TOTAL CHARITY CARE PROVIDED
$1.3 MILLION

TOTAL PERSONS ENROLLED
IN TREATMENT
12,682

TOTAL PERSONS SERVED
PREVENTION & OUTREACH
13,414

TOTAL SERVED WHO LIVE AT
OR BELOW FEDERAL POVERTY
80.37%

TOTAL MILES TRAVELLED TO
PROVIDE SERVICES
1,237,122
Our Mission
...to promote recovery and offer solutions to those facing mental illnesses, addictions and other social challenges

Our Vision
...a community in which choice, hope and recovery are within everyone’s reach

Our Values
...to partner with individuals, businesses and communities balancing efficiency and effectiveness in all we do
...to have diversity and the right to be respected, self-governing and accountable
...the right to choice in services, housing and work
...the power of hope

A Position
Of Strength

$15.8 million salaries to local economies

$4.02 million contribution to local economies

“I learned how to cope with my peers & staff. I learned how to control myself and how to ignore negativity and to accept the word no.”
-Samuel, age 14 Achievement Center Group Home

“...without their direction and support, our family would have suffered more than it already has. They brought forth growth, clear perception and self awareness in many of us and a greater understanding of our circumstances. They are helping us to pursue further therapy for our family to continue to improve”
-Prison Family, Family Crisis Intervention Team
Then Governor Lawton Chiles participating in Meridian's Challenges, Ropes Course (Drug Free Communities Grant Program) April 1991

Meridian consumers start an auto detailing business that continues today March 1994

Services We Provide

Inpatient
- Crisis Stabilization Unit (adult & child)
- Detoxification Unit (adult)
- Short-Term Residential Treatment Program (adult)

Forensic
- Adult Criminal Drug Court
- Dependency Drug Court
- Mental Health Court
- Forensic Intervention & Outreach
- Juvenile Drug Court

Children's
- Substance Abuse Outpatient
- Children’s Case Management
- Outpatient Counseling
- School-Based Prevention
- Sexual Abuse Treatment
- Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care & Respite

Mental Illness
- Adult Case Management
- Adult Outpatient Counseling
- HOPE Program - Family Crisis Intervention Team
- HELP: Homeless Enrichment Liaison Program
- Intensive Outpatient: Dual Diagnosis Program
- Psychiatric Outpatient Services
- Rehabilitation & Community Re-Integration
- Supported Employment, Job Coach

Residential Treatment
- Joyce House, Women’s Group Home
- MIST: Mothers’ Intensive Supportive Treatment
- Recovery Center, Youth Residential Treatment
- Sid Martin Bridge House (adult)
- Williams Manor & Transitions (adult)
- Achievement Center, Youth Group Home

Outreach & Intervention
- Challenges Ropes Course
- Children’s Intervention Program
- HIV Outreach & Intervention
- Homeless Enrichment Liaison
- Older Adult Outreach Services

Residential / Housing
- PATH Program: Progressive Alternative to Homeless
- Satellite, Sunset & Choice Apartments (Supported Housing)

Substance Abuse / Addiction
- Aftercare
- CARE: Coping with Addiction through Recovery & Empowerment
- Day/ Night Treatment (STAR & HOPE Programs)
- Evidence Based Prevention Programs
- Intensive Adult Outpatient & Intervention
- Intensive Outpatient: Dual Diagnosis Program
- Opiate Treatment Program (Methadone Treatment)
- TASC: Treatment Alternative for Safer Communities

Meridian consumers start an auto detailing business that continues today March 1994
Meridian is now completing it’s 35th year of service to our communities. Our doors first opened in 1972, with 90 staff and a budget of less than $2 million. Our opening was the result of a dedicated group of community leaders from the Health Departments, the University of Florida, and local professionals who saw the opportunity created by federal staffing grants to bring much needed services to our communities. So began a tradition of service and collaboration. I am pleased to be able to look back and say that, through periods of growth and challenge, Meridian has retained its commitment to core mission while also contributing to our counties as a strong business enterprise.

Every year, Meridian serves more individuals. Our clinical programs are all licensed and accredited, staffed by a variety of skilled and dedicated professionals, including social workers, mental health and addictions professionals, psychiatrists, nurses and nurse practitioners. These professionals bring their talent and compassion to the delivery of services, which are increasingly evidenced-based. We are committed to offering care in ways that have proven their effectiveness, believing that efficiency is best gained by providing high quality care.

