and technical assistance for employers who want to establish adoption benefits and employees who want to propose them. During this reporting period alone, more than 4,000 people contacted us, requesting toolkits, technical assistance and benchmark research on adoption benefits.



### **National Adoption Awareness Month**

Congress designated November as National Adoption Awareness Month in 1990 to raise awareness about the need for adoption in the United States. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption leads the nation in supportive activities for this important initiative, including:

#### **National Adoption Day**

The Saturday before Thanksgiving each year, National Adoption Day brings the community, courts, adoption agencies and community organizations together to finalize adoptions of children, raise awareness of foster care adoption and celebrate all families who adopt. The Foundation has taken the lead on this national collaborative, which has garnered significant national media attention and raised critical national awareness about foster care adoption. In 2005, 227 local adoption events in 45 states facilitated the finalization of more than 3,300 adoptions on National Adoption Day.

#### **National Adoption Awareness Month Toolkits**

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption sets the national momentum each year for National Adoption Awareness Month by driving activities at the local level through the design and distribution of more than 10,000 National Adoption Awareness Month Toolkits. The kits include *A Child is Waiting: A Beginner's Guide to Adoption*; media templates for news releases about local adoption events; a CD with sample public service announcements; a new adoption poster and tips on engaging the community and the press in National Adoption Awareness Month activities.

#### **National Adoption Poster Campaign**

Foster care adoption awareness posters continue to influence general awareness and generate heartwarming adoption stories. More than 33,200 posters were distributed during this reporting period to adoption organizations, Wendy's restaurants, and targeted public venues, including libraries, doctors' offices, corporate headquarters and faith-based organizations.

### **"A Home for the Holidays"**

Since its premier in 1999, "A Home for the Holidays" has been a successful collaboration among the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Children's Action Network, CBS Television, Triage Productions and Wendy's International. This one-hour primetime special features top talent and soul-stirring foster care adoption stories.

The Foundation's toll-free telephone number is listed during the program, with a call to action. When viewers call, they reach an adoption expert who provides them with customized resource information and follows up with them at designated intervals. More than 3,682,800 people watched the show in 2005 and 1,771 sought additional information. A survey of past viewers indicated that 8 percent of those who responded to the show went on to adopt as a result of watching the special.

### **A Child is Waiting: A Beginner's Guide to Adoption**

Since 2003, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has distributed, free of charge, 203,365 copies of *A Child is Waiting: A Beginner's Guide to Adoption*. The *Guide* is a comprehensive educational tool, providing a step-by-step guide to investigating and participating in the process of adoption.

### **Foster Care Adoption Videos and Public Service Announcements**

The Foundation creates and distributes thousands of free videos and public service announcements (PSAs) each year, informing and educating professionals, parents and the general public about foster care adoption. During this 18-month reporting period, we distributed 5,679 educational videos and 992 PSAs.

## Grants Program

### Wendy's Wonderful Kids Agencies

The Foundation is proud to support the following Wendy's Wonderful Kids grantees:

#### Arizona

Aid to Adoption of Special Kids: Phoenix

#### California

Kinship Center: Los Angeles  
Sierra Adoption Services: Sacramento

#### Colorado

The Adoption Exchange - Colorado: Denver

#### Delaware

Adoption Center of Delaware Valley

#### Florida

Family Services of Metro Orlando: Orlando  
Charlee of Dade County: Miami  
Hillsborough Kids, Inc.: Tampa

#### Georgia

Roots Adoption Agency, Inc.: Atlanta  
Bethany Christian Services, Southern Georgia: Columbia

#### Idaho

Special Needs Adoptive Parent Services, Inc.(SNAP): Boise

#### Illinois

Casa Central: Chicago  
ChildServ: Chicago

#### Iowa

Four Oaks, Inc.: Cedar Rapids

#### Kansas

Kansas Children's Service League: Wichita

#### Kentucky

Department for Community Based Services – Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP): Louisville

#### Louisiana

Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans, Inc.: New Orleans  
Volunteers of America of Northern Louisiana: Shreveport

#### Maine

A Family for ME: Gardiner

#### Michigan

Spaulding for Children: Detroit  
Family Service and Children's Aid: Jackson

#### Mississippi

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc. Harden House Adoption Program: Jackson  
Mississippi Families for Kids: Jackson

#### Montana

Lutheran Social Services of Montana: Billings

#### Nebraska

Adoption Links Worldwide: Omaha

#### Nevada

Clark County Department of Family Services (2): Las Vegas

#### New Jersey

Children's Aid and Family Services: Paramus

#### New Mexico

The Adoption Exchange – New Mexico: Albuquerque

#### New York

NYC Administration for Children's Services: NYC  
You Gotta Believe! (2): Long Island & Brooklyn

#### North Carolina

Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Inc.(2): Greensboro & Charlotte

#### North Dakota

Catholic Charities North Dakota – Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK): Fargo

#### Ohio

Franklin County Children Services: Columbus  
Adopt America Network: Toledo  
Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services: Cincinnati

#### Oklahoma

One Church, One Child: Oklahoma City

#### Oregon

Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon: Portland

#### Pennsylvania

Three Rivers Adoption Council: Pittsburgh  
Tabor Children's Services, Inc.: Philadelphia  
Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley: Wilkes-Barre

#### Rhode Island

Adoption Rhode Island: Pawtucket

#### South Carolina

Family Service Center of South Carolina: Columbia

#### South Dakota

Children's Home Society: Sioux Falls

#### Tennessee

Family & Children's Service: Nashville

#### Texas

Lutheran Social Services: Dallas  
Spaulding for Children: Houston

#### Utah

The Adoption Exchange - Utah: Salt Lake City

#### Washington

Children's Home Society of Washington: Seattle

#### West Virginia

Mission West Virginia: Charleston

#### Wisconsin

Adoption Resources of Wisconsin: Milwaukee

## Grantees

In addition, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption supported the following grantees and their initiatives:

