

A close-up photograph of a young girl with blonde hair, smiling. She has a green leopard face paint on her right cheek. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a playground or outdoor setting with a yellow pole.

# Thanks to you...

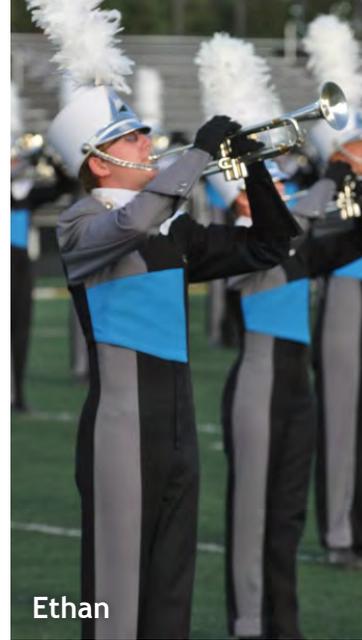
*Photo: Kara Johnson*

Seventh graders are newly prepared to face their fears, connect with each other and work together. A boy with cerebral palsy has a chair that enables him to interact better with others. Parents who had little knowledge of technology are more skilled at computing – and more involved in their kids’ digital worlds. A high school junior knows what it’s like to perform across the country with an elite drum and bugle corps. Third graders have a better grasp of math. Young astronomers have seen Jupiter. A world-renowned author came to town and read to Decatur students. Eighteen students set off for college with scholarships. Fifth-grade girls are facing adolescence with a new perspective. And in so many other ways, the children and youth of Decatur are reaching their full potential.

**IMPACT  
REPORT  
2011-2012**

# Thanks to you...

**Z**ach, Windsor, Alexis and Ethan expanded their worlds. Four Decatur High students will never forget summer 2012. That's because they received DEF grants to venture outside Decatur into novel summer experiences. Zach Loehle studied biology at the Sewanee Environmental Institute in Tennessee. Windsor Jones competed in the global finals of a creative problem-solving tournament, also in Tennessee. Alexis Williams traveled to Fordham University in New York to attend a theater-focused leadership program. And Ethan Craft traveled the country with the acclaimed Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corps. Donations from the DHS Class of 1961 funded all of the student grants.



Ethan



Zach

*"The program helped me explore and enlarge my passions, changing the way I view the world and the direction I want to steer my life. I now know that I want to be an ecologist or biologist, and that I want to work outdoors, in forests and lakes and on mountains. I learned about the facets of environmental science and can appreciate each facet. The Pre-College Program was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had."*

— Zach Loehle



Alexis



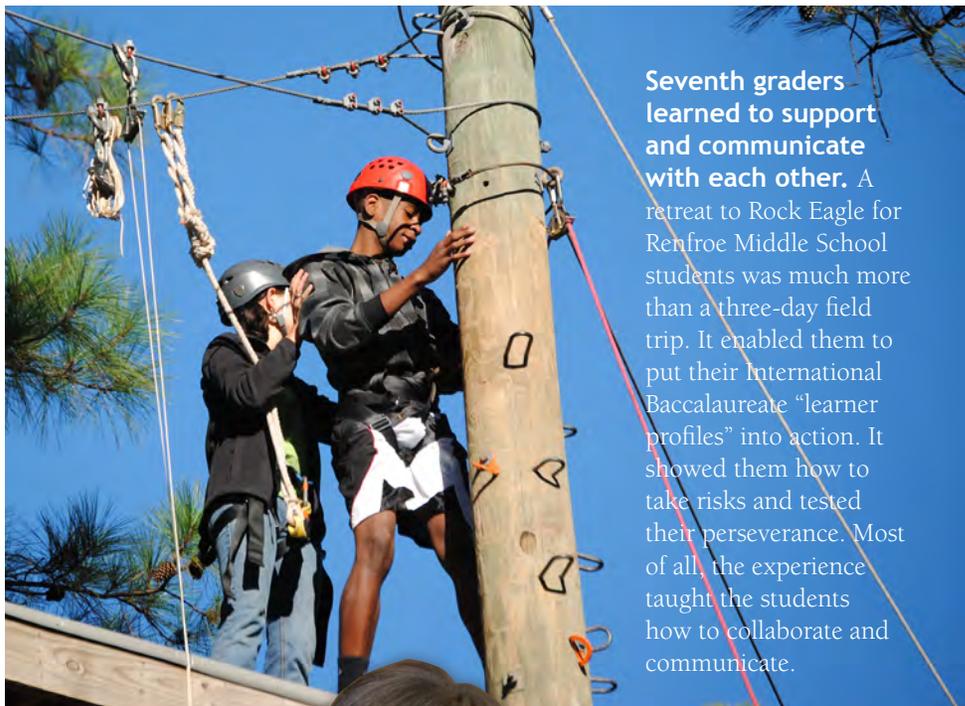
Windsor



**Justin got more freedom to interact.** Because of cerebral palsy, Justin Ware, a Winnona Park 4-year-old, faces many challenges other kids don't. This summer, Justin needed a specially designed chair to allow him to be out of his wheelchair and interact more fully with others. A lack of insurance coverage, however, meant Justin's family would have to postpone getting this critical piece of equipment. DEF stepped in and bought Justin a new chair. Not only does he have added comfort and support – he's gained the flexibility to engage better with family and friends. **Note:** Over the past seven years, DEF's Honniker Fund has helped meet the urgent needs of more than 120 students.