Meridian has also continued its 35-year tradition of collaborating with other agencies and entities in creating innovative and collaborative approaches to surmounting individual and community challenges and problems. We maintain contracts with county commissions and schools in our entire catchment area. Our housing and forensic services are accredited and, paired with our clinical programs, allow us to contribute specialized expertise to our communities as they address social issues and concerns. Our staff and clients also benefit from our relationship with the University of Florida that provides us with access to current research-derived treatment approaches while affording child fellows a community-based learning environment.

As a member of the business community, Meridian employs over 650 individuals across ten counties, providing almost $16 million in income and benefits to our employees. In addition, our purchases of local supplies and local services add to the local economy. Because of our size and ability to be financially strong, we are able to contribute over $1 million annually in charitable care.

We hope you will find the summary of our accomplishments and status included in this report informative. We want to extend our appreciation to our consumers, families, staff and our many community partners for their support of our work and mission over many, many years. Together, we can make a community in which choice hope and recovery are within everyone’s reach.
“If I’ve benefited or enhanced anyone’s life or their family’s life in our community then I have fulfilled my service”

~Ruth Robinson
35 years of service at Meridian

MEETING THE NEEDS
Of Our Community

“I was here when we moved in. The furniture, the phones, hanging the drapes...Meridian is a good company...I’ve been able to grow here. After 35 years I’m still here because it’s rewarding and I enjoy what I do”

~Sandra S. Graham
35 years of service at Meridian
Meridian’s history spans decades. In 1958 services began to be delivered in Alachua County through a program in the Health Department that provided consultation to school nurses. In 1962, services to individuals about to enter or just having left State mental hospitals were added. This base was further expanded when three organizations, the Alachua County Mental Health Association, the Public Health Department and the Department of Community Psychiatry at the University of Florida became involved in the development of a Community Mental Health Center.

Services were expanded to a 10-county area in 1972: Alachua, Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Bradford, and Union Counties. In the four years that followed, funding was added that allowed the center to add services for children (including residential treatment) and older adults, as well as for those suffering from alcohol abuse.

In 1979, the ten-county area was divided into two smaller regions with the formation of North Florida Mental Health Center, Inc. (serving the 6 northernmost counties: Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee, Bradford, and Union) and Mental Health Services, Inc. (serving the remaining four counties: Alachua, Dixie, Levy, and Gilchrist). During these early times, and the ensuing 17 years, funds from state and federal governments expanded and contracted and both Centers grew and changed considerably. In 1985 Putnam County joined Bradford and Union, and in 1992, the organization officially merged with North Florida Mental Health. Later, Baker County was added to the service area.

In the mid nineties it became clear that the resources necessary to provide services were so scarce and administrative costs so steep that a change was needed. In 1996, Mental Health Services, Inc. and North Florida Mental Health Center, Inc. decided to merge. Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. became the new name for the merged agencies. The cost savings from merging administrative services and the subsequent streamlining of programs helped stabilize the financial side, thus making service continuity possible.

Since the original merger, two more changes have occurred. Putnam County decided that it wanted to provide services locally, through its own agency. They began doing so in 1998, though Meridian continues to be Putnam’s provider for crisis stabilization services. In January 2001 Baker County, which was in another contracting district for the Department of Children and Families, contracted their services to providers within that District.

As a result, Meridian now covers the same ten counties it did in 1972, offering a wide array of services and access to behavioral healthcare for the citizens of those counties. Throughout these many changes, the focus on our mission has remained. We have prioritized quality, service, and maintaining a continuum of care in times where other behavioral healthcare providers have eliminated services.
Our Mission
Into Action

- Opened a Pharmacy (Genoa Healthcare) allowing individuals the ease and convenience of obtaining prescriptions on site
- Began the Open Access Program at all sites: a walk-in clinic providing increased access to services
- Began the CARE Program: Coping with Addiction through Recovery and Empowerment - specialized 6 month intensive women’s addiction treatment program
- Launched new website www.mbhci.org
- Promotion of Radio Show - "The Meridian Community Affairs Show with Karen Rice" weekly listenership of 20,000 on 5 radio stations in North Central Florida
- Enhanced technology: Opened a wireless Training Room & Conference Room for computer training of both employees and consumers as well as increased the number of computers on all sites by 30%
- Increased revenue to $30 million
- Provided $1.3 million in charitable care
- 8% increase in the number of individuals cared for throughout the year in treatment programs: enrolled an additional 6,722 people who were not previously receiving services
- Expanded school based services in 10 counties
- Expanded treatment options for individuals whose mental illnesses have resulted in criminal justice system involvement: Alachua Forensic Specialists, Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts

Financial Perspective

...have the financial stability and resources to support our staff and operations, to satisfy our creditors, and to invest in growth and development

