



STAIR

Start The Adventure In Reading



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS 1985-2005

SUMMER 2006

A STAIR Affair commemorates 20 years of service

What started as a gala event in October turned into a festive evening in April. Not even Katrina could stop the celebration! **A STAIR Affair** was a joyous one with blue skies, sunshine and 125 supporters, volunteers and friends coming together in high spirits to mark this benchmark year of our children's literacy program.



Guests enjoying A STAIR Affair.

Co-chairs Pam Rundle, Alison Decker Scott and Brandy Whisnant proudly report that this special event generated more than \$35,000 for our program. "We're so thankful to our 20th Anniversary Sponsors, the **STAIR Affair** Underwriters and all the wonderful friends and business throughout the community who contribute to our continued success and the success of this special evening.

A STAIR Affair was highlighted with a silent auction having a children's

STAIR Program Expands to Serve More Children as Schools Re-Open

Projecting that more children will be moving back into the New Orleans area one year after Hurricane Katrina, STAIR plans to open additional tutoring sites to serve second-graders who need reading help more than ever before. The re-opening of Orleans Parish elementary schools, many of them run by chartering organizations, also is affording STAIR the opportunity to forge new partnerships with various community groups dedicated to reforming New Orleans public education.

Starting in the Fall of 2006, in addition to its currently operating sites, STAIR plans to resume tutoring at these locations: Berean Presbyterian

Church, Hickory Knoll Church of Christ, Lafayette Elementary School, Lakeview Presbyterian Church, McDonogh #15 Elementary School, Nelson UNO Charter School, St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, and Tulane University-Reilly Center. It is anticipated that volunteer tutors at these sites will serve children from 12 elementary schools. These sites join the 11 tutoring sites STAIR opened in January 2006 serving children from 13 public elementary schools in Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes. Additional sites and schools may be added during the school year as needed.

literary theme. "Oh the Places You'll Go" package—a week of leaf viewing at Dr. Sandy Hartman's condo in NC—brought on heavy bidding, with STAIR Board VP Lee Adler and Robert Marks taking the prize. Jill Waid was the high bidder for "The Magic Paintbrush"—a portrait sitting by artist Dr. Elijah Sproles. Lucky winner Stephen Scott brought home a little "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" to wife Alison—a fabulous diamond pendant from Wellington & Co. And who wouldn't love "A Snowy Day" in Beaver Creek, CO, donated by Sydney Touchstone and "won" by Sallee and Tom Benjamin.

Thanks to all who supported this special celebration.

A Special Thanks to STAIR's Sponsors and Underwriters
STAIR 20th Anniversary Sponsors
Versabar, Inc.
Phelps Dunbar L.L.P.
Place St. Charles
Entergy Louisiana
Fidelity Homestead Association
Bebe & Harry Freeman
Fifth District Savings Bank
Louisiana Transit Company
A STAIR Affair Underwriters
Darryl and Louellen Berger Family
E.J. & Marjory B. Ourso Family
Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Rundle
Mr. & Mrs. Norwood Thornton, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bean
Stewart Capital L.L.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Hansel

continued on page 3

Thanks for giving the gift of reading.

STAIR Welcomes New Officers and Board Members

At its annual meeting in June, the STAIR Board of Directors elected the following officers and new board members for 2006-2007:

President: Lee R. Adler
 Vice President: Bridget Carter
 Treasurer: Alison Decker Scott
 Secretary: Mary Lee Carver

Board members renewing terms of service to STAIR are Paul Atkinson, Don Beery, Mary Lee Carver, Louis Fishman, Sydney Thornton, and Jill Waid. New board members are Dipo Mosadomi and Jonathan C. Williams.

Also at the annual meeting, retiring board president Ellen P. Gilbert was thanked for her many years of service to STAIR as founding board member, advisory council member and student tutor. Lee R. Adler was presented with the Betty Faucette Award in recognition of his outstanding volunteer leadership of STAIR following Hurricane Katrina. The board also recognized **A STAIR Affair** co-chairs Pam Rundle, Alison

Scott and Brandy Whisnant for their efforts in making STAIR's first fundraiser a rousing success.



First Book held a N.O. book distribution in May with help of Rex Organization (l. to r.) John Charbonnet, a Rex Organization Official and Kit Lunney, Senior Advisor with First Book.