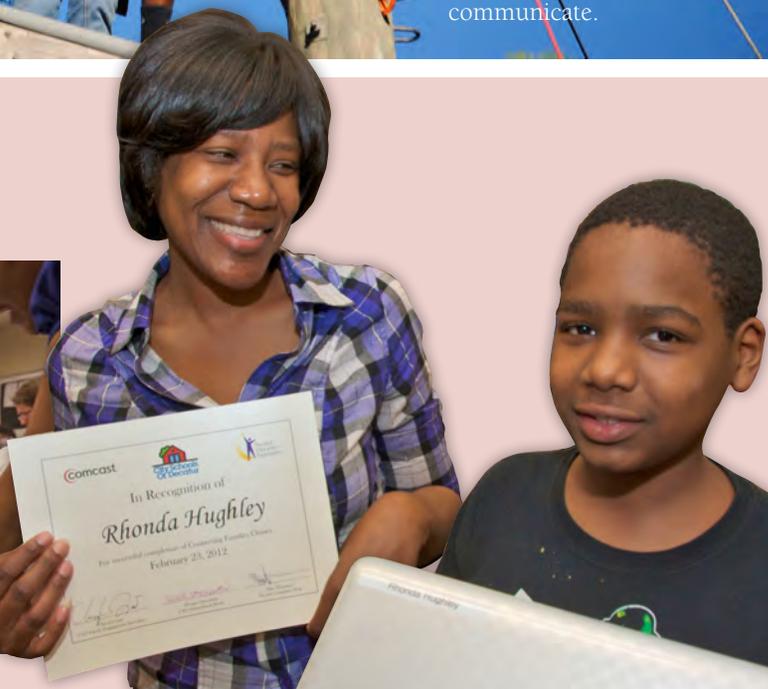


**K-3 students interacted with a world-famous author.** Norton Juster, celebrated author of *The Phantom Tollbooth*, visited two Decatur schools as part of On the Same Page, a community-wide reading program sponsored in part by the foundation. DEF funds helped provide more than 600 books to students in need. Left: Clairmont student Hoang Yen Nguyen meets the author up close.



**Seventh graders learned to support and communicate with each other.** A retreat to Rock Eagle for Renfroe Middle School students was much more than a three-day field trip. It enabled them to put their International Baccalaureate "learner profiles" into action. It showed them how to take risks and tested their perseverance. Most of all, the experience taught the students how to collaborate and communicate.

**Parents and families deepened their computer knowledge.** Laptop computers and workshops offered through Connecting Families, a partnership between the Foundation and City Schools of Decatur, help parents of Decatur children and youth become more technologically savvy. Pictured here are Rhonda Hughley and son Brandon Benton after participating in one of the workshops.



# Thanks to you...

## College Heights ECLC kids got new art supplies.

Scissors, glitter sticks, markers and crayons were among the tools of creativity donated by guests of Oakhurst residents Larry Kosten and Kyle Williams. For the past several years, the two have held a New Year's Day brunch to collect supplies for the young students at the Early Childhood Learning Center.

*Photo by Mike Curtice*



## Money management got real for Decatur High students.

Graduation coach Iris Gibbons remarked that “it was like watching someone in line for his or her first roller coaster ride – excited and scared at the same time.” She was referring to 14 DHS students, most of whom had never before set foot in a bank, learning to make deposits, manage contracts and master personal finance. A DEF mini-grant provided incentives to help students meet savings goals they set to pay for senior costs such as prom and yearbook.



## Teen refugees from Tanzania experienced the South.

Decatur High sophomore Madeleine Henner organized a three-day camp for 14 refugee students from Decatur's Global Village Project this summer. The girls – three of whom had just arrived from a refugee camp in Tanzania, where they had lived for 15 years after fleeing war in the Congo – made crafts, visited Stone Mountain, swam at Glenlake Pool and enjoyed other activities Decatur kids typically experience in the summer. DEF provided support for the camp by paying for transportation and securing the generous donation of lunch from both the Oakhurst Market and Winnona Park resident Jennifer Weissman.





**Clairemont Kindergartners learned about signs, symbols and self.**

Expeditionary learning at Clairemont Elementary immersed students in an interactive experience in which they learned about representations of groups of people. Each class designed symbols for a Community Circle, and the effort, funded by DEF, evolved into the design of a flag that incorporated all symbols.