Consumer Perspective

...facilitate recovery and resilience in consumers by ensuring access to quality services and consumer participation in treatment, and ensuring as many treatment options as resources allow

Internal Perspective

...implement and promote the use of up-to-date information systems throughout Meridian in order to have access to real time data and timely information, thereby enhancing decision-making, efficiency and effectiveness

Learning & Growth Perspective

...ensure there are sufficient numbers of skilled staff who can be offered satisfying work, development, and promotion opportunities, and who have the infrastructure and facilities to meet our objectives

Support turns to romance at Lake City Day Treatment!
December 1996
**Events & Awards**

**Choice Hope Recovery Awards 2006**

- **Employee of the Year**
  Annette Ward, support staff, Dixie County

- **Leadership Award**
  Allison Ivey, Program Director Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services, Williams Manor Residential, Lake City

- **Innovation Award**
  Chad Crosier, Program Director Family Crisis Intervention Team, Gainesville

- **Choice Hope Recovery Community Award**
  Joan & Bruce Stevens, Co-Presidents of NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness, Gainesville

**Client Satisfaction Survey Results**

Meridian assesses client satisfaction using Mental Health Corporation of America’s Survey instrument allowing us to benchmark against national peers.

Meridian’s ratings were “good” to “excellent” with a 2007 mean of 3.82, which is above the national mean of 3.76.

- 92% of respondents would recommend Meridian providing services to others.
- 85% indicated they are “somewhat better” or “a great deal better” after receiving services.

**Award Nomination**

Meridian was nominated a “finalist” for Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce’s Business of the Year 2006, Non Profit Category.

Meridian’s Tree of Hope: honoring generous contributors and is a brilliant symbol of choice, hope & recovery.
**DONOR Recognition**

**FRIENDS up to $500**
A. David & Deborah Crown  
Alan Paulin  
Barbara Graeber  
Barbara Naylor  
Bruna Herbert  
Cammie Edwards  
Carl & Beatrice Beer  
Carla Jones  
Carolyn Adcock  
Columbia Youth Football Association  
Cynthia Morton  
Debra Dewein  
Diana McPherson  
Donna Jerrels  
Donna Maynard  
Eileen Westwood  
Eric Parker  
First Federal Savings Bank of Florida  
Florida Museum of Natural History  
Frank McCoy  
FW & Wendy Person—Merrill Lynch  
Harvey Goldstein  
Information Technology Dept. - Meridian  
Irma Phillips-Maxwell  
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Jerry Barshov & Ruth Keener  
Jill Spellman  
Joanne Gibson  
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Karen & Briton Jon Rice  
Kevin & Sarah Coulson  
Lynda Evans  
Marlene Greenspan  
Martha Legler  
Melissa Hewitt  
Melody Laflam  
Michael & Carrie Carr—Merrill Lynch  
Millennium Bank

**STARS $500 — $999**
Mona Grinstead  
Mr. & Mrs. Dewey Weaver  
Pam Ward  
Paula Stowell  
Publix Supermarkets  
Ronnie Parr  
Roslyn Slater  
Ruth Trimmer  
Sandra Graham  
Sara Blackford  
Sharon Longworth  
Smith Hulsey & Busey  
St. John's Co.  
Susan Eichner  
Temple of the Universe  
Tina Alfieri  
Zona Haines

**LEADERSHIP CIRCLE $1000 +**
Allen Enterprises of Gainesville, Inc.  
Anitron, Inc  
B & B Office Systems  
Budd Media & Ilene Silverman  
Charles & Marrienne DeBolt  
Cris Collinsworth  
Darabi & Associates, Inc.  
Davis & Judi Rembert  
Dex Imaging  
Florida Food Service  
Good Life Community Magazine  
Greenberg Traurig  
James Winters  
J.W. & Sinoma Brown  
Linda Weseman  
Maggie Labarta  
Mister Paper Office Supply  
Paul Metts  
Purvis Gray & Company  
Shands Healthcare  
Suwannee Medical  
Tom & Gwen Umlauf  
Walgreens  
Warner & Edith Weseman

**CHOICE, HOPE, RECOVERY $5000 +**
Beechler Waters Printers & Mailers  
City of Gainesville, CD Block Grant  
HRH Insurance  
Sunshine Broadcasting  
The Gainesville Sun

"...Recovery has helped me control my anger and has showed me that being sober is the way to live... I've realized that I need to be responsible... Recovery may be something that I never knew that I needed but I know I have a higher purpose than just doing drugs..."

-Brian, age 16  
Recovery Center Group Home
Our 06/07 Board of Directors

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DeWayne Yates  
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Gilchrist County

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