

IMPACT REPORT 2009-2010

Looking Back On A Year Of Potential

In every child who is born, no matter what the circumstances or the parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again.

> - James Agee, from "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men"

Each of us has potential. Whether we fulfill that potential depends on two things – personal effort and the circumstances of our lives. The Decatur Education Foundation works to help every child in Decatur realize his or her full potential. We do this by providing the support that helps fuel personal effort and by removing obstacles that stand in the way of our children and youth.

Looking back on the past year, we see this idea brought to life in so many ways. We see it in:

- The ear-to-ear smile on a child's face as she proudly used her new eyeglasses to read one of her favorite books.
- The strength and resilience of Decatur High graduating seniors who received Foundation scholarships young men and women who shined

One Student's New Outlook on Reading



Why I Give: Rhoda Joyner Last spring, Rhoda Joyner of Decatur sent this email:

I am celebrating one of those BIG ZERO birthdays this June. Here is what I have decided. I wanted to have a ladies lunch at my favorite restaurant, Petite Auberge, but I have too much stuff and really don't need anything. I love Decatur Schools for what they did for me as a student and as a teacher for 25+ years – and what they did for my children who went from first through DHS. So, I am having a BIRTHDAY BASH to benefit the Decatur Education Foundation if friends want to give a gift.

Over the years, others have marked birthdays and occasions by encouraging gifts to the Foundation. Rhoda's birthday celebration generated more than \$1,000 in gifts from her generous friends. We thank Rhoda – and her friends! Jada loves books, but she couldn't see the words clearly on the page. Reading was a struggle.

A third-grader at Winonna Park Elementary, Jada needed a new pair of glasses. Her original glasses broke, and she was told she had to wait a year to get another pair covered by insurance.

Her teacher, Sabrina Manns, knew Jada's progress would stall if she waited too long.

The Decatur Education Foundation bought her a new pair of glasses. Jada is so proud of them. "Me and my mom picked them out," she says of the stylish frames. Jada's confidence has soared.

"Certainly, the glasses have made a big difference," Manns says. "Jada's reading level has improved, which we attribute to many things, including the fact that she can finally see."

Social worker Karen Koonce reached out to the Decatur Education Foundation on Jada's behalf. The Foundation's mission is to help students reach their full potential. The Mary Leile Honiker Fund provides assistance to CSD students and families. Says Koonce, "The fund has provided a light for parents who don't know where to turn."



A Decatur Media Specialist Writes ...

At the first school I worked in as a media specialist, I remember being at the book fair and looking up to see children sitting at the back of the library crying. Their families didn't have money for them to buy books at the book fair. It broke my heart.

When I later learned that the Decatur Education Foundation provides funds to children whose families didn't have book fair money, my heart swelled with gratitude. I wish DEF contributors could see the faces of the recipients of what we've come to call "Book Fair Bucks." The joy and gratitude that they express is indescribable.

When I talk to these kids, I always ask them to be sure to "pay it forward" when they grow up, and remember the kindness of "the grownups in Decatur" who want every student in City Schools of Decatur to have books in their homes.

The Decatur Education Foundation and what y'all do for our students is only one of the countless reasons I am so proud to work for CSD. Thanks, DEF!

> – Celeste Tibbets, Media Specialist, Clairmont Elementary

When I learned that the Decatur Education Foundation provides funds to children whose families didn't have book fair money, my heart swelled with gratitude.

A visitor to DEF's used book sale at the 2010 Decatur Book Festival. The sale raised more than \$1,100 to fund DEF's "I Love to Read" program, which provides "Book Bucks" to children who can't afford to purchase books at school book fairs.

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during high school, despite the obstacles they faced.

- The enthusiasm and focus of kindergarteners at Clairemont Elementary in their very own TV commercial for lettuce – after their teacher participated in a Farm to School workshop at the Oakhurst Community Garden Project.
- The sense of accomplishment of elementary school track club students who received their medal for running their first race, the TOUR deCATUR.
- The emerging confidence of a Renfroe

eighth grader after navigating the high ropes of an Outward Bound course with fellow students.