Volunteer for STAIR Summer Workdays

Although STAIR tutoring ends with the school year, there is still work to be done over the summer, and volunteers are needed in another capacity, preparing materials for the 2006-2007 school year. If you have ever volunteered with STAIR, or if you would just like to drop by for an hour or two and learn more about STAIR, come be a part of this respected local program.

JUNE 2006

Tuesday, June 27 - 1:00 - 4:00

Woodland Presbyterian Church
 5824 Berkley Drive, New Orleans, LA 70131

JULY 2006

Thursday, July 6 - 1:00 - 4:00

St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church
 1545 State Street, New Orleans, LA 70118

Wednesday, July 12 - 1:00 - 4:00

Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church
 3810 Power Blvd., Metairie, LA 70003

Tuesday, July 18 - 1:00 - 4:00

St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church
 1545 State Street, New Orleans, LA 70118

Thursday, July 27 - 1:00 - 4:00

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 6500 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123



Tutor Anne Gaffney and her student at the Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church site.

The newsletter is published by
Start The Adventure In Reading

Design and Layout: Paula Coughlin/Typosition

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Lee R. Adler
 Vice President Bridget Carter
 Secretary Mary Lee Carver
 Treasurer Alison Scott Decker

MEMBERS

Paul E. Atkinson
 Donald Beery
 Ruth Bilbe
 Cheryllyn M. Branche
 Tina Brockmann
 Simonne Caesar
 Bridget Carter
 Louis Y. Fishman
 John V. Garoutte, M.D.
 Sandra Hartman, Ph.D.
 Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
 Jim Howell
 Charles M. Lanier, Jr.
 Frieda McGregor
 Dipo Mosadomi
 Seletha Nagin
 Maurice C. Ruffin
 Pam O. Rundle
 Sidney Eshleman Thornton
 Jill C. Waid
 Brandy Whisnant
 Jonathan C. Williams
 Betty Wisdom

ADVISORY COUNCIL

William F. Banta
 William R. Bell
 Diana Boylston-Clark
 Burt Carnahan
 Kelsey B. Favrot
 Caroline Frederic
 Bebe Freeman
 Ashley L. Geary
 Dianne L. Hunt
 Eartha Lee Johnson, Ph. D.
 Christine Jordan
 Junius Kaufman
 Peggy Crutchfield Lewis
 Suzanne N. Mague
 Ernest B. Norman III
 Stella Reese
 Carolyn Sanders-O'Hare
 Richard Seba, Ph.D.
 Ada Simmons
 Penny Sproles
 Sydney Touchstone
 Eileen T. Williams
 R. Bruce Worley

STAFF

Executive Director, Sara Woodard
 Development Director, Jackie Richard
 Volunteer Director, Elizabeth Artigues
 Program/Materials Director, Janette W. Coco
 Curriculum Specialist, Penny Sproles
 AmeriCorps Member, Benjamin Legrand

continued from page 1

Mr. and Mrs. John O'Neal
Whitney National Bank

A STAIR Affair In-kind Donors
Glazer's Companies of Louisiana
Your Preferred Printer
Jim Howell Photographer
4imprint
Whole Foods Market
Sir Speedy
...and our Silent Auction Donors



"P is for Putt" our fun LSU auction package

A-1 Appliance
Ann Broome
Audubon Institute
Basics
Bath Junkie
Beaucoup Books
Betty Wisdom
Beverly Sakauye
Boudreaux's Fine Jewelers
Brooks Brothers
Bruno's
Commander's Palace
Cooter Brown's
Gentry
Dr. Leslie Gottsegen
Sandy Hartman
Imagination Movers
Interior Designs II
Karla Katz Antiques
Kidsport Family Fun & Fitness

Larry Smith
Lilette
M. Goldberg
Mackie Shilstone & GNC of N.O.
The Magic Box
Melissa Mary
Dr. Sharon Meyer
Nancy Jane Carson
Nicoll's Limousine
Omni Royal Orleans
Orvis
Paul Bruno
Perlis
PJ's Coffee
Prytania Veterinary Clinic
The Ritz-Carlton Sarasota
Dr. Michael Rouhana/Westside Dental
Sen. David Vitter & Family
Spring
Dr. and Mrs. Elijah Sproles
Starbucks
Sydney Touchstone
Wellington & Company
The Wine Seller

STAIR Volunteers are the Best!

