Opening Doors for the Future Through Literacy Enrichment

ALLEN COUNTY
Education Partnership
Program Year 2008-2009
Our Mission: “Improve academic achievement for youth through business, community, and education partnerships.”

President’s Message

In evaluating this past fiscal year, I am very pleased to say that we did a fine job. The work of the Allen County Education Partnership continues to meet the needs of our community in helping to prepare our young people to read. I have to add that our success is strictly due to our wonderful and committed staff and volunteers.

ACEP has shown through hard work and effort that we can reach many children and parents. We were able to tutor 206 students though our Project Reads program and help 579 families through our Parent Literacy Enrichment workshops. This is phenomenal! We continue to find ways of doing things better and more efficiently to offer a greater service to our patrons.

As we look forward, we are amazed by the great strides the Learn United initiative has made in its first year. We have close to 400 volunteers enlisted thus far. In less than a year’s time with the collaborative efforts between ACEP and the United Way, we are increasing the awareness of the learning gap and the need for more of the community to get involved. There is great hope for the work that will be done.

In this tough economic time, I also want to thank all of those who continue to believe in the work that we are committed to doing each and every day. We are blessed to have made many caring and loving friends throughout the years to help keep us going. We continue to be willing to work hard for the support we receive and are humble for the generosity bestowed upon us.

We are committed to doing more in this upcoming year. We look forward to finding new ways to be partners in our community. As always we will work to be a better servant to those we serve.
In the fall of 2008, ACEP joined United Way of Allen County’s Learn United initiative to manage the in-school portion of this project. Management involves registering, screening, training, placing, and retaining volunteers who are interested in helping to close the third grade reading achievement gap.

Four pilot elementary schools – Brentwood, Southwick, Village, and Waynedale – were selected to receive volunteers who would work with small groups (2-3) of students in kindergarten through third grade classrooms on basic literacy skills. Teachers at those schools provided volunteers with “opportunities,” commonly one-hour time slots when volunteers could work to improve and encourage student success with language.

The model for volunteer training incorporates many of the proven skills used with ACEP’s Project READS program. In addition, aspects of cultural awareness and classroom dynamics are addressed to give volunteers an idea of what to expect when they return to elementary school – some of them for the first time in over 50 years!

Meadowbrook and Nebraska Elementary schools became Learn United schools in the spring of 2009, so by last school year’s end nearly 300 volunteer opportunities had been created. Fort Wayne Community Schools Extended Learning also added summer opportunities for a new influx of volunteers. Four schools accepted over 200 volunteers this past June and July. Individuals from businesses and civic agencies, as well as private citizens, streamed into classrooms in support of teachers and students.

ACEP is excited to handle all of the Learn United volunteers with Jennifer McArdle and Lana Hill joining Craig Nix as the coordinators of this project. To learn more about Learn United or become a volunteer, please visit www.learnunited.org.
Fall Parent Literacy Enrichment (PLE) workshops gave parents grade-level-appropriate, state-standards-based tools and techniques for working at home with their K-2 child reading below grade level. Rev Up to Read!, our spring 2009 pilot program for families of Pre-K students entering kindergarten in the fall, was a resounding success attracting the parents of 182 students. In all, families of 579 students completed a two-session PLE workshop series and took home approximately $100 in books, games and materials.

100% of parents completing the fall workshops are more confident in their ability to help their child read and write, and 100% do more to help their child read and write at home. 92% of teachers have seen this confidence reflected in their students’ reading, while 91% of teachers have seen this same result in writing.

**Second-Grade Parent:** “My child usually hates reading, but after the first week and trying what I learned, he showed improvement.”

**First-Grade Parent:** “It is truly a blessing to be involved with this program. The materials in this class are very helpful in understanding the child’s point of view.”

