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How You Can Help

Health, Education & Relief (HEAR) Foundation invests in small, well-designed projects and programs that bring about permanent change in individual's lives, in communities and in environments. HEAR awards grants and provides direct services in the areas of health, education and relief.

Please consider donating to the HEAR Foundation, either through our website or by mail.



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The Progress Made in 2009 Issue A Look at the Successes of Last Year's Projects and Programs

HEAR Feeds Chicago & Detroit

HEAR purchased nearly 80,000 pounds of frozen chicken thighs and wings which were distributed to families in need in Chicago and Detroit the week before Thanksgiving. In Chicago, HEAR worked with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, the Chicago Christian Industrial League, and Alderwoman JoAnn Thompson of the 16th ward in West Englewood to identify families in need and to distribute the food. There were approximately 40 volunteers (HEAR and community volunteers) that contributed to this effort. In Metro Detroit, HEAR collaborated with Northville Civic Concern to identify 21 recipient organizations (all of which are food pantries, soup kitchens, or organizations that support families that are homeless) which gifted the chicken to families. An estimated 7,680 families were reached. Due to the positive response to this project HEAR has adopted it as a program and will increase its frequency to twice this year.

HEAR Foundation Scholarship Program

In 2009, HEAR raised nearly \$200,000 for the HEAR Scholarship endowment fund. The program



Families collect chicken in the Englewood neighborhood in Chicago.

targets hardworking and determined students in need in the Chicago area who want to pursue a college education. Applications of many promising and impressive candidates are currently under review by the selection committee. In April 2010 HEAR will award one \$30,000 scholarship distributed over four years, and four one-time awards of \$2,500. Many thanks to all who contributed to this program at the annual HEAR holiday fundraiser or throughout the year. 2010 is our first year launching this program and we are excited and encouraged by all of your support.

Leap Learning Systems

Leap delivered an intensive Language for Scholars (LFS) program, funded in-part by HEAR, for the 63 high school freshman participants of the Link Unlimited Program. "Language for Scholars is a skills building program that improves the communication and presentation skills of students so that they are prepared for college and entry into the workplace. In addition to oral language skills, participants also learn business etiquette and non-verbal communication. Assessments on the last day of the program determined that 79% of the speech goals assigned to students were mastered successfully, and students' knowledge about how and when to use Academic English increased by 61%. During follow-up interviews that were conducted with the participants later in the year, the vast majority of the students proved that they retained the skills learned and said they continue to use them often.

The Barnabas Project

HEAR's grant allowed 34 youth from Chicago's inner-city to attend a summer camp in Wisconsin. The kids were very grateful and excited about the new experiences and environments they encountered. HEAR fully funded this program.



A resident of Casa Hogar who is a participant in the Hijas program inspects a necklace.

North Side Housing and Supportive Services

HEAR extended a program support grant to North Side's Permanent Supportive Housing Program which allows formerly homeless men to live full, quality lives. In FY09 North Side served 44 unduplicated

clients through this program, 32 of whom have been chronically homeless. 82% of these clients demonstrated residential stability by living in their homes for at least 13 months. Through the help of North Side, 82% of the supportive housing clients saw increased income due to employment or entitlement benefits. These individuals also utilize North Side's other services including the Health Care Case Management Program, the Intensive Case Management Program, the Pathways Employment Program, and mental health care services. In all, North Side provided 15,688 permanent housing nights in FY09.



A North Side client talks with his case manager.

Hijas

Hijas' program continues to be producing great results at Casa Hogar Marta & Maria in Jalapa, Guatemala. Because of the three trips to the Home in 2009 the girls have shown significant improvement in jewelry-making and sewing skills, as well as in the quality of product they create. Profits from sales of the jewelry have gone towards, among other things, paying the electric bill at the Home and feeding the girls. Hijas is in the process of developing a business plan for the program which they intend to implement soon. Also in 2009, Hijas was selected to design and produce the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance survivor and remembrance bracelets, which the girls made last February. The bracelets were sold at the 12th Annual Ovarian Cancer National Alliance Conference in Washington D.C.

Casa Hogar Marta & Maria

HEAR and the Casa Hogar (Jalapa, Guatemala) made great strides together in 2009. In November, HEAR collaborated with Hijas to build a safe new **playground** at the Casa Hogar. A company in Guatemala supplied the materials and a group of HEAR volunteers traveled to Guatemala to construct the playground with supervision from employees of the company. Hijas raised over half the funds for this project and HEAR extended a matching funds grant to make the project possible.

The Casa Hogar and HEAR have decided to take additional steps to create a healthier and cleaner environment for the residents of the Home. HEAR purchased and installed **new septic tanks** for the Home, and we have contracted local workers and other organizations working in the area to **install a more**

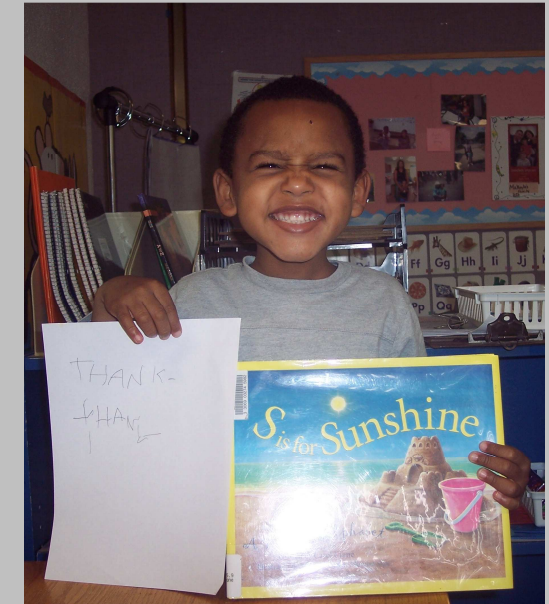
effective plumbing and septic system. HEAR has helped the Home arrange **trash pick-up** so that the home has a safer method for disposing of trash. They are also beginning to **compost.** Due to the amazing generosity of donors we have funds secured to proceed with planning and implementing a comprehensive **nutrition program** for the girls which includes: supplying meat as a protein source, providing education on how to prepare food (particularly meals with meat, which they rarely have an opportunity to use currently), providing pots, pans and other cooking materials, and installing an irrigation system for their crops so they may consume and sell them. HEAR is partnering with the Home and the community in order to ensure success of this program.



Residents of the Casa Hogar enjoy their brand new playground.

The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida

With support from HEAR, 1,126 children in need in Southwest Florida participated in the Literacy Buddies program. The children had adult pen pal buddies who wrote to them and sent them brand new books. Most of these children had never owned their own book before.



A child in the Literacy Buddies Program proudly displays his new book and a thank you letter to his adult pen pal.

Enhance Educational Foundation

The first place winner of Enhance's \$25,000 college scholarship was Brandon Ng (Whitney Young Magnet High School). Ng currently attends Butler University in Indianapolis, IN where he studies pharmacy. Finalists each receiving a \$3,000 award were: Tania McCallum from John Marshall High School, Maria Strus from Whitney Young Magnet High School, RaShiya Spann from Percy L. Julian High School, and Jun Liang Tan from Sullivan High School. HEAR's grant provided the awards for the finalists.