



LA LECHE LEAGUE
INTERNATIONAL
50TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATING THE POWER
OF BREASTFEEDING

2006-2007
ANNUAL REPORT



La Leche League International, the world's oldest and best known authority on breastfeeding.

From the Chairman of the Board and the Interim Executive Director

Moving a large and diverse organization toward policies and procedures that protect the organization for the future while holding fast to 50 years of protecting breastfeeding and supporting mothers is a complex task. The La Leche League International Board of Directors rose to the challenge as they moved forward in their effort to guide the organization into a position of strength.

Continuing the work begun the year before, the Board began implementing a strategic plan designed to play on the strengths of volunteers while simplifying the structure of the organization. By restructuring programs so that they operate from the appropriate geographic office, La Leche League International will better serve mothers and volunteers.

Protecting the basic philosophy and practices of mother-to-mother support while building a strong financial future is paramount. The past 50 years have seen La Leche League International take breastfeeding from the brink of extinction to being recognized as a vital health practice for both babies and mothers. Our organization has been the birthplace for practices that have changed both parenting and the way the medical profession views the relationship of the breastfeeding dyad.

In the next 50 years and beyond, we will continue to offer the information and confidence-building support to help families give their babies the very best start in life.

Sincerely,



Jane Tuttle, Chairman of the Board

Barbara Emanuel, Interim Executive Director

La Leche League International was founded by seven dedicated women.



Photo by Annette Leibovitz

Fifty years ago at a picnic in a suburb of Chicago, Illinois, USA—during a time when the art of breastfeeding was not so popular—Marian Tompson and Mary White first talked with the women in their community who were asking them for help with breastfeeding. In October 1956, they joined together with Mary Ann Cahill, Edwina Froehlich, Mary Ann Kerwin, Viola Lennon, and Betty Wagner, and invited some women to the first La Leche League meeting.

What started as a neighborhood resource blossomed because it filled a need for mothers everywhere. The organization quickly grew, with volunteers taking the idea of information and mother-to-mother support across the country and around the world. Today, women everywhere are touched by La Leche League International (LLLI).

Through scientific studies, breastfeeding has been shown to be the cornerstone of lifelong health. In an emerging and developed country, and in conditions caused by disasters, breastfed babies receive nourishment and so much more. While breastfeeding is natural, it is a learned art.

Throughout history, breastfeeding skills were passed on from generation to generation. Unfortunately, this natural tradition was disrupted and is still not available to many women in the 21st century.

La Leche League International continues to fill the need for breastfeeding information and support. We know—and studies have shown—that women can breastfeed when they get information and encouragement from the experts: other women who have breastfed.



Our Mission

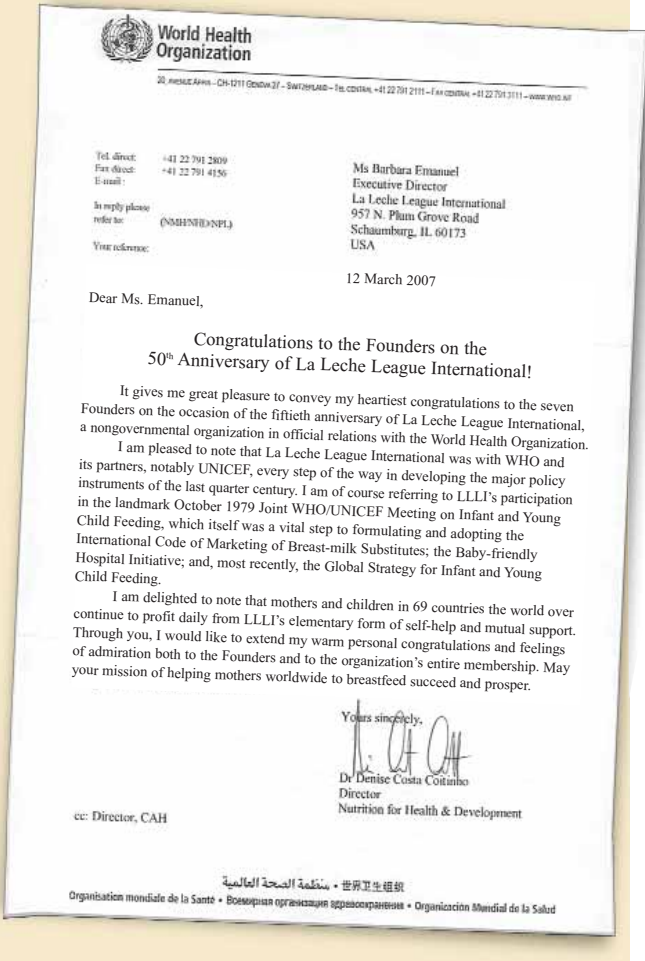
To help mothers worldwide to breastfeed through mother-to-mother support, encouragement, information and education, and to promote a better understanding of breastfeeding as an important element in the healthy development of the baby and mother.