Here, students Nora Pierce, Spencer Beveridge and Aiden Martinelli display their new flag, which is proudly raised each week at the school.



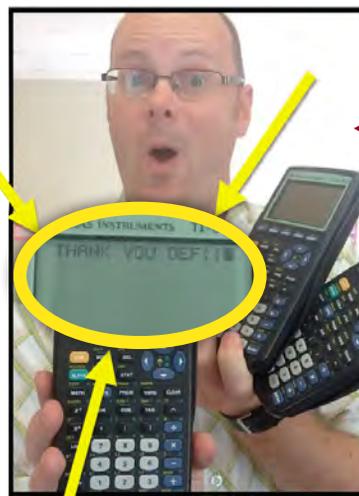
**Math was brought to life for Glennwood first graders.**

Team teachers Amelia Copp, Engevar Fant and Carla Stanford had an idea: Create a hands-on math workshop that would translate book lessons into real-life interaction for first graders. A DEF mini-grant allowed the teachers to buy supplies and assemble the small-group workshop for more than 60 students. Above: Jayden Coer (left) and Jamie Vazquez use magnets to help them visually understand fractions. Below: Elena Torres reflects as she records her mathematical “noticings” during her math workshop.



**Eighteen DHS seniors received college scholarships.**

Decatur High graduate Jessica Jones joined fellow classmates who received college scholarships established through the Foundation. Jessica is pictured here with DHS alumni Pat and Hilda Patrick, who created the Patrick Family Scholarship, a \$5,000 award that is renewable over four years. Photo by Terence Dickerson

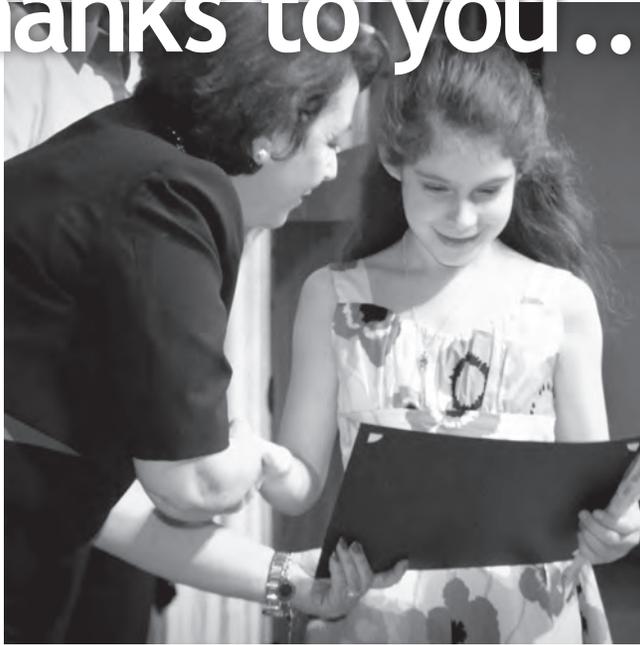


**Graphing calculators were made available!**

David Custer, who teaches math at Decatur High School, shows off the TI-83 graphing calculators that the math department was able to purchase thanks to a DEF grant. Students who can't afford to buy the calculator are now able to rent them on an annual basis for a nominal fee.

# Thanks to you...

Photos by Kara Johnson



**A community celebrated its young achievers.** Each year, the Decatur Education Foundation hosts Academic Night to honor top student performers in a number of academic subject areas. Far left: Dr. Phyllis

Edwards, superintendent of City Schools of Decatur, congratulates Zoe Falcon, a third grader at Oakhurst Elementary who won the Savilla Gowing Composition Award. Inset: Christopher Rosselot, a fifth grader at Fifth Avenue Academy, proudly displays his physical education award with Dr. Edwards.



**Girls gained insight into the “drama years.”** DEF brought Haley Kilpatrick, founder of national nonprofit GirlTalk, to Decatur to engage a crowd of more than 300 girls and parents on the topics of bullying, body image, friendships and navigating the challenges of girlhood with confidence. Haley was just 15 when she got the idea for GirlTalk, a peer-to-peer mentoring program that inspires high school girls to become positive role models to younger girls. Here, Haley poses with Fifth Avenue students Phoebe McNeely, Katie Meyer, Skylar Jackman and Jennifer Capriola after signing copies of her book *The Drama Years*.

**High school astronomy was made more interactive.** DEF's purchase of several refractor telescopes is bringing astronomy classroom lessons to life. Here, DHS students peer at the planet Jupiter at a viewing session in the school's parking lot. DHS science teacher Cris Hellerstein wrote the Foundation: *Last night was absolutely one of the best experiences of my teaching career. I watched kids get excited about science. They helped each other, without my prompting, and then turned around with HUGE smiles when they got to see something new.*



Photo by David Naugle



**Decatur's youngest students witnessed the development of life.** How chickens develop from egg embryos to chirping chicks was revealed to students at College Heights ECLC, thanks to a DEF grant. Through the project, students researched breeds, made predictions, explored life cycles – even learned how to care for the living chicks. Here, Anna Garstka and Chandler Jones hold two of the chicks, Smarty and Martha. Above right: Ethan Johnson, Alex Hogben, Madsen Smith, Anna Garstka, Chandler Jones, Max Cooper, Luke Altman, Max Lawson, Earlina Syed, Barron Scott, Heath Rowland, Carsten Meyer, Ilana Klopper, Sophie Canter and Cameron Dickson. Right: Chandler Jones monitors instruments to observe the first signs of a chick hatching.



