



East Side Learning Center

"Unlocking each child's potential through the foundation of reading" since 2001

The Bookmark

A Message from Sister Audrey -

CELEBRATE WITH US!



Kindergartner Sincere and Mom with tutor, Miss Lizz



This year marks the 15th year the East Side Learning Center has been a major force in **unlocking each child's** potential through the foundation of reading. We celebrate tutoring more than 2,100 children, but more importantly, we celebrate their reading success and the impact that reading has made on their lives. Our initial students are now young adults making **their way in today's** workforce and beginning families of their own.

One such person is Danzel. Recently, at Aldi, a handsome young man approached me asking if I remembered him. When he told me his name, I could see in his caring eyes that,

indeed, I did! He benefited from our tutoring in the third and fourth grades. Danzel eagerly told me he was recently married and, as a proud father, he introduced me to his darling baby girl. He also proudly shared that he is working at Wells Fargo while pursuing a post-secondary degree!

The seeds of a program to help students like Denzel were sown in 1998. The East Side Neighborhood Development Company was working on a long-range effort to revitalize the East Side of St. Paul. They saw education as a key ingredient for success and approached the School Sisters of Notre Dame about helping to address unmet educational needs in the area.

The Sisters responded and in 2001 the East Side Learning Center began to provide one-on-one tutoring in reading for struggling readers (K-3). Our pi-

lot program at John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary began with 25 volunteers, School Sisters of Notre Dame, and 19 children. Since then, we have expanded to multiple sites and added a Summer Literacy Camp. The demand for tutoring continues to grow. This school year we are tutoring 300 children daily and we have a new pilot site of 20 kindergartners at Bruce Vento Elementary.

The East Side Learning Center is able to celebrate this major milestone thanks to YOUR generous donations of time, talents and monies over the past fifteen years. A big THANK YOU for your support! Look for ideas and tips throughout the year on how to connect with us and help us make our 15th year special.

Celebrate with us!



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DEAR EAST SIDE LEARNING CENTER...

Dear East Side Learning Center,

I have three children that the East Side Learning Center has tutored and they have been very successful.

At the time I discovered the East Side Learning Center, one of my sons, who is now 15 years old, was in special education classes, but he still couldn't read. My second son, who is now 11 years old, couldn't read in kindergarten or 1st grade.

When I went to my 11 year old son's school to ask for more help, their answer made me very unhappy. His teacher told me I should consider getting him enrolled in special education classes, like his older brother. Instead, I decided to do my own research and found the East Side Learning Center.

I got my two sons into tutoring with the East Side Learning Center and the result turned out to be unbelievable. Today both of my sons are doing so well. My oldest son is in high school special education classes, but he is also a B honor roll student. My 11 year old son is the top student in his class.

Now they're tutoring my daughter who is 8 years old. She is able to read and spell. She is now confident enough to pick a book out

and read it on her own. All thanks to **the East Side Learning Center's hard** work.

Sincerely,

Ka Davenport

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Ka,

Thank you for your kind words and for **sharing the story of your children's** success!

Dedicated parents, like you, are so vital to our success and the success of our students. We remember your children very well, but we also remember you! You made an unwavering effort to ensure your children participated in after school tutoring. On top of that, you fostered the importance of learning at home by reading with your children and encouraging them. Inspiring children to read and learn, after the school day is done, makes a huge impact on their success.

Now it's our turn to be grateful!

Thank you for your dedication to your **children's success and for your support** of the East Side Learning Center!

Sincerely,

A Grateful East Side Learning Center



MAKE A DIFFERENCE. TUTOR.



For as little as one hour per week, **you can change a child's life forever.** No experience is necessary, as we provide tutor training and personalized lessons for each student.

If you enjoy working with young children, are reliable, and want to make a real difference, please consider volunteering. We look to serve 400 students this year, if we can find enough tutors.

Contact Trisha Clinesmith at 651-793-7364 or trisha.clinesmith@spps.org to find out how you can help.

CAMPING WITHOUT MOSQUITOES

This summer 103 children (87 K and 16 Pre-k) benefitted from two Summer Literacy Camps sponsored by the East Side Learning Center. The camps were held at John A. Johnson Achievement Plus and **Community of Peace Academy**. Each “camper” received **50 minutes of one-on-one** reading instruction, 5 days a week. Plus, with the themes of Farmers Feed the World or Bugs, Books, and Butterflies they rotated to other literacy enrichment activities using poetry, music, art, and math—all requiring no insect repellent!

