



**LIFE SKILLS CENTER OF CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2001



JIM PETRO
AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO

LIFE SKILLS CENTER OF CLEVELAND

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Life Skills Center of Cleveland
Cuyahoga County
Court Shoe Building 4th Floor
1265 West 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Life Skills Center of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, (the Community School) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2001, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Community School's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Life Skills Center of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2001, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 31, 2001 on our consideration of the Community School's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

December 31, 2001

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**LIFE SKILLS CENTER OF CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS OF JUNE 30, 2001**

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 109,344
State funding receivable	346,471
Grants receivable	<u>19,280</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 475,095</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$ 2,016
Continuing fees payable	<u>410,400</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	412,416

FUND EQUITY

Retained earnings	<u>62,679</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	<u>\$ 475,095</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**LIFE SKILLS CENTER OF CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN RETAINED EARNINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2001**

OPERATING REVENUES

State basic aid	\$ 2,008,477
Disadvantaged pupil impact aid	<u>30,572</u>
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	2,039,049

OPERATING EXPENSES

Purchased services	2,147,991
Legal fees	18,021
Accounting/Auditing fees	2,381
Other operating expenses	<u>11,887</u>

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>2,180,280</u>
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OPERATING LOSS	(141,231)
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NON-OPERATING REVENUES

Grants	<u>172,824</u>
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NET INCOME	31,593
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RETAINED EARNINGS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>31,086</u>
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RETAINED EARNINGS AT END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 62,679</u></u>
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The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**LIFE SKILLS CENTER OF CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2001**

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Cash received from State of Ohio	\$ 1,997,149
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	<u>(2,108,379)</u>
Net cash used for operating activities	<u>(111,230)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Cash received from Grants	<u>177,135</u>
Net Cash Provided by Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>177,135</u>
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	65,905
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>43,439</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 109,344</u></u>

**RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO NET
CASH USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Operating Loss	\$ (141,231)
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**ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE OPERATING LOSS
TO NET CASH USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Changes in assets and liabilities:

(Increase) in state funding receivable	(41,900)
(Decrease) in accounts payable	(4,006)
Increase in continuing fees payable	<u>75,907</u>
Total adjustments	<u>30,001</u>
Net cash used for operating activities	<u><u>\$ (111,230)</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**LIFE SKILLS CENTER of CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2001**

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL AND REPORTING ENTITY

Life Skills Center of Cleveland (the School) is a state nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Chapters 3314 and 1702 to maintain and provide a school exclusively for any educational, literary, scientific and related teaching service. The School, which is part of the State's education program, is independent of any school district. The School may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the School.

The School contracts with WHLS of Ohio, LLC (WHLS) for most of its functions. See Note 7.

The School was approved for operation under contract with the Ohio State Board of Education (Sponsor) for a period of five years commencing with fiscal year August 13, 1999 thru June 30, 2004. The School operates under a self-appointing nine-member Board of Trustees (the Board). The School's Code of Regulations specify that vacancies that arise on the Board are filled by the appointment of successor trustees by a majority vote of the then existing trustees. The Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract with the Sponsor which includes, but is not limited to, state-mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards, and qualifications of teachers. The School has one instructional/support facility staffed by teaching personnel employed by WHLS which provides services to 413 students. The Board operates 6 Hope Academies and 1 other Life Skill Center in the cities of Akron and Cleveland. In Cleveland, they operate the HOPE Academy Cathedral Campus, HOPE Academy Broadway Campus, HOPE Academy Chapelside Campus, and HOPE Academy Lincoln Park Campus, and in Akron, they operate the HOPE Academy Brown Street Campus, HOPE Academy University Campus, and Life Skills Center of Akron.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the School have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental nonprofit organizations. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The School also applies Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) statements and interpretations issued on or before November 30, 1989, provided they do not conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements. The more significant of the School's accounting policies are described below.

**LIFE SKILLS CENTER of CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2001**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent is that the costs (expenses) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges or where it has been decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/ or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability or other purposes.

B. MEASUREMENT FOCUS AND BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities are included on the balance sheet. Equity consists of retained earnings. Operating statements present increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net total assets. The accrual basis of accounting is utilized for reporting purposes. Revenues are recognized when they are earned, and expenses are recognized when they are incurred.