Photo by Terence Dicherson



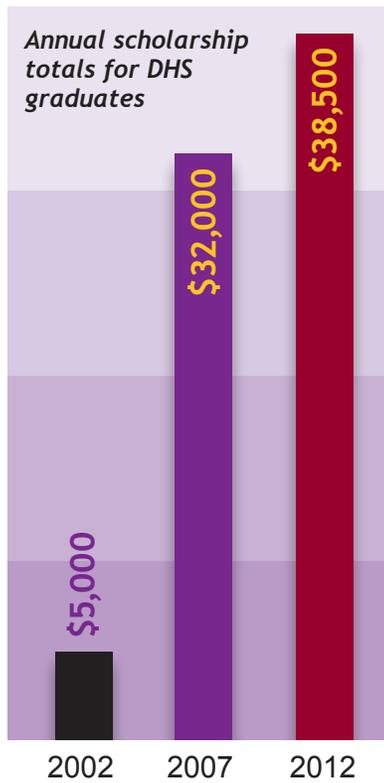
**Nine students became better equipped to continue their learning.** That's because they received laptop computers through DEF's Tools for Success program. Dale Gonzalez (rear, right) of Dell Computer was an avid supporter of the fundraising effort, for which Dell provided a matching grant. Pictured with Dale are Oliver Wasni, Nerferti Williams-Ward, Chris Hambie, Tamara Alnedawi, Thanishia Baker, Shala Hughes, Charice Stroud and Ashleigh Rasheed. DHS junior Khalid "Wali" Mohammed (inset), was also awarded a laptop, which he immediately put to good use for schoolwork, college research and helping his mom find a new job.





## A decade of impact

This year the Decatur Education Foundation marks 10 years of providing programs that impact the children and youth of Decatur. Here are a few examples of how DEF has made a difference in those 10 years.



- Books purchased for economically disadvantaged students: **25,000**
- Grants awarded to teachers to support innovation: **\$220,000**
- College scholarships awarded to 89 DHS graduates: **\$309,500**
- Student EdVenture grants awarded to help fund enrichment activities outside the classroom: **\$20,000**

# You give.

You write checks and hold fundraisers and share talents and donate time. You sponsor and participate in community events. You give. Generously.

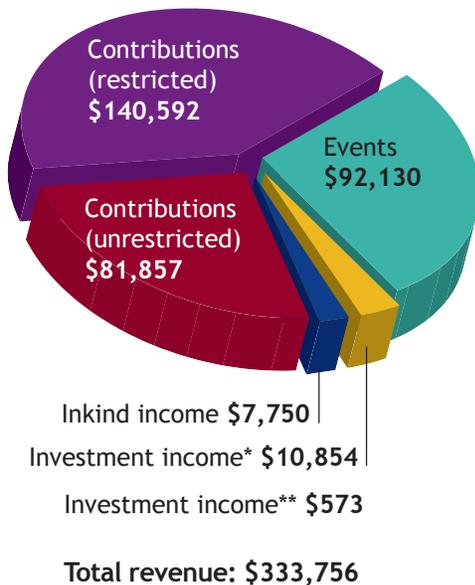
# We invest.

We put your gifts to work. We remove obstacles from the path of learning. We provide teachers with resources to try new approaches. We fuel personal effort. And we create the leverage needed to bring even more support for the children and youth of Decatur.

# They grow.

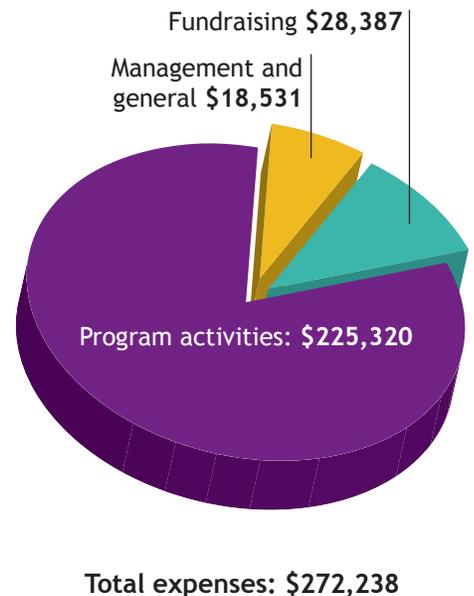
They stretch and stride. Seek and explore. Question and reason. Think and do. Most of all, Decatur's future leaders grow. *Thanks to you!*

## Where funding comes from...



\*restricted for future scholarship payout  
\*\* unrestricted

## ...and how it's put to work



Source: 2011 audited financial report

# DEF's Team

Two incredibly hard-working professionals, Gail Rothman and Nia Schooler, work side-by-side with a board of community leaders fueled by the dedication and talent of scores of volunteers. This is the team that Decatur's children and youth can count on.