• The ingenuity of a teacher who designed an after-school enrichment program for non-native English speakers to improve their vocabulary.

These examples represent just a fraction of what was accomplished through the Foundation this year – thanks entirely to the generosity of individuals, businesses and other organizations. The people who gave their time and money to help our children and youth realize their potential have much to be proud of.

Our new logo, unveiled in the summer of 2010, reflects the unifying idea – and remarkable energy – of the Decatur Education Foundation and its volunteers and supporters. We need our children to reach. We owe it to them to help them.

We invite you to join our cause – a gift of any amount can make a difference in helping the young people in our community.

Believe in what our youth can achieve!

— Gail Rothman, Executive Director

Lessons Brought to Life through 'Living Museum'

History came alive last December at Oakhurst Elementary School as second graders performed what they called a "Living Museum," an interactive way to teach themselves and others about Georgia.

With the help of a \$1,300 grant from the Decatur Education Foundation, about 60 students from the three social studies classes told about Georgia's physical landscape, the Native American cultures and the state's historical figures. Each student was given a topic and had to research and write a script about it. In the four days before Christmas break, they read their scripts in a series of performances in front of their parents, fellow students, and others from the community.

Teacher Donna Smith said the purpose was to give students a deeper, more meaningful way to learn about their state's history.

"We wanted to make it exciting and relevant for the students," she said. For example, one room had a giant puzzle of a Georgia map. Individual students represented a region, river or city, and had to describe it.

"The DEF grant was key to the project, going toward such supplies as fabric for costumes, frames, materials for construction of the Native American winter home, foam board and poster board for the giant



map as well as other instructional resources," said teacher Kira Wilsterman. "We have never done anything like this before, and it was fabulous."

Teacher Donna Smith said the students were engaged and enthusiastic, and the project helped to develop their research, writing and public speaking skills. If this sounds exciting and you missed it, no worries. Smith, Wilsterman, and Debbie Lester, the third teacher involved in the project, all agreed they would do the Living Museum, with some finetuning, in the years ahead.



Donate online at www.decatureducationfoundation.org

or send your check to: Decatur Education Foundation, 315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 770, Decatur, GA 30030

Contributions are tax-deductible and help ensure that every child in Decatur has opportunities to reach his/her full potential. Thanks for your support!

BELIEVE IN WHAT OUR YOUTH CAN ACHIEVE!

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Taking Risk and Team-Building to New Heights

One of my greatest strengths is that I sit back and observe. One of my greatest challenges is that I sit back and observe. Participating in Outward Bound is helping me realize when I need to sit back and when I need to jump right in. **Fifteen Decatur students. Each with personal strengths and personal challenges.** To overcome these challenges, the eighth graders signed up for Outward Bound, a program that teaches peer support, informed risk taking and leadership. Funded by a \$1,500 grant from the Decatur Education Foundation, the experience gave them a new perspective – and left them better prepared for high school. Here is what some of the students had to say about their experience:

"I realized the power that I have to affect a group for better or worse. I have to choose."

"I talk a lot . . . I mean a lot. But today I realized how all that talking meant I wasn't listening, and all that not listening means that I am probably missing some information that I need."

"I learned that I am afraid of being successful. That somehow I believe that success is not for people like me."

"Just being selected by my teachers to participate in Outward Bound made me feel like they see my potential and are willing to push me to reach it."

"I learned that I am a quiet leader. That's a lot of responsibility."



Farm to School Initiative

The Kaiser Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Decatur Education Foundation this year to support the CSD Farm to School Initiative. The initiative is designed to build awareness of (and appreciation for) locally grown produce as well as promote nutrition in school and at home. The grant funds were used, in part, to train teachers to develop Farm-to-School activities that align with Georgia curriculum standards. Here, Decatur teachers pot lettuce seedlings at a Farm to School Workshop, during which they explored organic farming and gardening practices. The pots were later brought back to their schoolyard gardens.