C. BUDGETARY PROCESS

Unlike other public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow budgetary provisions set forth in Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705, unless specifically provided in the School's contract with its Sponsor. The contract between the School and its Sponsor requires a detailed school budget for each year of the contract; however, the budget does not have to follow the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.

**LIFE SKILLS CENTER of CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2001**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

All cash received by the School is maintained in a demand deposit account. For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows and for presentation on the Balance Sheet, investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased are considered to be cash equivalents.

E. FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

The School operates under a management agreement with WHLS and as such, the School has no fixed assets.

F. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES

The School currently participates in the State Foundation Program and the State Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (DPIA) Program. Revenues received from these programs are recognized as operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Grants and entitlements are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the school must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School on a reimbursement basis.

The School also participates in the Federal Charter School Grant Program through the Ohio Department of Education. Under this program, the school was awarded \$50,000 to offset start-up costs of the School. Revenue received from this program is recognized as non-operating revenue in the accompanying financial statements.

Amounts awarded under the above named programs for the 2001 school year totaled \$2,211,873.

**LIFE SKILLS CENTER of CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2001**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

G. USE OF ESTIMATES

In preparing the financial statements, management is sometimes required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. DEPOSITS

At year-end, the carrying amount of the School's deposits were \$109,344, and the bank balance was \$114,114. Of the bank balance, \$100,000 was covered by federal depository insurance. \$14,114 was uninsured and uncollateralized.

4. STATE FUNDING RECEIVABLE

The School has recognized on its balance sheet a "State funding receivable" for the amount that is estimated to be funded to the School by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) based on the difference in the amount the school actually received versus the amount earned through student full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment as determined at the end of the year. A receivable reflects that the School was funded on a lower estimated enrollment figure throughout the year than what the FTE enrollment figure was calculated to be at year end.

At June 30, 2001 the amount of State funding receivable was a net \$346,471 which consisted of \$304,571 (audited) of State funding receivable due from fiscal year 2000 and an *estimated* State funding receivable of \$41,900 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001. As of June 30, 2001, the ODE had not yet paid the FY2000 State funding due and thus, the entire amount remained a receivable.

**LIFE SKILLS CENTER of CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2001**

5. CONTINUING FEES PAYABLE

A related "Continuing fees payable" has been recorded by the school for 97% of the amount of "State funding receivable" which is due to WHLS under the terms of the management agreement. See Note 7.

Other significant payables of the School at June 30, 2001 consisted of federal program grants of \$74,323.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Property and Liability - The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft or damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. As part of its management agreement with WHLS, WHLS has contracted with an insurance company for property and general liability insurance pursuant to the Management Agreement. See Note 7.

Director and Officer - Coverage has been purchased by the School with a \$1,000,000 aggregate limit and no deductible.

7. AGREEMENT WITH WHLS

Effective July 22, 1999, the School entered into a five-year Management Agreement (Agreement) with WHLS which is an educational consulting and management company. The Agreement's term coincides with the School's charter agreement. Substantially all functions of the School have been contracted to WHLS. WHLS is responsible and accountable to the School's Board of Trustees (the "School Board") for the administration, operation and performance of the School in accordance with the School's contract (Contract) with the Ohio State Board of Education to operate the School. The School had purchase service expenses for the year ended June 30, 2001 to WHLS of \$2,147,991 and a payable to WHLS at June 30, 2001 of \$410,400. Significant provisions of the Agreement are as follows:

**LIFE SKILLS CENTER of CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2001**

7. AGREEMENT WITH WHLS (Continued)

Financial Provisions

Management. Consulting and Operation Fee. The School is required to pay WHLS or the Company a monthly continuing fee of 97% of the School's "Qualified Gross Revenues", defined in the Agreement as, "...all revenues and income received by the School except for charitable contributions" and "shall receive 100% of any and all grants or funding of any kind generated by the Company, and its affiliates beyond the regular per pupil state funding received by the School, subject to any terms and conditions attached to the grants, if any." The continuing fee is paid to the Company based on the previous month's qualified gross revenues.

Other School Financial Responsibilities. The School is responsible for its directors' and officers' insurance, legal fees for School Board representation and general corporate matters, accounting, audit, tax and consulting fees for the School, and other miscellaneous expenses not incurred in the normal day-to-day operation of the School.

