

BRIDGE-BUILDING INVESTING INNOVATING

2011 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





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A LETTER FROM THE executive director & chairman

Bridge-Building. Investing. Innovating. These words are not just the frame for our Annual Report; they describe the way that we at D.C. Public Education Fund work to support the transformation of D.C. Public Schools (DCPS). We are the primary not-for-profit in Washington, D.C., focused on catalyzing philanthropy for education reform in DCPS.



From our inception in 2007, we have remained steadfast in our belief that DCPS can be the best urban school district in the nation. Working alongside DCPS leadership, we have invested aggressively in innovative new programs designed to accelerate reform and drive high achievement. In four years, we secured more than \$80 million in philanthropic commitments, and helped the city secure \$75 million in the federal Race to the Top grant competition.

Our dynamic partnerships with the public, private, and non-profit sectors have laid a strong foundation for transforming DCPS, and we are off to a solid start. Through our work on DCPS' IMPACT evaluation system, we helped provide educators with a blueprint for effective teaching and objective feedback. Through our work in support of the revolutionary contract with the Washington Teachers' Union and IMPACT*plus*, we are helping DCPS differentiate compensation based on performance. And, through our annual Standing Ovation for D.C. Teachers, an inspiring celebration at the Kennedy Center featuring local and national celebrities, we are recognizing and rewarding DCPS' best and brightest educators.

The result: DCPS has shown solid growth in student achievement, outpacing many urban peers. While the growth is to be commended, less than half of DCPS' students are proficient in reading and math – we still have a long way to go.

In the following pages, we share highlights and accomplishments from 2010-2011 and preview where we are headed. From a continued focus on human capital, to turning around low-performing schools and leveraging technology to accelerate student learning, we are building bridges, investing, and innovating to ensure continued improvements in our city's schools.

DCPS needs the full support of the entire community in order to achieve true transformation. We are proud to be working with such a strong, committed network of supporters. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Warm regards,

Cate Swinburn Executive Director

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Mark D. Ein Chairman of the Board





OUR MISSION

Advancing excellence in D.C. schools through private philanthropy

SECTION ONE

BRIDGE-BUILDING

Connecting the community with the priorities set by D.C. Public Schools

Since 2007, D.C. Public Education Fund has pursued our mission by building bridges that connect investors, business leaders, and the community with the vision of transforming our city's schools.

THREE SIGNATURE INITIATIVES DEMONSTRATE OUR APPROACH >

A Standing Ovation For D.C. Teachers

The second annual Standing Ovation took place on September 19, 2011, in the iconic Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The event brought nearly 2,000 people, including community members, business leaders, and civic leaders, together to applaud our guests of honor - DCPS' best and brightest educators. Seven Excellence in Teaching awards and one Excellence in Leadership award were presented to a group of exemplary educators, who also received \$10,000 awards. Produced by famed director George Stevens, Jr., the evening included a star-studded line-up, with appearances by philanthropist Eli Broad, "Godfather of Go-go" Chuck Brown, D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray, Redskins linebacker Rocky McIntosh, co-founder of the Carlyle Group David Rubenstein, Georgetown University Men's Basketball Coach John Thompson III, Emmy Award-winning actress Alfre Woodard, and Grammy Award-winning recording artist John Legend - who also performed a selection of his hit songs.

BELOW: John Legend performs at 2011 Standing Ovation for D.C. Teachers at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Emmy-award winning actress Alfre Woodard presents Kelly Emminger with an Excellence in Teaching Award.





I love my students and I love my job, and to be rewarded at the Kennedy Center for doing something that I love is a very special feeling."

SHIRA FISHMAN, 2011 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD WINNER





LEFT: 2011 Excellence in Teaching award winner, Shira Fishman.

ABOVE: October 26, 2011 EduTour at Wilson Senior High School; and 2011 Art Night: A Celebration of Student Artists, Education Fund board member Raul Fernandez with Catalyst Project School student.