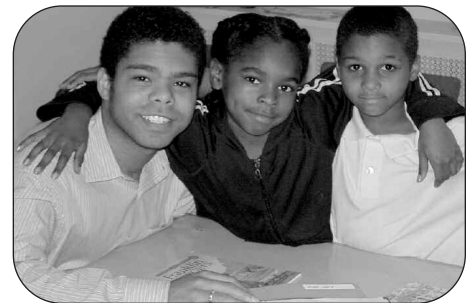
The volunteer spirit is alive and well at STAIR! Hurricane Katrina couldn't keep away our volunteers who were eager to help STAIR in a variety of ways soon after the storm had passed. Volunteers donated 3,849 hours to STAIR over the course of the 2005-2006 school year. If you add up all of the hours worked by this dedicated group — tutors, testers, workday helpers, Board and Advisory Council members, and A STAIR Affair volunteers—the total monetary value would be \$77,220! STAIR would not exist without the PRICELESS support of these volunteers from our community. THANK YOU!

STAIR Students Test Scores Show Improvement

Despite Hurricane Katrina, STAIR was able to pre- and post-test many of its students using the Brigance Diagnostic Inventory of Basic Skills tool. Here are the percentages of those STAIR students who scored at or above the 2nd grade level by the end of the abbreviated school year:

- Word Recognition: 70%
- Oral Reading: 67%
- Listening Comprehension—Vocabulary: 91%
- Listening Comprehension—Story: 87%
- Reading Comprehension: 73%

In addition to this reading progress, students demonstrated growth in self-esteem and the desire to learn and excel. Kudos go to the parents, teachers, principals and especially the nearly 300 tutors who put aside Katrina-related concerns to help our STAIR students succeed this year.



Volunteers at STAIR's affiliate site at First & Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware, tutor approximately 15 students.



In April STAIR Curriculum Specialist Penny Sproles (seated) and Delta Service Corpsmember Benjamin Legrand conducted a Parent Literacy Workshop for Eisenhower and Harte charter elementary school 2nd graders and their families at the STAIR site at Woodland Presbyterian Church.

STAIR's Family Literacy Workshops

Conversations with parents, shared reading with children and tutors, "make and takes", information about STAIR, refreshments, door prizes and handouts.... these were part of a STAIR "first" during the month of April. On April 1 and 22 Curriculum Specialist Penny Sproles and AmeriCorps member Ben Legrand presented a Family Literacy Workshop for STAIR families at the Woodland and Tulane sites. The purpose of the meeting was to dialogue about what all of us can do to help our children become stronger readers. The turn out was excellent and the conversation meaningful and spirited.

Executive Director Sara Woodard spoke about the background and goals of STAIR. Then Penny led a discussion outlining guidelines to help children with reading strategies and ways to foster reading skills. Ben provided families with resource folders full of helpful information about reading skills and community resources and led family members in making a fun storytelling game. The workshop ended with an engaging shared reading demonstration with children, tutors, and parents. Plans are in place to continue and expand the workshops at other STAIR sites over the course of the next school year.



Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 New Orleans, LA
 Permit No.2640

1545 State Street
 New Orleans, LA 70118

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

SUMMER 2006

**YOU'RE INVITED...
 to be a Friend of STAIR**

In the next few weeks we will be kicking off our 2006 Friends of STAIR Campaign, and we need your help. As a nonprofit with a history of successful service to this community, STAIR has been fortunate to survive the effects of Katrina. Because of your loyal support, we have been able to provide tutoring and help to the children of New Orleans through this very difficult year.

Now as we plan for our 2006-2007 school year and anticipate new site openings to address the repopulation of our city, STAIR needs your support. If you are a Friend of STAIR—thank you! We appreciate your support. We welcome all to join this special group of Friends who recognize that the education of our youth is a vital component in the rebuilding of our city. If you are able to, please show your support with a donation at this time. 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: _____
 Card No.: _____
 Name as on card: _____
 Signature: _____

- \$1,000 STAIR 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.

My company will match gift (match form enclosed).
 I am interested in volunteering. Contact me.

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!