Were You There?

Throughout the year, the Decatur Education Foundation stages events to bring together our community in the name of supporting children and youth. We hope to see you at an upcoming event soon!



Art of Books May 2010 Little Shop of Stories

In May, the Decatur Education Foundation auctioned off signed books and artwork at Little Shop of Stories in the first-ever "Art of Books" benefit. The generous donation of catering by Cakes and Ale and Sun in

My Belly and beverages from Victory Brewing Co. made for a festive evening.

Low Country Boil No. 7

October 2009

The Low Country Boil has become a rite of autumn in Decatur. Delicious cuisine from the low country, music by The Dammages and a silent auction made it the biggest fund-raising event for the Foundation. Thanks to our sponsors:

Senior

Badda Bing Banfi Wine Distributors Collins Cooper Carusi Architects Lampe-Farley Communications Our Green Value RA-LIN and Associates, Inc. Sycamore Consulting, Inc. Victory Brewing Company W.F. Floyd Construction, Inc. Winter Construction

Junior

Oakhurst Neighborhood Association

Sophomore

Decatur Downtown Development Authority Emilie Markert, G.R.I. Pinnacle Custom Builders

Freshman

Community Center of South Decatur Bicycle South/Fred Boykin Gary and Patti Garrett Hall Hirsh, LLC Robert Pope R. Stephen Roberts, P.C. Rex and Sacra Vaughan Mark Whatley/Morgan Keegan

Host Committee

Doug Altizer and Gail Rothman Ann Berg Joe and Reynolds DeLisle Bill Funk and Gayle Gellerstedt Michelle and Aaron Hillegass Casie and David Hughes Leslie and Brad Joiner Kevin Kelly and Jessica Kirkwood Kimiko and Walter Miller Robin and Roy Reese Judy Turner Sara and Bill Turnipseed Staci and Marc Wisniewski Lyn Menne







Photos courtesy of Arthur Ratliff



DEF Benefit Concert August 2010

Kodac Harrison (left) and Sydney Rhame (center) joined Caroline Herring (right) and Diane Durrett in performing at Eddie's Attic in a benefit for the Decatur Education Foundation.









2010 TOUR deCATUR

March 2010

Platinum

Lampe-Farley Communications Our Green Value Function Jim Ellis Audi RA-LIN and Associates, Inc.

Gold

Decatur Downtown Development Authority

A record number of runners made the 2010 TOUR deCATUR a race to remember. The one-mile fun run and 5K races ended in the newly refurbished Decatur High School stadium. Thanks to our sponsors:

Silver

Active Ankle & Foot CrossFit Decatur Westbrook McGrath Bridges Orth & Bray Safe Routes to School Agnes Scott College Dorough & Dorough McCurdy & Candler LLC Rosser International New South Construction

Bronze

Austin Brown Breedlove Land Planning Data for Solutions Fleet Feet – Decatur Frank Anderson – Edward Jones Investment Fulton Kozak CPAs Bill Funk and Gayle Gellerstedt Intown Ace Hardware Little Shop of Stories

TOUR DECATUR 2010

Morgan Keegan – Mark Whatley Phiddippides Arthur Ratliff Stability Engineering Universal Joint/Steinbecks New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church

Scholarships for Student Achievement

Managing endowed scholarship funds is one of the major ways the Decatur Education Foundation connects the community to Decatur students. This year brought two new funds – the Dr. Phyllis Edwards Education Scholarship and the Blue & Gold Alumni Scholarship. All scholarship recipients were honored at the annual DEF Scholarship Dinner in the spring.



Deven Johnson, 2010 recipient of the Patrick Family Foundation Scholarship, with Hilda, Geraldine and Pat Patrick.



Roosevelt Evans, 2010 recipient of the Thomas Hauk Memorial Scholarship with (from left), Gary Hauk, Sara Hauk and Kate Hauk.

The Dr. Phyllis Edwards Education Scholarship represents the fulfillment of a desire that Dr. Edwards' mother.



