



Start The Adventure In Reading



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS 1985-2005

Annual Report 2005

Message from the President and Executive Director:

In 2005 Start the Adventure in Reading reached a remarkable milestone: for 20 years our successful children's literacy program has served Greater New Orleans. Since its founding in 1985, STAIR has made a difference in the lives of more than 4,500 second-graders from Orleans and Jefferson Parish Public Schools. Over the past two decades, hundreds of community volunteers have donated their time and talents to our program, serving as

reading tutors, testers and workday helpers.

2004-2005 Accomplishments

- During the 2004-05 school year, STAIR maintained 24 sites throughout Orleans and Jefferson, serving 350 children from 32 public elementary schools.
- STAIR completed its second year as a state-approved Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provider and as a 21st Century Learning Grant program partner administered by the University of New Orleans. We expanded to five STAIR sites offering services to more than 70 students as part of these No Child Left Behind Act programs.
- STAIR proudly launched its new website which provides information about all facets of our program including tutor training, site and school locations and hours of operation, and newsletters for volunteers, parents, and the general public. STAIR's donations page offers details on how to give the gift of reading online through "Sponsor a Student" or "Friend of STAIR."

• The number of STAIR model programs around the country increased. Volunteers using the STAIR curriculum tutored approximately 175 second-graders in Birmingham, AL; Lewisburg, WV; Port Charlotte, FL; and in Ruston, LA. In the spring, a STAIR site in Lacombe, LA opened to serve children on the Northshore of the New Orleans area. At the end of the school year, new STAIR affiliate sites in Wilmington, DE and Annapolis, MD were in the works.

New Challenges

As we began the 2005-06 school year and our 20th anniversary, STAIR was confronted with a new challenge: **Hurricane Katrina.**

Beyond the devastating loss of life and property, this disaster has dramatically changed the lives of area residents and their school-age children—and our STAIR students.

With Orleans Parish schools in question, many families re-locating to Jefferson Parish, and so much of the school year missed, we readily recognized the need to get STAIR started to help our second-graders. Beginning in January 2006, STAIR will open its five current Jefferson Parish sites serving students from schools in that parish, and we also plan to pursue further expansion into other Jefferson Parish schools. We know we will reach many of our Orleans Parish children in these schools. As Orleans Parish schools come back, we will open STAIR sites as the needs arise. We are so grateful that many of our wonderful STAIR volunteers have called to say they are ready to help.

While STAIR officially turns 20 in 2005, a post-Katrina decision has been made to mark this milestone beginning in the fall of 2006. During this past year, our volunteers have spent months of planning many anniversary celebrations including A STAIR Affair fundraiser. We look forward to enjoying these celebrations with the start of the 2006-07 school year.

After a challenging beginning to the 2005-06 school year, we pledge that STAIR's 20-year children's literacy program will continue to enrich the lives of second-grade children who are at risk of academic failure. Start the Adventure in Reading will participate in the rebuilding of New Orleans, and as it has been for the last twenty years, STAIR will be a part of the solution.

Ellen P. Gilbert
President
2004-

Sara W. Woodard
Executive Director

STAIR Facts 2004-2005

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Every year, STAIR pre-and post-tests students using the Brigance Diagnostic Inventory of Basic Skills. The results of the testing for the 2004-2005 school year are evidence of the success of the program. Percentages indicate number of students post-tested scoring on the second grade level or higher:

- Word Recognition at 70%;
- Oral Reading at 65% (requires students to read short stories aloud with 97% accuracy);
- Listening Comprehension - Vocabulary at 92%
- Listening Comprehension - Story at 81%
- Reading Comprehension – 63%



JIM HOWELL, PHOTOGRAPHER

“STAIR is a great program! The students really look forward to it and the teachers appreciate the added help.”

~ Public School Teacher



JIM HOWELL, PHOTOGRAPHER

“I am so pleased my son was able to be a part of the STAIR program. His reading has improved so much he received all A's on his report card, and is now considered an on level reader.”

~ STAIR Parent

Volunteer and In-Kind Donations

Volunteers donated 21,166 hours to STAIR this year! If you add up all of our volunteers' hours—tutors, Board and Advisory Council members, volunteer site directors, testers, workday helpers and event volunteers—the total monetary value would be \$468,340! STAIR would not exist without the invaluable support of our volunteers. WE APPRECIATE YOU!

STAIR thanks the following churches, religious organizations and educational institutions for their support:

- St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church
- Presbytery of South Louisiana
- Synod of the Sun
- Episcopal Community Services
- Woodland Presbyterian Church
- Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church
- Jefferson Presbyterian Church
- Hickory Knoll Church of Christ
- Algiers United Methodist Church
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- Carrollton Church of Christ
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- Community Church Unitarian Universalist
- Cornerstone United Methodist Church
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- Lafayette Elementary School
- Lakeview Presbyterian Church
- McDonogh #15 Elementary School
- Now Faith Ministries
- Parkway Presbyterian Church
- Peace Presbyterian Church
- Rayne United Methodist Church
- Southern University
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- St. Cecilia's Guild
- St. Nicholas Children's Academy
- St. Paul's United Methodist Church
- The Alpine Class of Canal Street Presbyterian Church
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Tulane University
- University of New Orleans