Gail Rothman  
Executive Director



Nia Schooler  
Administrative and  
Volunteer Coordinator



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Micki Price-Havard



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Maureen Richmond



Karen Riggs



Todd Speed



Eric Toole



Leah Vaughan



Marc Wisniewski

## SPECIAL THANKS...

To these dedicated board members who completed their terms in May 2012



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Carol Morgan



Kathie Pedersen



Tony Powers



Marty Sadler

# Thank You! Honor Roll of Supporters 2011-2012

*Gifts made Sept. 1, 2011, to July 31, 2012*

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\*Participant in City Schools of Decatur payroll gift program



## In memory and honor:

The family of Imani Thompson-Twine created DEF's 13th scholarship fund to honor the life of Imani (inset below), a member of the DHS Class of 2011 who passed away from a heart infection while attending the Governor's Honors Program. DHS senior Lexis Shields, the first recipient of the scholarship, dined with members of Imani's family at the Foundation's annual meeting.



*Photo by Terence Dickerson*

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## Adult prom — take 2!

Decatur residents got their glamour on at the second annual Decatur Adult Prom, themed “Welcome to Hollywood.” Held this year at Decatur marketing firm Function, the event began as a grassroots effort to raise funds to purchase laptops, technology training and Internet connectivity for low-income families in

Decatur. For many Decatur residents, the event is a chance to revisit (or redo) the prom of yesteryear. Above: Aaron and Michelle Hillegass dance the night away – Aaron served as the evening’s DJ and Michelle oversaw the prom’s Hollywood theme and décor.

*Photos above and at right by David Naugle  
 Photo below by Russell Kaye*



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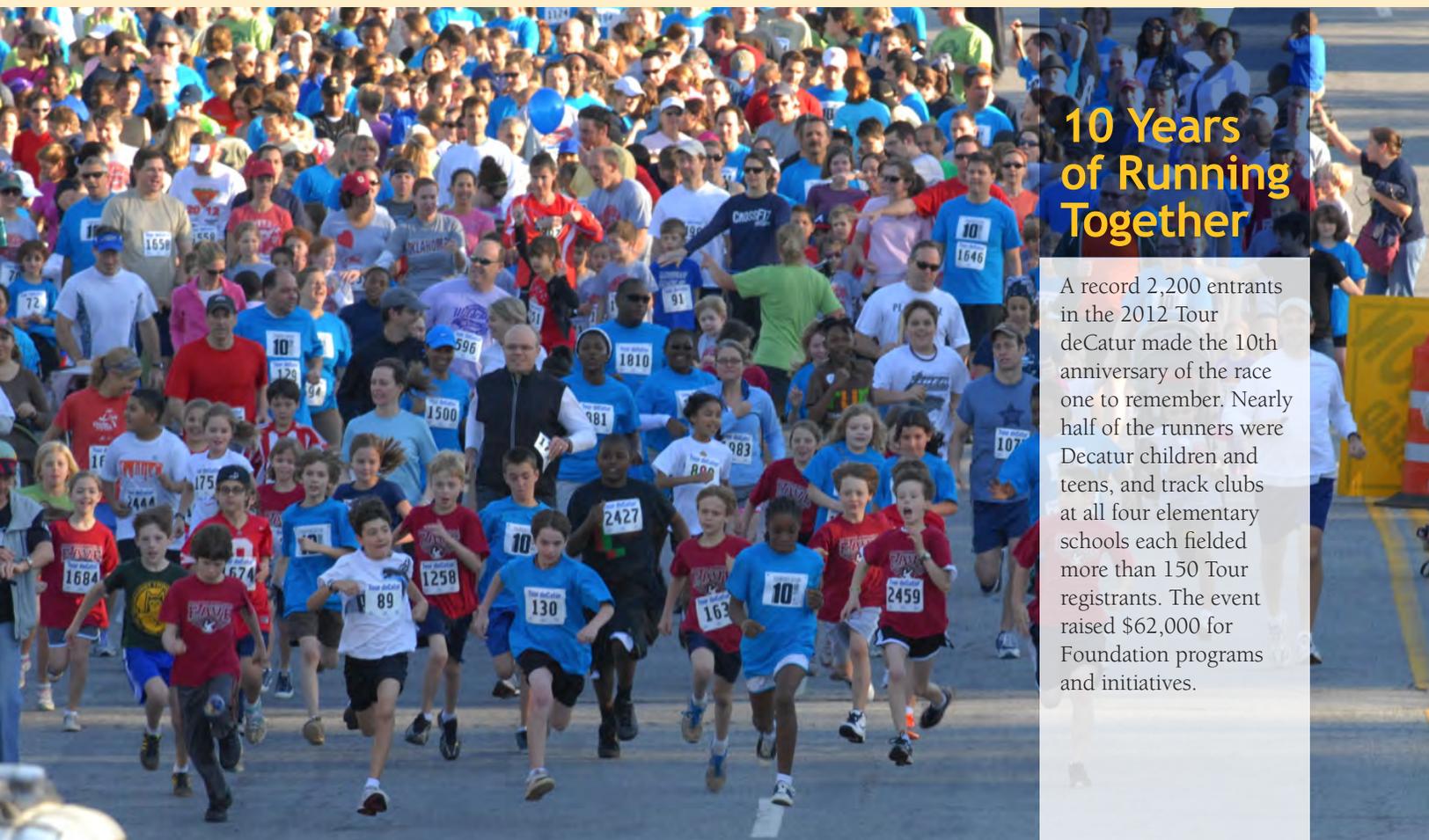
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## 10 Years of Running Together

