FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTNERS 2010

WHAT WE DO
The goal of Freedom School Partners is to lessen the achievement gap between higher and lower income K-8 students by providing the Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools® program. Programs are free, but parents “pay tuition” in the form of volunteering in their children’s schools and attending monthly parent meetings.

Summer Freedom Schools:
*Engage scholars for 6 to 8 weeks, Monday - Friday, 8am - 3pm.
*Employ college-student interns who become role models for scholars.
*Offer an Integrated Reading Curriculum that includes conflict resolution, problem solving and social action.
*Include enrichment activities to expand children’s experiences.

Freedom School Afterschools:
*Provide safe and nurturing places for children afterschool.
*Support working families and help connect parents to schools.
*Complement and supplement school-day learning for children who need additional academic and enrichment support.

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*plus over 60 Freedom School Servant Leader Interns, bus drivers and many community volunteers
What a year it’s been since we officially became Freedom School Partners! We are so grateful for the support and encouragement of individuals, the faith community, local colleges and universities, corporations, and foundations which allowed us to have an impact on more than 600 children in Charlotte this year alone.

In the pages of this report, you will find compelling statistics and stories about our efforts to reduce the achievement gap among Charlotte-Mecklenburg at-risk students. You will learn about our scholars’ success in school and significant improvement in test scores, reading ability and attitudes toward learning. You will see our plans for growth in the next few years, including new sites, as well as the larger number of children we hope to serve.

Most of all, I am thrilled to announce that Freedom School Partners has been awarded a very prestigious grant from the Bank of America Foundation. You can read about this grant on page 6 of this report. The $200,000 grant will be awarded over the next two years, and Freedom School Partners is one of only two nonprofits in Charlotte to receive this honor. What an incredible way to celebrate our ten-year anniversary!

Great things are happening for Freedom School Partners, but we know there is still much work to do. Thousands more children in this area need our help. To continue our program for another ten years and to reach new parts of the city, we’re going to need your help – not only your continued generous financial support but also any additional free time, specific talents or other gifts you’d be willing to share. You might want to read to our children once a week, help us collect program supplies, or volunteer as a tutor. There are so many ways that you can get involved, and I encourage you to contact us for more information.

I want to personally thank you for your support as we celebrate the impact of our first ten years and transition into the next decade of enriching the lives of Charlotte’s children.

In Partnership,

Karen S. Williams
Chair, Board of Directors
The Magic of Freedom Schools

Servant Leader Interns Make a Tremendous Impact on Scholars

Junotia Gage, a UNCC student and first year intern, heard from a parent that in the first four weeks of Freedom School she noticed changes in her son, Zac, that had never occurred in the history of his schooling. The parent said Zac surprised her when he pulled their pastor aside and started talking to him about Bang, a Freedom School book by Sharon G. Flake. She was amazed he could get excited about any type of book! The mother and pastor were both astounded at how detailed and knowledgeable he was about the moral of the story. When the mother told Junotia all of this she was unaware of making a difference to Zac, but oh, the magical power of Freedom School and the Servant Leader Intern!

During “Celebrity Day” at the Billingsville Freedom School site, Mr. Terryon and Mr. Tremayne, both first year interns from JCSU, were surprised to find that several scholars had dressed up like them! Instead of being rappers or basketball stars, they were the interns themselves. With STAFF written on the back of their t-shirts and pants pulled up, the scholars even proclaimed they had tried to find tennis shoes just like the interns. Realizing they had indeed made a difference, Mr. Terryon said “I never thought I would have this kind of impact on kids! I wish I could go back two years and change my major to education”. Freedom School matters to our scholars.

Freedom School Changes Lives

When asked what Freedom School meant to her, 5th grade Jessica responded, “Freedom School made my life stand out and I just want to thank Freedom School for that because it’s amazing how and what I am today. Freedom School is the best thing that ever happened to me and I just want to say thank you!” Every day begins with the motivational song Something Inside So Strong. Jessica says, “It is a powerful and thoughtful song. It makes me feel that I can do whatever I can do, it makes me feel that I can be anything that I want to be. Freedom School makes me feel free.” Another example of Freedom School magic.

“I like Freedom School because it gives me lots of things to do, because there is nothing to do at home alone except play video games and that’s not helping me learn.”

~Reco
Enriching the Lives of our Scholars

We take pride in exposing our scholars to new environments and experiences. With help from our community partners, we were able to provide a wide variety of meaningful activities.

Yoga with Ms. Tonya – six of our ten sites participated in yoga classes. Ms Tonya talked to our scholars about the importance of healthy bodies and healthy minds while teaching stress relieving techniques. We hope to expand this experience in the summer of 2011.

Gleaning with the Society of St. Andrews – scholars went to the fields and picked remaining fruits and vegetables from this year’s harvest and distributed them to the local Food Bank. Many scholars didn’t know where vegetables came from and were excited to be a part of something so new to them!

Northcreek Horse Farm – this was a new experience for most scholars, and many had reservations about the large animals. Amazingly, the scholars became very calm watching and learning about the horses. Even the scholars who were afraid, ended up loving the animals and riding them – not wanting to leave.