Marie Perrotta, had to honor the educational accomplishments of her daughter. When Ms. Perrotta passed away in 2009, donations made in her memory were used to start the scholarship fund. The award is given to a graduating senior who has volunteered or interned in an educational setting and is interested in a career in education. Pictured here are Dr. Phyllis Edwards, superintendent of City Schools of Decatur; her husband, Stephen; and DHS graduating senior Erica Carter, the scholarship's first recipient.

The Blue & Gold Alumni Scholarship

provides a way for alumni from all classes to support the post-secondary goals of a DHS



graduate. The scholarship is awarded to a student, nominated by Decatur High faculty, who demonstrates an entrepreneurial spirit and strong leadership skills. Pictured here are Chantrice Rogers and Howard Peters, the first recipient of the award. While planning the 2009 DHS Alumni Cookout last year, Chantrice Rogers, Class of 1994 and event planner extraordinaire, saw an opportunity. With fond memories of her education in Decatur, Chantrice decided it was time to give back. With the cookout, she began raising funds to support this scholarship award for a graduating senior from DHS.



Keziah Knights (left), recipient of the 2010 Coye Scholarship, with Janice Coye.



Isaac Seals, 2010 recipient of the Mary Elizabeth Brown Wilson Scholarship, with Elizabeth Wilson.



Adam Le Doux, 2010 recipient of the Westchester Life Skills Scholarship, with Superintendent Dr. Phyllis Edwards.



Nic Wilson, 2010 recipient of the Harry Edwards Class of 1960 Memorial Scholarship, with some of Harry's classmates from DHS Class of 1960.



Daud Dayib, 2010 recipient of the Bill Mealor Jr. Memorial Scholarship with Bill Mealor, Stephanie Corder and Marie Mealor.





Amy Fraser (center), 2010 recipient of the Carriere Family Scholarship for Teachers, with Jane and Ed Carriere.



Vincent Antinozzi and Camisia Glasgow (center), 2010 recipients of the Carl and Mae Renfroe Scholarships, with (left to right) Gerald and Jean Eickhoff and Sue and Frank Tetterton.

Hannah Deweerth, 2010 recipient of the Sarah Lynn Woolf Memorial Scholarship, with Bill and Donna Woolf.

The stars came out that night ...

DEF bestowed high honors to top students, teachers, administrators and parent volunteers in May at the annual Academic Recognition Night and Scholarship Dinner celebrations. Congratulations to all recipients!



Extra Mile Award recipient David Taube, pictured here with Annika Burmester, the Glennwood Academy fifth-grader who wrote the winning nomination essay. Other Extra Mile Award winners were Pamela Maxson, 1st grade teacher at Clairemont Elementary (essay written by Duncan Pope) and Theresa Schilling, 5th grade teacher at Glennwood (essay written by Libby Kirk).



Mary Farmer, CSD Directory of Technology and 2010 recipient of the City Schools of Decatur **Administrator of the Year**, with Superintendent Dr. Phyllis Edwards.



2010 STAR Student Adam Le Doux pictured with Bruce Roaden and STAR Teacher Wesley Hatfield. The STAR student is the graduating senior with the highest SAT score. Adam chose Hatfield as the the STAR teacher who had the most impact on his educational success.



2010 National Merit Scholarship finalists with Superintendent Dr. Phyllis Edwards (left): Hannah DeWeerth, Adam Le Doux, Sally Williams, Camisia Glasgow. Glasgow was also a National Achievement Scholarship finalist.



Parent Volunteers of the Year: Erin Braden, Clairemont (represented by husband Chris Braden); Casie Hughes, DHS; Lori Leland-Kirk, Winnona Park; Ann Baca, Oakhurst; and Nia Schooler, Glennwood. Not pictured: Amy Lesesne, Renfroe.



City Schools of Decatur 2010 Teachers of the Year (from left): Teresa Cross (DHS and districtwide teacher of the year), Susanna Shewan (College Heights), Brooke Nation (Clairemont), Beverly Beyer (Oakhurst), Lynn Holden (Glennwood Academy), Superintendent Dr. Phyllis Edwards, Nancy Woodley (Winnona Park) and Pat Solomon (Renfroe).