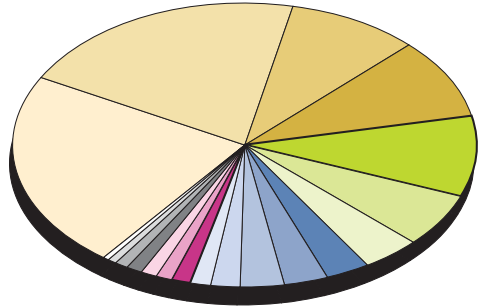
Congratulations on 50 years of mother-to-mother support!

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of La Leche League International, many of the world's leading health organizations offered their congratulations. The wishes extended show the value of our work over the past 50 years, as well as illustrate the true appreciation for our efforts. The letter from the World Health Organization is just one example of the heartfelt congratulations extended to LLLI during the 50th anniversary year.

2006 – 2007 Financials

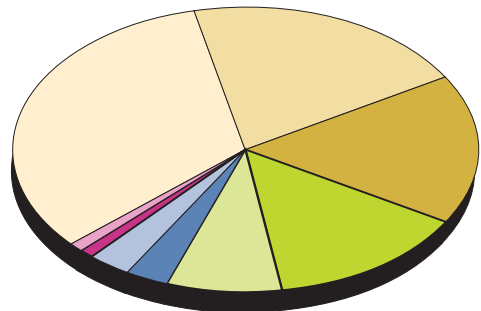


2006/07 Expenses



- Publications 22%
- Non-Program Operations 20%
- Building and Equipment 9%
- Outside Professional 9%
- Headquarter Operations 9%
- Periodicals 6%
- Fundraising 4%
- Customer Service 3%
- External Relations & Advocacy 3%
- Workshops & Seminars 3%
- Breastfeeding 2%
- Public Relations 1.4%
- Helpline 1.3%
- Board of Directors 1.1%
- Peer Counselors 1.1%
- Reference Library 1.1%
- Leader Support 0.9%
- Alumnae 0.6%
- Latch On 0.4%

2006/07 Revenues



- Publications 33%
- Contributions 20%
- Dues 17%
- Royalties 14%
- Periodicals 8%
- Miscellaneous 3%
- Workshops & Conference 3%
- Investment Income 1%
- Programs 1%

Fulfilling Our Mission

Accredited Volunteers

Accredited volunteers hold the title of La Leche League Leaders. These dedicated women provide a variety of opportunities to help others receive information, support, and encouragement—whether through meetings, on the phone, or online. Leaders are also a valuable resource for health care professionals. In the span of 50 years, over 43,000 women have been accredited as Leaders. In turn, these volunteers have helped millions of women throughout the world.

Alumnae Association

There are many volunteers, mothers, and health care professionals who have worked with LLLI over the last 50 years and wish to continue their affiliation with the organization. The Alumnae Association provides them with a means to network and provide meaningful support to LLLI.

Education

LLLI is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Medical Education to sponsor medical educational events internationally. LLLI is approved as a long-term provider by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, and an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Illinois Nurses Association. LLLI is also an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

External Relations and Advocacy

LLLI strives to develop a supportive, global presence for breastfeeding through work with private voluntary organizations (PVOs), work with organizations that focus on maternal/child health issues, and through promoting, protecting, and supporting breastfeeding globally in the Latino community. LLLI

maintains consultive status with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), official working relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), acts as a registered PVO for the Agency of International Development (USAID), is an accredited member of the US Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition, is a member of Child Survival and Collaborations and Resource Group (CORE), and is a founding member of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA).

Peer Counselors

Research has shown that targeted populations of women benefit greatly from the presence of peer counselors and peer counselor administrators. Hundreds of these volunteers have reached out to mothers in an effort to support and protect breastfeeding in underserved communities.

Public Relations

Media from around the world contact LLLI to obtain statistics, facts, and interview contacts. Through its network of volunteers and professionals around the world, the Public Relations team provides accurate information from leading experts in a timely manner to the press and other interested parties.

Publications

Since the first printing of *The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding*, over two million copies in seven editions have been sold. In addition, various LLLI publications provide parents, accredited volunteers, and health professionals with the latest information on breastfeeding and related topics. Publications are often produced or translated into a variety of languages, providing scientific and mothering information to the global community.