Panther’s Day sponsored by Bank of America – Three sites this summer were lucky enough to participate in Panther’s Day. Former player Mike Minter, Sir Purr and the Top Cats cheered on our scholars as they ran through football drills and plays at the Panthers’ practice field.

Freedom School Olympics hosted at Johnson C. Smith University – all scholars enjoyed this day-long festival that involved games like Toss-The-Sponge, sack races, jumping competitions and group races.

We rely on community partners to provide these experiences for scholars. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping expand our enrichment activities, please contact Tammy Sanders at 704-371-4922 or tsanders@freedomschoolpartners.org
FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTNERS WINS BANK OF AMERICA NEIGHBORHOOD EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE AWARD!

Freedom School Partners is proud to announce that Bank of America named FSP as one of the recipients to its 2010 NEI award. This is the first time in the bank’s philanthropic history that the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative award focused all of its support on one community issue: EDUCATION. “We’re going to bring a focus on education, and we’re going to make it clear that Teach for America and Freedom School Partners are two organizations that are showing success,” said Charles Bowman, North Carolina and Charlotte Market President for Bank of America.

Freedom School Partners’ Executive Director, Mary Nell McPherson says the organization plans to serve 1,000 children next summer at up to 16 sites, and the bank donation will ensure the organization’s ability to grow in this uncertain season. The decision to focus Neighborhood Excellence Initiative funding on a singular cause was made by a board of community leaders and bank staff, Bowman said. “We heard loud and clear that the top concern was on closing the achievement gap and lowering the dropout rate,” he said.

“I love Freedom School because it is a safe place for me to be me.” ~ShiReka
Freedom School Partners has also expanded our year-round programs through additional Freedom School Afterschool programs in two new locations. In partnership with Myers Park United Methodist and Myers Park Presbyterian Churches, we are able to offer programs serving Billingsville Elementary and Sedgefield Elementary Schools, providing year-round support for children.

Pending successful rezoning, Freedom School Partners administrative offices will move to the Arosa House, on Covenant Presbyterian Church’s campus. We are so grateful to our partners at Covenant for their support through access to this beautiful space. Also, this move will allow us to serve additional children at the Seigle Point Freedom School and Afterschool site. Look for us in our new space in February 2011!
### Thanks to our Partners!
**10/01/2009 – 09/30/2010**

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<td>$250 to $499</td>
<td>Carolyn and Stephen Allred, Jon and Suzette Buchan, A. Preston Cavenaugh, III, Liz and Fred Ciasen-Kelly, Charlotte Church of Religious Science, Barbara and Robert Colwell, Andrew and Nicole DeVillers, Shannon and Norvin Dickerson, Hunter and Tricia Dyer, Debbie and Dave Enna, Claudia and Lee Fanning, Maria and Timothy Hanlin, Hooper and Ann Hardison, Ned and Ellen Hardison, Susie and Jerry Jernigan, Anne Essaye and Scott Lurie, Susan McConnell, Jim and Marcia Morton, Mal and Lynn Murray, Raday, Layton &amp; Doyle, PLLC, Sally and Russell Robinson, John and Anne Rogers, Blaine and Ann Sanders</td>
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<td>Henry Trexler, Katherine Sparrow and Don Tyson, Tom and Velva Woollen, Mike and Jackie Wells, Hugh and Caroline Wright</td>
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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. If you feel your listing is incorrect, please call Hillary Dye, 704-371-4922.
FREEDOM SCHOOL WORKS

Freedom School Partners hired the Center for Adolescent Literacies at UNC Charlotte to conduct an outcome evaluation on our Freedom School’s literacy-based curriculum.

Findings show that:

* 90% of scholars gained or maintained in their reading levels during the summer, compared to the national statistic that low-income students typically experience significant “summer learning loss.”

* Gains in reading comprehension were made by all age groups, especially 3rd – 5th graders and 6th – 8th graders, who showed over an entire grade level increase during the Freedom Schools program.

Scholars placed value on the kinds of books they read, the reading activities with their interns, and the sense of community fostered by the curriculum:

“We read stories that a lot of us can relate to.”

“I like when they talked about Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.”

“When we read, we explain. The teacher asks if we know what the words mean. We ask questions.”

“You get to take books home, read in a circle, AND we get to play games.”

These results prove that Freedom Schools is truly making a difference for participants. But, FSP estimates the local need at over 50,000 youth. We rely on our supporters to continue to meet this growing need in Charlotte Mecklenburg.

“I love Freedom school because different people from the community come and read to us and I love Harambee time.” ~Asha
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010

CONTRIBUTIONS

Foundations & Corporations.................. $596,240
Faith Communities............................. $291,278
Individuals..................................... $136,527
Partner Nonprofits............................ $78,260
TOTAL.......................................... $1,103,305

OPERATING EXPENSES

Administration.................................. $93,085........ 9%
Fundraising...................................... $89,192........ 8%
Afterschool & Freedom School Programs...... $899,578........ 83%
TOTAL........................................... $1,081,855

Financial information about the organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-807-2214. The license number is SL002429. The license is not an endorsement by the State. A copy of the complete audited financial statement is available upon request.
Working to engage, educate and empower children to succeed in school and in life through quality, year-round educational enrichment programs.