Donations Put into Action

Every gift to the Decatur Education Foundation ultimately benefits children and youth in our community. The Foundation uses funds to provide added support to students and teachers, to support innovative teaching methods and to remove obstacles from the path of learning. Here are just a few examples of how donations were put into action this year.





Winnona Park kindergarteners document the growth of seedlings. Their ecological experiment was part of an educational expedition that required easy-to-use cameras funded by the Decatur Education Foundation.

DEF funded the purchase of a document reader for use by the Language Arts Department at DHS, and it is in use nearly every period, nearly every day. It's a wonderful tool for teaching and learning and demonstrating how to work with text. The students put their work (cartoons, essays, etc.) on it for class comment, enjoyment, and edification.

— Cara Cassell, DHS Language Arts teacher



Thanks to the generosity of donors, DEF funded several technology purchases in city schools, including iPads at Winnona Park Elementary and Activvotes, handheld devices that interact with ActivBoards, at Clairemont Elementary.

A grant from the Imlay Foundation funded an innovative reading program at Glennwood Academy for students reading just below grade level. By the end of the program, participating students had all met their target growth goals.

An anonymous grant strengthened programs at College Heights ECLC by providing funds to purchase curriculum materials and cover the cost of tutors to work individually with pre-K students identified as behind in their preliteracy development.

The ESS class at Oakhurst

was awarded grant funds for Community-Based Instruction (CBI) which gives students the opportunity to practice skills they learn in the classroom out in the community. The students took MARTA to various venues including Sensation Therafun, Suburban Lanes, DeKalb Farmer's Market,



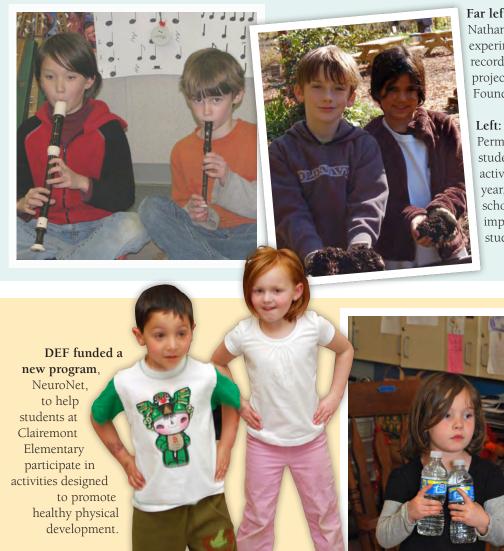
Chastain Horse Park, and Little Creek Farms. The students did very well with swiping their seven-day pass to gain entrance to the train stations and identifying and reading MARTA maps



and bus numbers. One student was able to create a shopping list for the Farmer's Market. The students enjoyed riding and learning how to care for horses. An apprehensive student was able to overcome his fear and mount and direct his horse with a little assistance. The students took pride in

reading community signs and showing off their skills in public. **The experiences were priceless.**

– Tiffany Moody, Exceptional Student Services, Oakhurst Elementary



Far left: Glennwood Academy students Nathaniel Wolf and and Curry Carr experiment with different types of recorders during a music exploration project funded by a Decatur Education Foundation mini-grant.

Left: A \$10,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente Georgia to DEF supported student participation in Farm to School activities. The initiative, launched last year, is an effort to connect Decatur schools with local farms to help improve student nutrition and engage students in the practice of farming.

A Chance to See D.C., Close Up

As a fourth grader, Diamond Perrin learned about elections and became fascinated with the Electoral College. Over the years, her interests expanded to include anything having to do with civics, government and other cultures. Social studies was her best subject, which was reflected in high scores on standardized tests.

So it didn't surprise her mother, Stacy Perrin, that Diamond wanted to participate in Close Up during her freshman year at Decatur High School. Members of the school's Close Up Club travel to Washington D.C. for a week of tours and workshops with kids from around the country.