D.C. Public Education Learning Series: Edutours

In partnership with Banyan Tree Foundation, CityBridge Foundation, and Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers, the Education Fund co-hosts the D.C. Public Education Learning Series. This year-long program provides philanthropists an opportunity to walk the halls of the District's public schools, see examples of what is working in individual schools and at the district level, and hear from experts on a variety of topics. The Learning Series helps regional philanthropists gain a deeper understanding of key topics in effective education reform and encourages philanthropic giving. Since the Series' inception in 2009, we have taken more than 100 philanthropists to visit dozens of city schools.

Art Night: A Celebration of DCPS Student Artists

On May 24, 2011, D.C. Public Education Fund's Young Professionals Committee hosted the second annual Art Night: A Celebration of Student Artists, in the gallery of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. More than eighty people gathered in the gallery to view the work of students from the four D.C. Catalyst Project Arts Integration schools. Students, parents, educators, young professionals, and supporters of the Education Fund came together to hear DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson and Education Fund board member Raul Fernandez discuss the importance of offering children an outlet for artistic expression. At the end of the evening, an impromptu silent auction resulted in nearly \$10,000 in donations in support of D.C. Catalyst Project Arts Integration Schools.

SECTION TWO

INVESTING

Connecting investors with mission-aligned investments in our city's schools

D.C. Public Education Fund shepherds investments from the philanthropic community to support and accelerate systemic school reforms in D.C. Public Schools. By bridging the needs of the school system and the interests of funders, and serving as a strategic independent partner to both sets of stakeholders, the Education Fund ensures that investments have a meaningful impact on transforming education in our nation's capital.

FOUR STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS DEMONSTRATE OUR IMPACT >

D.C. Catalyst Project Schools

Last school year, 13 neighborhood elementary, middle, and K-8 schools across seven of the District's eight wards began implementation of the D.C. Catalyst Project (Catalyst), a school improvement model that organizes schools around one of three themes: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM); Arts Integration; or World Cultures. The focus on these themes is meant to accelerate student achievement and engagement by providing rich out-of-classroom learning experiences, project-based learning, and engaging instruction. The introduction of these innovative school models was made possible by the Herb Block Foundation, the CityBridge Foundation, the Philip L. Graham Fund, the Marriott Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, the Moran Family Foundation, the Motorola Solutions Foundation, Wells Fargo, the Ludwig Family Foundation, the Weissberg Foundation, and Natalie Wexler and James Feldman. Since the project launch, Catalyst schools have demonstrated positive gains in enrollment, attendance, teacher development, and community engagement.

ABOVE: Students from Turner at Green Elementary School in Ward 8.



IMPACT*plus* Performance-Based Compensation System

In June 2010, a remarkable 77 percent of DCPS teachers voted in favor of a landmark new contract that rewards strong classroom performance, ensures accountability, and efficiently moves out low performers. With this new contract came IMPACTplus, a performance-based compensation system that awards each eligible educator an annual bonus of up to \$25,000. With support from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, the Robertson Foundation, and the Walton Family Foundation, the Education Fund is supporting this new model for teacher performance management and compensation. In the past two years, DCPS has awarded over 600 highly effective teachers more than \$7 million in bonuses for outstanding performance.

BELOW: Principal Maria Tukeva, 2011 Excellence in Leadership award recipient at Columbia Heights Education Campus in Ward 1.

RIGHT: Screen-shot of the Reality PD Video Library.



Data Capacity Building

With funding from Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Education Fund has assisted in the restructuring of the Office of Data and Accountability (ODA) to better support educators with the data and tools they need to drive student success. Additional support from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation enabled DCPS to collaborate with The Achievement Network to help educators in 11 schools use data effectively in their daily work – analyzing test results and restructuring their lessons based on the relevant data. Based on lessons learned from this effort, DCPS launched a districtwide multi-year initiative in the 2011-2012 school year to build the capacity of all DCPS teachers to use data to gauge student achievement.



