

HUMAN SERVICES

Paying attention to populations that often go unnoticed.

Poor individuals and families are particularly vulnerable in American society. With the turbulence of the national economy, the populations of those dangerously at-risk are only increasing. Kresge makes these adults and children and their short- and long-term needs a priority by supporting the facility requirements of the organizations that serve them.

The Chrysalis Center is one such organization. For three decades now, it has been attending to the most disadvantaged and challenged of Hartford, Connecticut's poor—those struggling with psychiatric disabilities such as schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder, chronic substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and homelessness. Of the 2,000 adult clients they serve each year, 95 percent live below the federal poverty line.

Just as a chrysalis protects a butterfly as it grows and develops, this center strives to serve the same purpose for its clients. With safe, stable, independent living as the goal, it coordinates services with community coalitions and area councils and planning groups to offer housing, employment and vocational training; health care services; avenues for community involvement and opportunities to learn and grow; and tools to cultivate and sustain interpersonal relationships.

With a challenge grant from Kresge, the center is transforming an old dairy into an environmentally sustainable facility that will consolidate four of its nine sites under this one newly renovated roof.

Grantmaking in the human services field is most concerned with who is being served and the quality of care provided. As a result, we support the facility needs of community-based organizations that offer opportunity and access to the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and low-income people in order to improve their quality of life. The values representing this effort are creating opportunity, serving underserved geography, promoting diversity, and strengthening community impact.