Forty-three community volunteer tutors generously invested more than 900 hours empowering our children to become successful readers. In-kind services provided by our summer volunteers equaled \$24, 578! The camp received support from the St. Paul Public School District and a grant from Cities 97 helped fund personnel costs associated with the literacy camps. A grant from Dollar General provided **instructional materials and books which enabled each “camper” to receive five free books for their home** libraries. Joining together, these community volunteers and funders expanded their reach. They made it possible for 94% (82 of 87) kindergartners to not only retain their reading skills, but to improve them for greater reading success in fall. In addition, 16 Pre-K children increased their knowledge of letter names and sounds.

Thank you to our volunteers, donors, and our host schools for making our 2015 Summer Literacy Camps a success!



Building up my ABCs!

Bugs in 3D!

Making Butterflies!



*Community of Peace Academy:
“Bugs, Books, and Butterflies”*

*John A. Johnson Elementary:
“Farmers Feed the World”*

MAKING CONNECTIONS – HOPE ACADEMY

Hmong Open Partnerships in Education (HOPE) Community Academy serves urban students in grades K-8. Located in the former **Hamm's Brewery office building**, this charter school seeks to educate all students to the highest levels of academic and social standards with a focus on Hmong language and culture. **Approximately 88% of HOPE's 450 students are English Language Learners (ELL).**

HOPE Director, Maychy Vu, knows that mastering reading fundamentals is essential in preparing students to become life-long learners. **With the majority of HOPE's students reading below their grade level**, she saw a partnership with ESLC as a way to provide much needed individualized support for struggling students. Vu provided dedicated tutoring space and worked with ESLC to develop a school day tutoring schedule that avoided after-school transportation conflicts.

With ESLC tutoring at HOPE beginning its 5th year, Vu says she was always confident that students would benefit from the program. She has come to deeply appreciate ESLC staff and tutors and was surprised by **ESLC's flexibility**. "ESLC has gone out of its way to make modifications to its program to better meet the needs of the ELL student who has a different

life experience, culture base and numerous language challenges. From lesson plans to tutor guides, ESLC does everything it can to make tutoring relevant to each **individual student.**"

ESLC Site Coordinator Rebecca Nordstrom says that this relevancy Vu **refers to is really about "making connections."** She tells of a boy who **struggled with reading**. "He was frustrated and not cooperative. In getting to know him, we found out he liked Pokemon. I found a Pokemon book to use at his next tutoring session. All of a sudden he took off. He was able to relate what he was reading to his trading cards. Not only was he reading but his attitude changed **overnight.**"

In addition to making connections with students, both Nordstrom and Vu emphasize the value of connecting ESLC and HOPE resources to provide a team approach to reading. HOPE administration, teachers, reading specialists and ESLC are located in close proximity to one another. Nordstrom says, **"We are able to connect on a daily basis, form relationships and reinforce each other's efforts. We are all in it together and focused on what is best for the children."**

(Continued on page 5)



You did it!

Thanks for meeting the \$20,000 challenge match from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation.

Your generosity during the 2014 calendar year went twice as far, providing one-on-one tutoring in reading, four days a week, for twice as many children.

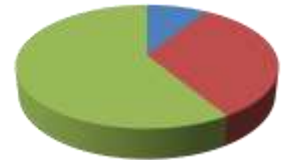
Thank you!

Let's do it again!

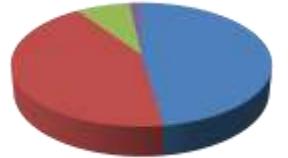
FINANCIAL REPORT

ASSETS	6/30/2015
Current Assets	
Cash or Equivalents	\$ 379,021
Pledges Receivable	\$ 315,000
Other Current Assets	\$ 526
Total Current Assets	\$ 694,547
Total Property and Equipment	\$ 1,320
Total Other Assets	\$ 0
Total Assets	\$ 695,867
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 3,676
Capital	\$ 692,191
Total Liabilities and Capital	\$ 695,867

FY 2014-15 One-On-One Tutoring Costs		
Staff:	\$ 31,994	(9%)
Part-Time Professionals:	\$116,069	(32%)
Volunteers – In-Kind:	\$210,509	(59%)