Teacher Data and Professional Development Platform

In early 2010, DCPS began planning for the Teacher Data and Professional Development Platform (the Platform), an innovative online tool providing DCPS educators with ready access to targeted professional development (PD) based on student achievement and teacher performance data. Research shows that the most effective PD is tailored, job-embedded, and collaborative. The Platform embraces these studies, supporting all DCPS teachers in increasing their effectiveness and improving student outcomes. Working closely with DCPS, the Education Fund plays an integral role in the planning and development of the Platform, which will be launched in 2012. A key success from this past year is the creation of RealityPD, an online video PD library that will be hosted on the Platform. The Platform is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and proceeds from the District's Federal Race to the Top grant.

BELOW: Students at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School in Ward 8.



SECTION THREE INNOVATING A solid foundation for an exciting future

In 2012 and beyond, the D.C. Public Education Fund will continue to support initiatives that drive change in D.C. Public Schools—proudly contributing to the successful funding, planning, and implementation of several innovative programs that maximize impact and accelerate student learning.

THREE AREAS OF FOCUS FOR OUR STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS >







School Transformation

The Education Fund is helping DCPS develop and implement strategies that improve school quality and expand options for students and families. Building on our school quality work to date, including the Catalyst project (see page 4), the Advisory program at Eastern Senior High School, and rigorous citywide planning led by the Deputy Mayor for Education, we continue to work toward the vision that every child, in every neighborhood, will attend a high-quality school. This includes aligning our efforts with DCPS leadership in order to refine school turnaround strategies and develop highleverage initiatives that ensure student growth and comprehensive success in persistently struggling schools.

The Education Fund is helping transform under-performing schools, develop great educators, and redefine classroom instruction using technology.

Human Capital

The Education Fund is helping DCPS build and improve systems to recruit, evaluate, develop, reward, and retain the most effective teachers and school leaders in the country. Tools like the innovative Teacher Data and Professional Development Platform (see page 5), and initiatives like the Aspiring Leaders Program, which will train future school leaders, illustrate how the Education Fund is working with DCPS leadership to expand the skills of teachers and school leaders and accelerate student achievement growth in the District of Columbia.

Next Generation Learning Models

The Education Fund is helping DCPS realize its vision of leveraging technology to personalize and differentiate instruction, motivate students, and extend learning beyond the traditional classroom experience. Working with DCPS leadership, we are pursuing innovative next generation learning models – from tools to use on handheld devices to whole-school "hybrid" models – that will accelerate student learning. LEFT PAGE: 2011 Excellence in Teaching award winner, Eduardo Gamarra, at Oyster-Adams Bilingual School.

TOP RIGHT: Woodrow Wilson Senior High School, architectural detail of skylight.

TOP LEFT: 2010 Excellence in Teaching award winner, Charles Feeser.

BOTTOM LEFT: 2011 Excellence in Teaching award recipient Doris Jean Hurd Savoy at Coolidge Senior High School in Ward 4.

BELOW: Student at Walker-Jones Elementary School in Ward 5.



A CONVERSATION WITH DCPS CHANCELLOR, KAYA HENDERSON



What role does the D.C. Public Education Fund play in your efforts to transform D.C. Public Schools?

D.C. Public Education Fund is a critical partner to DCPS as we work aggressively to ensure that every DCPS school provides a world-class education. DCPS would not have implemented many of our signature reform initiatives without private support raised by the Education Fund. Philanthropy has allowed us to be innovative, push forward reform in tough

financial times, and leverage public dollars more strategically. In addition to securing monetary support for our efforts, the Education Fund acts as a thought partner and strategy consultant as we identify and prioritize transformation initiatives.

How does the Education Fund work with DCPS leadership to achieve results?

The Education Fund team works closely with DCPS leadership to identify strategic priorities and develop a plan for how to achieve these priorities. They push us to be more thoughtful and leverage many resources – intellectual as well as financial – from the philanthropic community. In the past year alone, the Education Fund has provided guidance and funding for the following high-impact projects: the Reality Professional Development Video Library (RealityPD), the launch of 13 D.C. Catalyst Project Schools, the IMPACT*plus* performance pay system, and implementation of a school-based data capacity building model.

What are the priorities for DCPS in the next five years?