A record 2,200 entrants in the 2012 Tour deCatur made the 10th anniversary of the race one to remember. Nearly half of the runners were Decatur children and teens, and track clubs at all four elementary schools each fielded more than 150 Tour registrants. The event raised \$62,000 for Foundation programs and initiatives.

# Students giving to students

For the past several years, Decatur High social studies teacher Chris Billingsley (left) has encouraged and facilitated student support of DEF. One example: Several students, paid for participating in a mock trial competition at Emory, chose to donate their stipends to the Foundation. Here, Mr. Billingsley joins DHS students Choyce Smith, Lulu Atik and ADarius Najeullah in presenting DEF Executive Director Gail Rothman with a \$1,200 check in memory of DeJuan Parker, Madison Lewis and Ellen Nettles, all former DHS students who passed away. Decatur High's Conservative Club also donated \$125 to DEF in memory of another DHS student, Imani Thompson-Twine, who died in 2011.



Lyn and Doug Menne  
Eugene and Marietta Meyers  
Jane Miller\*  
Nathalie Miller  
Anna Mirk  
Jim Moore  
Kay and Terry Myers  
Monica Nelson\*  
Rachel Newby and Michelle Hammond-Susten  
Wylie Nichols  
Neil and Lynne Norton  
Ken and Molly Nuttall  
Siobhan O'Connor  
Megan and Darin Olson  
Oracle Corporation Matching Gifts  
Judd and Marion Owen  
Judy Palmer  
Christopher Parizo\*  
Brenda Parker\*  
E. Daily Parr  
Pat and Hilda Patrick  
Connie\* and Greg Perry  
Joseph Perz and Fleur Hartmann  
Amy and Rich Pfeufer  
Antonio Pickett  
Mark and Robin Pifer  
Pamela Pryor  
David Purselle  
Brian G. Randall  
Dee Anna Rittenhouse\*  
Steve and Lynda Roberts  
Thomas Roberts  
Mariah Robertson  
Ronnie Roe

Jay Rood  
David Rosenstein and Laura Hussey  
Ann Rushing  
Pamela Russell\*  
Steven and Nicki Salcedo  
Megan Schanding  
David C. Schunk  
Clarence and Eleanor Scott  
Mel Selcho  
Bruce Shecker  
Mary Ann Cox Sheehy  
Martha Shepherd  
Jimmy and Connie Smith  
Linda Spadaccini\*  
Bradley Smith  
Jim Lee Spano  
Carla Stanford\*  
Michele Stiger  
Tammy Stocks  
Jenni Stolarski  
Gibson Stroupe and Caroline Leach  
Toni Sulmers\*  
Sue and Frank Tetterton  
Scott and Ashley Tewell  
Derrick Thomas  
Virginia Cox Thompson\*  
Paul Timmons  
June Torrance  
Evelyn Tuck  
Frank Valerio  
Paul and Gwinn Volen  
Stacy Waggoner

MORE ►

# Businesses with real star power

DEF honored three Decatur businesses in the spring with the "Star Power" award for generously supporting Foundation initiatives. Below, left to right, DEF Chair Paula Collins presents the award to Dr. Richard Reagin, of Reagin Optometric Group, which provides eyeglasses at a substantial discount to students in need; Karen and Clay Scarborough, of Fleet Feet Decatur, which donated cash and prizes and facilitated registration for DEF's Tour deCatur; and Diane Capriola, Krista Gilliam and Dave Shallenberger of Little Shop of Stories, which has been a tremendous ally in DEF's literacy initiatives.