A Presence in 68 Countries Across the World

La Leche League International maintains a presence around the world in 68 countries. Women are assisted by other women who are accredited Leaders and peer counselor administrators. Women benefit from information in their language, breastfeeding resource centers, or maintain other ongoing contact in ways appropriate to the local culture.

Argentina	Dominican Republic	Italy	Qatar
Australia	Ecuador	Japan	Russia
Austria	Egypt	Korea	Saudi Arabia
Barbados	Estonia	Lithuania	Singapore
Belarus	Finland	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Belgium	France	Mexico	South Africa
Bermuda	Georgian Republic	Mongolia	Spain
Bolivia	Germany	Netherlands	Switzerland
Brazil	Great Britain	New Zealand	Syria
Bulgaria	Greece	Norway	Taiwan
Canada	Guatemala	Pakistan	Turkey
Chile	Haiti	Paraguay	United Arab Emirates
China	Hungary	Peru	United States
Costa Rica	Iceland	Philippines	Uruguay
Colombia	India	Poland	Venezuela
Czech Republic	Ireland	Portugal	Virgin Islands
Denmark	Israel	Puerto Rico	Zambia

LLL Thanks Our DONORS. You Made a Difference During This Fiscal Year.

"Please accept my gift to help celebrate 50 years! It's been a joy to see La Leche League grow, reaching women around the world. There is still such a need!"

Pat Stadler, involved with LLL since 1962, Former Leader, Germany

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

\$5000 and above (cumulative since Nov. 1, 2004)

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Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation, South Salem, NY
Medela, Inc., McHenry, IL
Ripplewood Foundation, Inc., New York, NY
United States Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health, Rockville, MD



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**\$1000-\$4999 (April 1, 2006-
March 31, 2007)**

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Amy and Thomas Marano, Madison, NJ

AWARDS OF RECOGNITION

The Founders and LLLI were honored and commended by the following groups, foundations, corporations, government agencies, and organizations throughout the 50th Anniversary Year.



"I feel such gratitude for all that LLL brought into my life, and I am so proud of the relationships that I enjoy with my grown, almost grown, and growing children. This all comes from the confidence and support I received from La Leche League."

Rosalie Maimone, Founders' Circle Donor, Retired Leader, NY

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 United States Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health, Rockville, MD
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 The Wilson Family Foundation, Atlanta, GA

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\$500-\$999 (April 1, 2006-March 31, 2007)

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Corporate, Foundation, and other Group Support at the Pacesetter Level

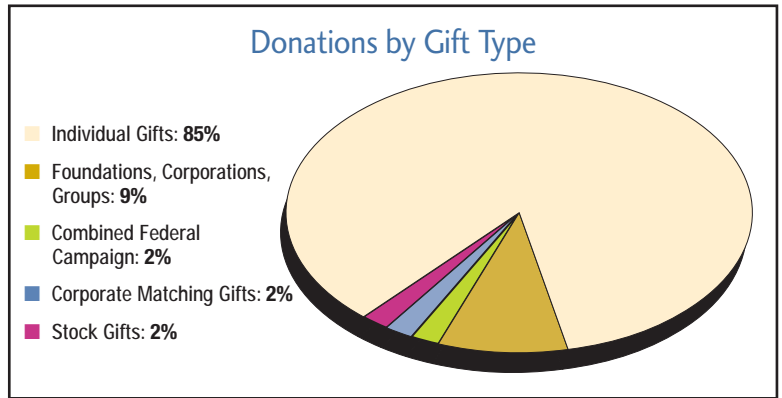
Chicago Lift Truck, Inc., Chicago, IL
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Thanks to the La Leche League International Board of Directors for 100% participation in giving during this fiscal year.



LLLI invites you to support our work in a variety of ways:

- Unrestricted and restricted gifts to LLLI.
- Corporate Matching gifts, often available through the donor's employer.
- Recurring gifts—maximizing your donation to LLLI through regular, monthly, or quarterly donations.
- Planned gifts, a way to continue supporting LLLI through one's estate.
- Gifts “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” a group or individual. Tributes for donations of \$50 or more can be printed in the LLLI member magazine, *NEW BEGINNINGS*. Tribute cards can be sent for donations of any amount, offering a meaningful alternative to a store-bought greeting card.
- In order to donate stocks contact LLLI.
- The Combined Federal Campaign, in which US government workers and military personnel around the world give to the organization of their choice via payroll deductions.
- Participation in affinity programs—for information, see “Creative Ways to Give,” at www.llli.org/donate.html.



If you have questions, please contact the Funding Development Department at fdassociate@llli.org, or 847-519-7730, extension 240.



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 American Academy of Pediatrics
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 LLLI Eastern United States Division
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 Wellstart International
 World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action
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