FY 2014-15 ESLC Revenue		
Grants Unrestricted:	\$425,070	(48%)
In-Kind Contributions:	\$381,184	(43%)
Individual Donations:	\$ 69,385	(8%)
Contracted Services & Other Income:	\$ 15,339	(1%)



FY 2014-15 ESLC Expenses		
Cash Program Expenses:	\$426,095	(47%)
In-Kind Expenses:	\$381,184	(42%)
Cash Admin Expenses:	\$ 78,756	(9%)
Cash Fundraising Exp.:	\$ 19,305	(2%)



Making Connections... (continued from page 4)

During the 2013-14 school year, ESLC tutored 22 kindergartners identified by HOPE staff as needing additional reading assistance. Only one child returned to ESLC tutoring the following school year as a first grader. **HOPE's** commitment to reading fundamentals, summer school and **ESLC's tutoring program** all contributed to this success story.

ESLC's success at HOPE goes beyond the achievements described above. It can be measured in the number of hugs given to ESLC staff and tutors when they walk through the lunchroom. It can be heard in

the voices of children who want to be in ESLC tutoring because their **friends say it is "cool."** It can be seen in the America Reads Award to ESLC at HOPE Academy which hangs on the wall. ESLC is successfully connecting to the culture and value system created at HOPE.

Asked about the future, Nordstrom and Vu both agree that being able to shift reading resources from intervention to prevention is their goal. Achieving reading competency at an early age minimizes the need to intervene later. Getting to the point where reading support resources are focused on kindergartners rather than older

students will be a true measure of a successful connection for everyone.



For a brief summary of the reading challenges an ELL face, check out:

http://www.everythingsl.net/in-services/challenges_ells_content_area_I_65322.php

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(Continued on page 7)

Our Partners

Funders

3M (Volunteer Match)	Hardenbergh Foundation
Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (Employee Match)	HOPE Community Academy
Otto Bremer Foundation	Kinney Family Foundation
Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation (Matching)	Richard A. Newman Foundation
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Community of Peace Academy	School Sisters of Notre Dame
Council of Catholic Women - Albertville, MN	Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
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Deluxe Corporation Foundation	June Stern Family Foundation
Dollar General Literacy Foundation	StuartCo (Matching)
Ecolab Foundation	Travelers Foundation (Volunteer Match)
Asian Community of Ecolab (Ecolab Community Giving Campaign)	UBS (Employee Match)
Greater Twin Cities United Way	United Health Group (Employee Match)
	Wells Fargo Foundation
	Will of Women (WOW)



(Continued from page 6)

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Joan Smith		
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Deluxe Corporation Foundation
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HOPE Community Academy
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Mary Fritz
Guthrie Theater
Izzy's Ice Cream
Sister Audrey Lindenfelser
Little Oven
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Minnesota Twins
Magnolia's Restaurant
Red Balloon
Lynette Scherber
Tucci Bennuch Italian
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Wildfire
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TO THE MAX
give DAY
NOV 12, 2015

Mark your calendars!
GiveMN Give to the Max Day will be Thursday, November 12, 2015

Thank you for your support!

EAST SIDE LEARNING CENTER

ESLC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that relies on the generous donations of individuals and foundations dedicated to “unlocking each child’s potential through the foundation of reading.”

For the sake of children who could benefit from one-on-one tutoring with a caring adult or teen, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution.



HELP US MAKE ESLC’S 15TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL!

Here are some ideas on how YOU can help us reach more children this year...

- ✓ Increase your donation by \$15
- ✓ Give \$15/month
- ✓ Become a new donor with a gift of \$15 or \$150

New donations or donation increases over 2014 that are received by December 31, 2015, as well as contributions from lapsed donors who have not given in a year or more will be DOUBLED thanks to the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation. This means a new gift of \$150 grows from two and a half weeks of tutoring for a child to five weeks!

It is easy with the enclosed envelope, or if you prefer to donate online, visit our website: www.eastsidelearningcenter.org and click on “DONATE”

Thank you for your support!



- ✓ \$15 sponsors one hour of one-on-one tutoring
- ✓ \$150 sponsors 2 1/2 weeks of one-on-one tutoring
- ✓ \$1,500 sponsors one-on-one tutoring for a child for an entire school year