But with Diamond already active in other activities such as volleyball, money was tight. Stacy Perrin told her only child: "We're strapped." Diamond assured her mother she would raise money herself. And she did.

She organized shelves at friends' homes and babysat. She sent letters to family friends. And she was one of four Decatur High students who received assistance from the Close Up Club, thanks to a donation from the Decatur



Education Foundation.

Diamond says her trip to the nation's Capitol was life-changing. She cried during a tour of a Civil War exhibit. "It was so sad that a country would fight against each other, and so many people would die," she says.

She loved hanging out with her roommates from Michigan. "We got along so well, it was like I had known them for a long time."

The trip helped cement her commitment to community service. "Whatever I do, I want to help people," she says. "Right now, I feel like I should be giving back."

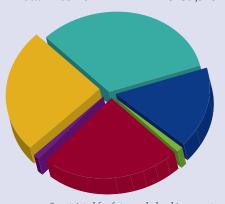
In addition to volleyball and Close Up, Diamond participates in Girl Scouts, lacrosse, Key Club and yearbook. She hopes to attend college in Michigan, Pennsylvania or Massachusetts.

2009 Audit Report

Programs	\$149,643
Programs Fundraising	\$149,643 \$19,365
0	\$19,365

Income

Total Income \$	259,525
Other	\$3,711
Investment income (restricted*)	\$62,158
Investment income (unrestricted)	\$2,906
Fundraising events	\$40,724
Contributions (restricted)	\$85,145
Contributions (unrestricted)	\$64,881



* restricted for future scholarship payouts

A Creative Tribute

Becky Blankenship was a force for the arts and had a passion for politics. A Decatur resident for more than four decades, she served as Queen Mother of



a local chapter of the Red Hat Society, a social club known for its trademark lunches, teas and red hats. When the beloved DHS Class of 1957 alumna died unexpectedly of pneumonia in January 2010, her friends wanted to honor her memory. They worked with the Decatur Education Foundation to identify an appropriate tribute gift and raised \$2,500 for the project. With the Foundation's assistance, art display cases will be installed in the new DHS art room after renovation is completed in 2011.

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Thank You for Your Service

Bob Wilson

dedication of these original or impact will be felt in Decatur for years to come.



Andrea Arnold





Lindsay Jones Paula Herrema



Anthony Powers



Roy Reese



John Joyner

Marty Sadler





Leah Vaughan



Students were not the only honorees at the DEF Scholarship Dinner. The Foundation named its Youth Fund in honor of Mary Miller (shown at right with DEF Chair Leslie Munson), retired director of recreation for the City of Decatur. Mary served on the DEF board, and the Mary Miller Youth Fund provides scholarships to participants in the city's youth camps and after-school programs.

DEF also celebrated several key volunteers by presenting them with Foundation Friend awards. DEF Chair Leslie Munson presented the award to Gail Vogel (photo at right), who served the Foundation in a number of volunteer capacities. Also honored were Artie Macon, who generously donated Banfi wines to DEF events; and Bill Andrew and Nancy Condon, who designed and developed the new DEF website, www.decatureducationfoundation.org.



Carol Morgan



Eric Willis





The commitment and long-serving members of the

board helped to make DEF a vital organization whose

Candler Broom Susan Cobleigh Jim Eley Bill Funk Gayle Gellerstedt Lyn Menne Jimmy Smith Judy Turner Sara Turnipseed



Han Choi



Elizabeth Kiss

Rich Mahaffey

HONOR ROLL OF SUPPORTERS 2009-2010 Sept. 1, 2009, to Aug. 31, 2010

\$5,000 +

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\$2,500-\$4,999

DHS Class of 1957 Bill Funk and Gayle Gellerstedt Aaron and Michele Hillegass Henry Luce Foundation, Inc. Charlie and Elizabeth Orth Sara and Bill Turnipseed Bob and Lynda Wilson

\$2,000-\$2,499

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\$100-\$249

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