*Wilma Coleman teaches a PLE Class for Pre-K parents at CANI (Community Action of Northeast Indiana)*
The Project READS program matched volunteer tutors with K-3 students reading below grade-level for one hour each week at 17 sites throughout Allen County for 2008-2009. Volunteers ranged in age from fifth grade to eight decades. Progress was measured not only in impressive numbers—including a record number of graduates—but also in the impact it has on program participants:

- **96%** of students who completed two assessments showed improvement, with
- **71%** improving by four or more reading or skill levels.
- **99** students graduated from the program by scoring at the top level for their grade.
- **92%** of teachers have seen this confidence reflected in their students’ reading, while
- **84%** of teachers have seen this same result in writing.

**Independent Site Coordinator, Euell Wilson Community Center:** “I see the students in our academic programs before and after they participate in Project READS. Project READS really works! I can think of two students in particular for whom the program made a profound difference.”
Through the continued financial support of ITT Communications Systems, the ITT Excellence in Education awards were awarded for the 2008-2009 school year. A record number of 18 teachers received funding to pursue innovative projects in the areas of math, science, and technology. Winners from each district appear below:

**East Allen County Schools**
Leo Elementary School: Danielle Newman & Eric Reynolds

**Fort Wayne Community Schools**
Blackhawk Middle School: Ryan Hubley, Rolunda Suttle, & Wendy Wichern
Elmhurst High School: Dennis Fisher
South Side High School: William Decker

**Northwest Allen County Schools**
Hickory Center Elementary School: Karin Huttsell

**Southwest Allen County Schools**
Deer Ridge Elementary School: Kathy Fluharty, Carol Nine, Kay Phelps, & Margaret Williams
Haverhill Elementary School: Rise Vandenburg
Homestead High School: Emily Palmer
Summit Middle School: Tia Tackett
Whispering Meadows Elementary School: Jean Russell, Suzanne Wadkins, & Deanna Wyrick

Nintendo DS Systems improved learning of math facts

Understanding how design and load of vehicles affects speed
Our Vision: “All Allen County students will read at grade level by the completion of third grade.”

In an effort to promote the study of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, ACEP continues to be part of a growing number of agencies, businesses, and school districts in the Northeast Indiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education Resource Center (NISTEM). The NISTEM website, www.NISTEM.org, provides a calendar of events hosted by NISTEM members along with a rewards program. Students and teachers can earn redeemable points for actively engaging in specified NISTEM events. Sign up to become a NISTEM member today!

The fourth annual Rally to Read event was held in September 2008. This fun filled occasion has become quite popular at the Hanna–Creighton campus drawing close to 600 children and adults. ACEP was once again proud to partner with other non-profit agencies who desire to promote literacy in the lives of young people. Children played educational games and earned stamps in their passports for the chance to win a take home library set. Overall, everyone who attended had a wonderful time and planned to return next year!

Community Literacy Partnership
This past spring, ACEP supplied over 13,000 books and classroom materials to 22 different elementary schools. In addition, United Way gave out 75 bookbags that were stuffed with school supplies. Furthermore, many of the art teachers from these schools selected craft items worth hundreds of dollars to be used in their classrooms.

Our Vision: “All Allen County students will read at grade level by the completion of third grade.”
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: FUNDERS (July 2008-June 2009)

Businesses, Clubs, & Others:
A.E.A. Inc.
Grabill Bank
Indiana Institute of Technology
ITT Communications Systems, Inc.
NIPSCO
PSI IOTA XI, Inc.
Purdue University
Target Corporation

Foundations:
Charles Kuhne Charitable Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
Edward M. & Mary McCrea Wilson Foundation
English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation
Foellinger Foundation
Howard P. Arnold Foundation
Johnson & Johnson/DePuy
Lincoln Financial Group Foundation, Inc.
Mattel Children's Foundation
M.E. Raker Foundation, Inc.
Old National Bank Foundation
PeyBack Foundation
Prophet Sisters Foundation
St. Joseph Community Health Foundation
United Way of Allen County Wells Fargo Bank Foundation