## SUPPORTERS *CONTINUED*

Peter Wakefield  
Linda Walcott  
Yolanda M. Walker  
Tammy Washington  
Michael Waterbury  
Jim Watkins  
Richard Wilinski and Terri Kruzan  
Ian and Elizabeth Williams  
Robert and Julia Wilson  
Christine and Greg Wiseman\*  
Caroline Wood\*  
Kelly Richmond Yates  
Starr Zalanka\*

Annette Brown\*  
Leslie Brown\*  
Grace Burnett\*  
Angelic Campbell\*  
Emily Cade  
Rita G Carter  
Ruth Coody  
Bonnie and Ronald Craft  
Jean-Jacques Credi\*  
Teresa Cross\*  
Cindy Daniel  
Stacey Daniel\*  
Nick Danna  
Shirline Daubon\*  
Selena Dennard  
Toni Dixon  
Sally Dobbins  
Walt and Beverly Drake  
Colleen Dunbar\*  
John and Dawn Dunlap  
Linda Duque\*  
Sarah Elizabeth  
Sharon Ellis-Keeley  
Anna Elisabeth Engle  
Kristen Embry\*  
Anne Estes  
Douglas Faust  
Karen Flowers\*  
Lori Flowers\*

Linda Flynn  
Tara Foley  
Patricia Forero-Onofre\*  
Iris Foskey\*  
Randy Foster  
Veronica Fountain  
Juanchella G. Francis, PhD.  
Catherine Frasier  
Sandra Fuller  
Jeanette Fullard\*  
Susan Gaither  
Leslie Garrett  
Nancy Garrison  
Bryan and Beth Gartman  
Deborah and Louis Gay  
Tamara Gehle  
Martha Alice Gerstel\*  
Iris Gibbons  
Chad and Kristy Gleaton  
Allison Goodman\*  
Janice Goumillout\*  
Ray Glier and Jessie Bond  
Susan and Joseph Greco  
Sandra Grooms  
Thelma\* and Wayne Guinn  
Katharine Harber\*  
Margaret Harris\*  
David Hawk  
Gilles Herenval

Bob and Emily Herndon  
Roy "Bunky" Herring  
Dionne Hicks\*  
Lynn Holden\*  
Laquita Holmes\*  
Linda Hopper  
Kelleen Hubbs  
Ellen Hughes  
Sara Irwin  
Charmette Jackson  
Louise Jackson  
Mary James-Ricks  
Loretta Jefferson  
Faybian Johnny\*  
Alexis Johnson\*  
Francis Johnson\*  
Sara Joiner\*  
Danielle Jones\*  
Evelyn Jones  
Nancy Jones  
Riley Jones  
Stacey Jones\*  
Gloria Jones-Mobley  
Jessica Jonker\*  
John and Marceil Joyner  
Panos and Cheryl Kanes  
Wendy Keith-Ott\*  
Mary Alice Kemp  
Janet Kent

Sarah Kiesche  
Barbara Kinnemore  
Elizabeth Kustin  
Beth Lacey  
Cris Lake  
Marcia Lampe and Greg Farley  
Tamara Lane  
Robin Lee and Kevin Delaney  
Deborah Lester\*  
Alisa Lewis  
Ida Love  
Christine Lumsden  
Angie Macon  
Sabrina Manns\*  
Robin Martin  
Nekee Mathis\*  
Michelle and Brian Mattingly  
David and Pamela Maxson\*  
Mary McGoldrick  
Marty McKinnon\*  
Mary McMahan\*  
Tara Merck  
Maryanne Mitchell  
Oscar Mitchell\*  
Charles and Laura Molton  
Tiffany Moody  
Devin and Shari Moore  
Thomas Morrow

### Up to \$49

Lynn Adam  
Pat Alewine  
Gloria Ann Alexander\*  
Frank and Elizabeth Allan  
Harriett L. Alston  
Gary Anderson\*  
Max Baxley  
E. Bennett  
Dawn Bolton\*  
Angela Bonet  
Sharon Bonner  
Jane Brawley\*  
Jennifer Broman-Fulks\*

MORE ►

## A Little More Elbow Room

Sometimes, circumstances align in just the right way to create an ideal opportunity. That's what happened this year when the Decatur Education Foundation faced a barrier to growth: The Foundation had limited office space but almost unlimited need for volunteers.

Two resources came to the rescue. The first was First Christian Church, which agreed to provide DEF with expanded office space at a fraction of the cost of existing space. The second was the friends and family of Bill Funk (inset), who in 2011 generously established a fund in honor of the former DHS principal to support Foundation activities that generate repeated benefits over time.

In the summer of 2012, DEF moved its offices to First Christian, 200 Nelson Ferry Rd. Above, Pastor James Brewer-Calvert (right) welcomes DEF's Nia Schooler and Gail Rothman. And the Funk Morning Announcements Fund provided the critical support needed to expand the Foundation's volunteer initiative.



Special thanks to these businesses that provided inkind donations to make our new office comfortable and inviting.