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- Curriculum Specialist,** Penny Sproles
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Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2005

FINANCIALS		ASSETS	
Revenue and Support — June 30, 2005		Current Assets:	
Corporations/Foundations	\$ 85,307	Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 112,596
Churches/Presbytery	53,272	Unrestricted cash	15,676
Individuals/Friends	61,809	Unconditional promises to give:	
Federal/State	57,833	State funding	1,562
United Way/Combined Federal Campaign	1,384	Combined Federal Campaign funding	514
Read-a-thon	18,334	United Way Services funding	1,384
Misc. Revenue	1,911	Inventory - supplies	250
Interest	853	Prepaid expenses	4,058
	<hr/>	Deposits	<hr/>
Subtotal	\$ 280,703	Total Current Assets	<u>136,040</u>
In-Kind Contributions	<u>\$381,405</u>	Property and Equipment:	
TOTAL	\$ 662,108	Furniture, fixtures and equipment	44,078
		less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(30,296)</u>
		Property and Equipment, net	<u>13,782</u>
Expenses — June 30, 2005		Other Assets:	
Salaries/Taxes	\$ 221,456	Library - books and videos	<u>10,715</u>
Transportation	11,000	Total Assets	<u>\$ 160,537</u>
Curriculum/Supplies	12,049		
PR/Postage/Printing	12,366	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Audit/Technical Support	11,165	Current Liabilities:	
Insurance	2,218	Accounts payable	\$ <u>1,542</u>
Staff Development/Travel	1,494		
Depreciation	4,029	Net Assets:	
Other	3,815	Unrestricted	143,319
	<hr/>	Temporarily restricted	<u>15,676</u>
Subtotal	\$ 279,592	Total Net Assets	<u>158,995</u>
In-Kind Expenses (occupancy, transportation, misc.)	<u>\$ 381,405</u>		
TOTAL	\$ 660,997	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 160,537</u>

STAIR wishes to thank its individual, foundation, organization and corporate donors for their support. The following lists reflect donations made between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005.

Gifts received after July 1, 2005, will be acknowledged in a future issue.

Every effort has been made to accurately report the names in these lists. Please contact STAIR with any questions or corrections. Thank you for giving the gift of reading!

Legend:

STAIR Leaders: \$5,000+
STAIR Champions: \$1,000 - \$4,999
STAIR Benefactors: \$500 - \$999
STAIR Patrons: \$250 - \$499
STAIR Supporters: \$100 - \$249
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2004-2005 Stair Sites

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Carrollton Church of Christ
Community Church Unitarian
Universalist
Cornerstone United Methodist Church
Dillard University
Lafayette Elementary School
Lakeview Presbyterian Church
McDonogh #15 Elementary School
Now Faith Ministries
Peace Presbyterian Church
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church
St. Nicholas Children's Academy
Southern University of New Orleans
Tulane University/Reily Center
Tulane University/Chapel of the
Holy Spirit
University of New Orleans
Woodland Presbyterian Church

JEFFERSON PARISH

Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Hickory Knoll Church of Christ
Jefferson Presbyterian Church
Parkway Presbyterian Church
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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Birmingham

First Presbyterian Church
Birmingham

Delaware

First and Central Presbyterian Church
Wilmington

Florida

Edgewater United Methodist Church
Port Charlotte

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
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WYES

Thank you to the many individuals who designated donations to STAIR through the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign. The following is a partial list provided by the above organizations:

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A special thanks to the following school that participated in STAIR's 2004 Read-A-Thon and the corporate sponsors and donors who pledged their support:

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St. Andrew's Episcopal School
St. Martin's Episcopal School
Trinity Episcopal School

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phone: (504) 899-0820
 fax: (504) 895-2668
 web site: www.stairnola.org
 e-mail: stair@scapc.org

STAIR needs your help.

On levels great and small, we all face recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. With the start of the 2005-2006 school year, STAIR prepared to celebrate its 20th anniversary of service to the children of Greater New Orleans. That celebration has now been postponed. Today STAIR is focused on finding our second-grade children in need of help and we are focused on finding our volunteers who are ready and willing to work with these children.

Your support of the STAIR program will allow us to continue to help our children who have missed so much school this year. Now more than ever these second-graders need STAIR's tutoring help. If you can, please support STAIR with your donation. Your gift will make a difference in a child's life.

YES, I would like to be a Friend of STAIR!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card.

VISA MasterCard Exp. Date: _____

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My company will match gift (match form enclosed).

I am interested in volunteering. Contact me.

\$1,000 20th Anniversary Major Supporter

\$500 to Sponsor a Student for a year

\$250 to Sponsor a Student for a semester

\$150 to recruit and train a tutor

\$100 for curriculum materials for 10 students

\$50 for reading games for 10 students

\$25 for pencil and paper for 10 students

\$ _____ Any size gift is greatly appreciated.

Please make checks payable to Start The Adventure In Reading (STAIR)
STAIR, 1545 STATE STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

THANK YOU FOR GIVING THE GIFT OF READING!