WHLS Financial Responsibilities

Except as otherwise provided in the Agreement, all costs incurred in providing the educational program at the School are to be paid by WHLS. Such costs include, but are not limited to, salaries for all personnel, curriculum materials, textbooks, library books, computer and other equipment, software, supplies, building payments, maintenance, and capital improvements. All personal property used in the operation of the School is the property of WHLS, unless purchased directly by the School with its separate funds.

WHLS is required to maintain, at WHLS's expense, commercial general liability insurance in the name of the School in an amount not less than one \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million aggregate, and excess umbrella liability insurance of not less than \$10 million per occurrence and \$15 million aggregate.

**LIFE SKILLS CENTER of CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2001**

7. AGREEMENT WITH WHLS (Continued)

Personnel

WHLS has the responsibility and authority to determine staffing levels, and to select, evaluate, assign, discipline, transfer and terminate personnel, consistent with state and federal law and the Contract.

Compensation of all employees of the School is paid by WHLS. If WHLS fails to pay this compensation, the School, in its sole discretion, may pay such compensation and offset the amount by withholding an equal amount from the fees owed to WHLS under the Agreement.

Agreement Termination

Termination by the School. The School may terminate the Agreement in the event WHLS materially breaches the Agreement or the Contract and WHLS does not cure the material breach within 90 days of its receipt of written notice from the School, unless the breach cannot be reasonably cured within 90 days, in which case the WHLS shall promptly undertake and continue efforts to cure said material breach within a reasonable time.

Termination by WHLS. WHLS may, at its option, terminate the Agreement upon the occurrence of certain events as defined in the Agreement.

8. FEDERAL TAX EXEMPTION STATUS

As of October 31, 2001 the school had applied for tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Should the School fail to obtain federal tax exempt status, it could be subject to federal income tax, the effect of which has not been assessed.

**LIFE SKILLS CENTER of CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2001**

9. STATE SCHOOL FUNDING DECISION

On September 6, 2001, the Ohio Supreme Court issued its latest opinion regarding the State's school funding plan. The decision identified aspects of the current plan that require modification if the plan is to be considered constitutional, including:

- A change in the school districts that are used as the basis for determining the base cost support amount. Any change in the amount of funds distributed to school districts as a result of this change must be retroactive to July 1, 2001, although a time line for distribution is not specified.
- Fully funding parity aid no later than the beginning of fiscal year 2004 rather than fiscal year 2006

The Supreme Court relinquished jurisdiction over the case based on anticipated compliance with its order.

In general, it is expected that the decision would result in an increase in State funding for most Ohio school districts. However, as of December 31, 2001, the Ohio General Assembly is still analyzing the impact this Supreme Court decision will have on funding for individual school districts. Further, the State of Ohio, in a motion filed September 17, 2001, asked the Court to reconsider and clarify the parts of the decision changing the school districts that are used as the basis for determining the base cost support amount and the requirement that changes be made retroactive to July 1, 2001.

On November 2, 2001, the Court granted this motion for reconsideration. The Court may re-examine and redetermine any issue upon such reconsideration.

As of the date of these financial statements, the School is unable to determine what effect, if any, this decision and the reconsideration will have on its future State funding and on its financial operations.

**LIFE SKILLS CENTER of CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2001**

10. CONTINGENCIES

A. GRANTS

Amounts received from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. Any disallowed costs may require refunding to the grantor. Amounts which may be disallowed, if any, are not presently determinable. However, in the opinion of the School, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the School.

B. Pending Litigation

A suit was filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court on May 14, 2001, alleging that Ohio's Community (i.e., Charter) Schools program violates the state Constitution and state laws. The effect of this suit, if any, on the Life Skills Center of Cleveland is not presently determinable.

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**REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL
REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Life Skills Center of Cleveland
Cuyahoga County
Court Shoe Building 4th Floor
1265 West 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Life Skills Center of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, (the Community School) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated December 31, 2001. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Community School's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Community School's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Life Skills Center of Cleveland
Cuyahoga County
Report on Compliance and on Internal Control
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

This report is intended for the information and use of the Board of Trustees and management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

December 31, 2001

LIFE SKILLS CENTER of CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
JUNE 30, 2001

<u>Finding Number</u>	<u>Finding Summary</u>	<u>Fully Corrected?</u>	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain:</i>
2000-10818-001	Submission of application for Federal tax exempt status	Yes	



STATE OF OHIO
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LIFE SKILLS CENTER OF CLEVELAND

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
MARCH 12, 2002**