#### Adoption Coalition of Texas

Five-agency coalition recruiting adoptive families for 400 children in Central Texas

#### Adoption Council of Canada

Build organizational capacity to serve Canada's waiting children

#### Alliance for Children's Rights

Reduce backlog of court cases and expedite adoption of foster children

#### Amara Parenting and Adoption Services

Replicate mediation program that will result in timely adoptions

#### American Bar Association, Center for Children and the Law

Develop legal guidelines for older youth permanency planning

#### American Public Human Services Association

Develop a new Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children

#### Boys & Girls Aid Society of Oregon

Recruit and train families to adopt drug affected infants and small children

#### Casa Central/Chicago

Recruit Hispanic adoptive families

#### ChildNet

Analyze barriers to adoption of older youth

#### Children Awaiting Parents

Develop recruitment campaign for older waiting children in New York state

#### Children's Rights, Inc.

Document effect of reduced or eliminated adoption subsidies on adoption of foster children, in partnership with the North American Council on Adoptable Children and the National Foster Parent Association

#### Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Inc.

Train and support college students, formerly in foster care, to serve as summer interns with Members of Congress

#### Family Builders by Adoption

Planning for teen adoptions

#### Harlem Dowling West Side Center for Family Services

Facilitate teen adoptions

#### Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Develop "Familias para Ninos," a Latino adoptive family recruitment campaign; develop culturally relevant recruitment materials

#### Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

Develop "Our Voices Matter" family recruitment program for teens

#### National Center for Adoption Law & Policy

Support adoption law information services

#### National Indian Child Welfare Association

Create National Indian Adoption Clearinghouse

#### New Alternatives for Children

Expedite adoptions of medically and developmentally challenged children

#### North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)

Train NACAC subsidy volunteers for Adoption Subsidy Resource Center

#### Special Needs Adoptive Parent Services

Implement child-specific recruitment and adoption preparation for waiting teens

#### Villages of Indiana

Develop and implement recruitment and awareness campaign in Northeast Indiana

#### Youth Villages

Recruit and train adoptive parents in Central Tennessee

*The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption supports a number of results-driven organizations across North America, helping them raise national awareness about waiting children, streamline the foster care adoption process, make adoption more affordable and aggressively move waiting children from temporary foster care into safe, loving, permanent adoptive homes.*



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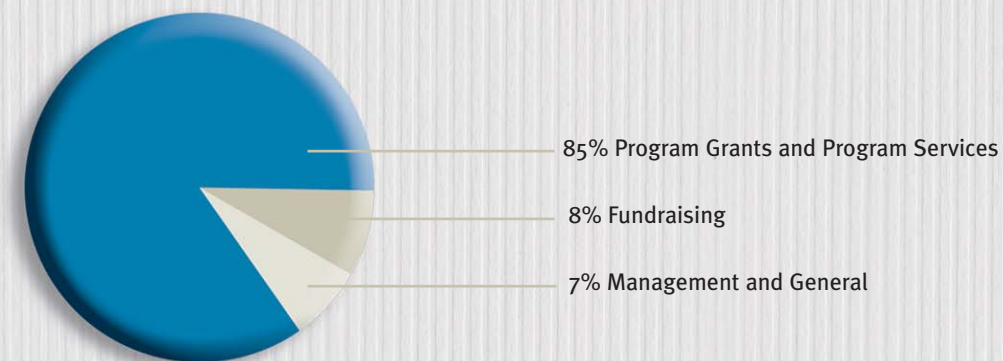


Assets	June 30, 2006	June 30, 2005
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$4,317,247	\$2,567,939
Operating Investments	4,770,921	4,519,872
Board-Designated Endowment	1,899,407	1,021,207
Contributions Receivable (Net of Allowance of \$100,000 in 2006)	52,391	82,660
Prepays and Other Assets	14,525	2,184
Agency Assets	—	35,000
Property and Equipment, Net	416,112	64,974
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$11,470,603</b>	<b>\$8,293,836</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	67,210	\$143,512
Grants Payable	2,218,000	1,344,147
Accrued Liabilities	133,484	49,682
Agency Liabilities	—	35,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,418,694</b>	<b>\$1,572,341</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Undesignated	6,830,934	\$5,700,288
Board-Designated Endowment	1,899,407	1,021,207
<b>Total Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$8,730,341</b>	<b>\$6,721,495</b>
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	321,568	—
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$9,051,909</b>	<b>\$6,721,495</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$11,470,603</b>	<b>\$8,293,836</b>

Revenues	For twelve months ended June 30, 2006	For six months ended June 30, 2005*
Contributions	\$2,105,190	\$ 280,426
Special Events	5,858,080	754,600
Investment Income	647,544	88,579
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$8,610,814</b>	<b>\$1,123,605</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Grants and Program Services	5,316,818	1,900,296
Management and General	421,292	255,520
Fundraising	\$ 542,290	\$ 119,375
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,280,400</b>	<b>\$2,275,191</b>
Change in Net Assets	2,330,414	<\$1,151,586>
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$6,721,495</b>	<b>\$7,873,081</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$9,051,909</b>	<b>\$6,721,495</b>

The numbers above do not reflect \$5,148,329 and \$94,256 of donated advertising and services from Wendy's International in 2006 and 2005, respectively, that are included in our audited financial statements as both revenue and expense.

\* During 2005, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption changed its year-end from December 31 to June 30.



## Donors

The following individuals, companies or organizations donated more than \$100 to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

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*continued from page 13*

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