*The Coca-Cola Company*

## Dedicated to the arts

Members of the Decatur High School Class of 1957 return to their alma mater for the dedication of a glass display case they donated in memory of classmate Becky Blankenship. The case houses works of DHS student art – a fitting tribute to Becky, who was a steadfast supporter of the arts. Inset: Members of Becky's family pose next to the new case.



John and Catherine Mullins  
 Laura Namy  
 Wanda Nesbitt\*  
 Karen Newton\*  
 Shannon O'Daniel  
 Theresa O'Leary  
 John Oshinski  
 Michelle Page-Rivera and Mark Rivera  
 Betty Painter  
 Monique Parker-Bailey\*  
 Nicki Parks\*  
 Jane Peavy\*  
 Nedra Perry\*  
 Normal Phillips  
 Paul and Catherine Pierce  
 Laura Pitts\*  
 Suzanne Plishka\*  
 Kevin and Deb Polston  
 Leigh Priestley  
 Lenora Fay M. Purcell  
 Anne Radford  
 Harold Rall\*  
 Mark Ravina and Nora Levesque  
 Jon Reese\*  
 Maureen Richmond and Jeff Berhold  
 Ralph and Rebecca Rigger  
 Olivia Roller\*  
 Rosana Rogers  
 Jennifer Rosak  
 Joann Bruce Rose  
 Ben Scott Russell\*  
 Rebecca Sample  
 Eric and Irene Sandler  
 Nkenge Ayoka Shakir\*  
 Elizabeth Sheley  
 Raymond and Lori Sheley  
 Melody Simpkins  
 Tammara Sinkfield  
 Joe and Anna Jordan Sitz\*  
 Cynthia Smith and Frank Reiss  
 David Smith

David Smith and Amy Lovell  
 Peggy Smith  
 Cynthia and Rick Snider\*  
 Patricia Solomon\*  
 John Sommer\*  
 Douglas and Alice Stark  
 Arthur Starr\*  
 Jody Steinberg  
 Jennifer Stevens  
 Victoria Stevens and John Hixson  
 Shannon Stewart\*  
 Clarence Strickland\*  
 Mary Strickland\*  
 Samuel and Elaine Strier  
 Cheryl Swanson  
 Allison and William Taylor  
 John and Jennifer Thomas  
 Authurine Thornton\*  
 Robyn Tibbetts\*  
 Eric and Linda Tumperi  
 Pilar Tyson  
 Julie Vance  
 Ninetta Violante  
 Argean Vokes\*  
 Angela Wade\*  
 Judge Frederick and Mindy Waitsman  
 Rachel Wallack  
 Willie Washington\*  
 Kim Weaver  
 Sara Weigle  
 Alison Weissinger  
 Gregory White  
 Ann Whitley and Doug Singleton  
 Kathy Whorton\*  
 David Williams\*  
 Gladys Williams  
 Kerri Williams\*  
 Julanda Thompson Wilson\*  
 Vickie Wingard\*  
 Bill Withers\*  
 Nancy Woodley\*  
 Demetrial Wright



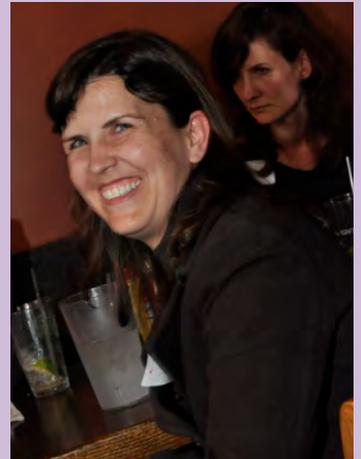
## Ringing the Bell for DEF

Clairemont-Great Lakes resident Maureen Richmond (standing, with bell) welcomes neighbors and friends to her home for a holiday get-together in support of the Foundation. Maureen joined the DEF board in the spring and has served two years as a communications volunteer. Her holiday event raised more than \$2,000 for DEF programs and activities.



## Here's to the Volunteers!

Longtime volunteer Robert Griffin (left) is honored by DEF Executive Director Gail Rothman with the Foundation's "Volunteer of the Year" award. The honor was bestowed at a reception to celebrate the many women and men who raise their hands to help DEF throughout the year. Below left: Volunteer Book Sale Co-Chair Lynne Curtrice helps a customer find a favorite book. Below right: ongoing and dependable DEF volunteer Ashley Kane.



## What else could be achieved ... thanks to you?

This Impact Report is evidence that Decatur is fortunate to have a community that actively supports its children and youth.

But each year, the Decatur Education Foundation receives requests for help that simply can't be met. Which is why our organization works to build a broader, deeper base of support.

If you'd like to make a gift – of your time, talent or treasure – we can assure you that it will make an impact. To learn more or make a gift visit [www.decatureducationfoundation.org](http://www.decatureducationfoundation.org) or contact Gail Rothman, 404-377-0641, or [gail@decatureducationfoundation.org](mailto:gail@decatureducationfoundation.org).



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404-377-0641

[www.decatureducationfoundation.org](http://www.decatureducationfoundation.org)