Individuals:
Andress, Teresa
Block, Richard
Chadd, Dianna
Diaz, Norma
Eckart, Frederick
Flores, Louisa
Hartman, Robert
Hoffman, John
Holcomb, Maragret
Iovino, Diane
Johnson, Steven & Judy
Kamler, Kimberly
Lowery, Debbie
MacLean, Janet
Malaise, Vicki
McMahon, Chad & Shannon
Meese, Shawn & Diana
Mertami, Mozen

Musson, Michael & Mary
Philpot, Curtis
Rupp, Mark & Christine
Ruppert, Chris & Michelle
Sarazaine, Jared
Scherman, Dale & Marlene
Shamanoff, Gloria
Szymanski, Dolores
Tovar, Nancy
Vandermotten, Amanda
White, Brian & Debra
White, Jeffrey & Carolyn

We regret any errors or omissions on this list. Please call us at 260.423.6447 to report them. Thank you.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: FUNDERS (cont.)

In-Kind Donors:
Allen County Public Library
Cinema Center
Cinema Grill
Crazy Pinz Entertainment Center
Dollar Tree
Dutton, Deborah
Fabian, Lisa
Family Video
Firefly Coffee House
Hill, Lana
IHOP
Kirkland’s
Kohl’s
McArdle, Jennifer
McDonald’s
Pier 1
Putt-Putt Golf-n-Games
Rave Motion Pictures
Sperry Van Ness Parke Group
Starbucks
Tuttle, Catherine
UltraZone
Village Bowl
Lindley Elementary
New Haven Elementary
Price Elementary
South Wayne Elementary
Study Elementary
Tolbert, Juanita
Timothy L. Johnson Academy
Washington Center Elementary
Washington Elementary
Waynedale Elementary
Weisser Park Elementary
Woodburn Elementary
We regret any errors or omissions on this list. Please call us at 260.423.6447 to report them. Thank you.

Keli Richmond works with students on letter sounds during Project READS at Brentwood Elementary School
Expenses

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Programs</td>
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Revenue

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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Gain on Disposal of Assets</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Ending Net Assets $362,994
2008-2009 Board of Directors
Juanita Mejia-Goodwell, President
Indiana Youth Institute
Debbie Branfield
Crossroad-FW Children’s Home
Fred Eckart
Cavanaugh Consulting
Lisa Goodman
Fort Wayne Newspapers
David Hanley
Lori Harvey
Building Contractors Association
Steven Johnson
Lincoln Financial Group
Michael Landram
FW Chamber of Commerce

Emeritus Board
Tom Callison
Wayne Hall
Deborah Hoft
Jack Lehman
Ian Rolland

Executive Committee
Fred Eckart
Juanita Mejia-Goodwell
Mike Landram
Kelly Pautler
Chris Rupp
Shawn Sollenberger

Finance Committee
Dr. Carol Lindquist
Fort Wayne Community Schools
Janet MacLean
East Allen County Schools
Kelly Pautler
Carson Boxberger LLC
Chris Rupp
The Bair CPA Group
Dr. Brian Smith
Southwest Allen County Schools
Shawn Sollenberger
Baden, Gage, & Schroeder
Dr. Steve Yager
Northwest Allen County Schools

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Tracy Bunting
Pat Byall
Arlene Casiano
Wilma Coleman
Toma Davis
Deborah Dutton
Lisa Fabian
Brian White
Executive Director

Carole Fisher
Lana Hill
Maxine Huffman
Jennifer McArdle
Craig Nix
Susie Peirce
J C York
Patrice Ocken
Grant Writer

Human Resource Committee
Dawn BonAmi
IVY Tech Community College
Kathy Carr
Fort Wayne Community Schools
Phil Ginder
Challenge Tool & Manufacturing
Peggy Rohrbacher
East Allen County Schools
Brenda Singleton
Fort Wayne Community Schools
Dr. Steve Yager
Northwest Allen County Schools