We are developing a new strategic plan with input from the DCPS stakeholder survey and the Hopes and Dreams campaign. The plan is aimed at providing great schools, recruiting and retaining great people, and fostering and nurturing great connections.

Great Schools. Great schools give children the opportunity to thrive and offer them a range of courses and activities to prepare them for life, college, and career. Our goal is to ensure that every DCPS school offers engaging curricula, provides a safe, clean and welcoming environment where teachers, principals, parents and students are valued and respected, and holds students to high expectations, knowing that all students can achieve great things.

Great People. We want to see a great leader in every school and a great teacher in every classroom, and great support staff across the system. This can only happen if we provide clear expectations and a framework of professional development opportunities to elevate and inspire our educators.

Great Connections. We can't create great schools alone; we need everyone in the city to help. Creating great schools that provide a high-quality education for all students requires robust communities of parents, school staff, residents, and business leaders united in ensuring that children have what they need to achieve. We want to cultivate an environment and culture that leverages the talents and resources that each person brings to our schools and students.

How will the innovative models supported by the Education Fund impact the five-year plan?

The Education Fund acts as a bridge for funders, directing focus to the highest priorities for DCPS and providing an honest window into the work being done in our schools, an accurate assessment of the kind of progress we can expect, and clear reports showing how a funder's gift has impacted our progress. Over the next five years, I look forward to fostering further and deeper partnerships with the philanthropic community in support of human capital, school transformation, and next generation learning models.



our funders building bridges that transform vision into action

1,000,000 and above

Laura and John Arnold Foundation Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation The Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation Robertson Foundation The Walton Family Foundation

250,000 - 999,999

CityBridge Foundation The Freddie Mac Foundation Marriott Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region Michael & Susan Dell Foundation Alice and David Rubenstein

100,000 - 249,999

Battelle Memorial Institute Carnegie Corporation of New York FedEx Corporation The Haney Family Foundation Target Natalie Wexler & James Feldman

25,000 - 99,999

Ann, Don, Cathy, and Laura Brown Family Fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region BET Networks The Clark Charitable Foundation Mark D. Ein Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation The Flamboyan Foundation The Herb Block Foundation Horning Family Fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region Lois and Richard England Family Foundation Motorola Solutions Foundation Verizon The Washington Post Company The Wells Fargo Foundation

10,000 - 24,999

Acumen Solutions Emily Bloomfield and Byron Auguste Capital One Diane and Norman Bernstein Foundation Jean-Marie and Raul Fernandez Ann and Thomas Friedman Paula and Robert Hisaoka McKinsey & Company Oasis Foundation Weissberg Foundation World Bank Group

5,000 - 9,999

Accenture CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Coca-Cola The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region Deloitte Diana Davis Spencer Foundation Fannie Mae Fight For Children Kay Kendall and Jack Davies Carolyn and Jeff Leonard Mae and Ande Grennan Scholastic, Inc. Lori and Ben Soto Prince Charitable Trusts **Reginald Van Lee** Trish and George Vradenburg Washington Gas Washington Redskins Irene and Alan Wurtzel

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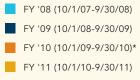
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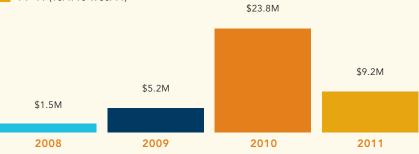
REVENUES	
Contributions	\$8,276,656
In-Kind	\$42,611
Interest	\$45,911
Special Events	\$936,097
Total Revenues	\$9,301,275

EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$8,891,636
Supporting services	\$607,227
Total Expenses	\$9,498,863

NET ASSETS	
Beginning Net Assets	\$6,880,368
Change in Net Assets	(\$197,588)
Total Net Assets	\$6,682,780

FUNDS RAISED, FY08-11





* In fiscal year 2010, we recognized a one-time set of contributions, totalling \$16.6M, associated with the implementation of the WTU Teachers' Contract. While we expect to continue to grow in support of our mission to advance excellence in DC Public Schools through private philanthropy, these funds raised represented a unique set of contributions.