

IMPACT REPORT • 2010-2011



THE GIFTS Decatur gives its children and youth are more than a written check or credit-card swipe. They come in many forms: talent, ideas, money, labor – even the occasional "challenge" to encourage others to give. Together, these gifts exceed good will. They represent an investment in those who will lead our world tomorrow. And they're a living commitment from a community to help each child reach his or her full potential. In this report, you'll see a few examples of how these gifts work. While each is unique, they share something in common. They are gifts that MAKE AN MAKE AN MAKE

THE GIFT OF DIOGRAPS





to move these obstacles out of the way. The gift of progress helps ensure that the next milestone will be reached.

Obstacles sometimes get in the way of Decatur children as they pursue goals and explore new worlds. The Decatur Education Foundation uses the support of the community



Photo: Vicki Case-Holde:

Top: Students with multiple disabilities at Winnona Park Elementary needed highly tactile, "multi-sensory" books that the school had trouble affording. A DEF grant stocked the school's library with several of these books, and third graders like Gracie Rutledge, left, became "book buddies" with targeted students like Maya Pomfret, right. Teachers say students with disabilities have sharpened their pre-literacy skills as a result. Above, left: Zainab Yussuf, 6, became highly skilled at navigating the turns and straightaways inside Win-

Above, left: Zainab Yussuf, 6, became highly skilled at navigating the turns and straightaways inside Winnona Park Elementary, thanks to a walker provided by DEF. Earlier in the year, Zainab had outgrown her walker, but she didn't qualify for a replacement from the family's insurance plan. DEF stepped in, and Zainab had no setbacks in her development throughout the school year.

Above, middle: Children at College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center climb up and down a stair device funded by DEF. The stairs help them develop motor skills, which in turn affects brain development.

Above, right and right: Students and parents in five Decatur kindergarten classes donated 20 backpacks filled with school supplies to pre-K children at Our House, a local child care and support center for families who are homeless. Winnona Park teacher Donna Fortenberry sits with rising kindergartners from Our House, who also received letters from the Winnona Park students. DEF connected the school with Our House to arrange the donation.



THE GIFT OF better health

Above: One of the best ways to get children interested in their health is to give them a window into what's happening inside their bodies. A DEF-funded program helped third graders do just that by providing access to heart rate monitors. Students like Brian Lee engaged in various exercises, then measured their heart rates; over time, they saw numeric proof of their growing endurance. By the end of the project, nine out of every 10 participating students scored in the "Healthy Fitness Zone."

Below: Fifth graders from Glennwood Academy get some tennis pointers from Jabari Cole, program supervisor for Decatur Active Living. A DEF grant helped bring the students to a tennis academy at Glenlake Park and purchased equipment. Students gained exposure to a new sport and engaged in physical activity as well.





The connection between physical activity and academic achievement has been well documented:

Children who regularly engage in exercise perform better on average than children who don't. This year, DEF grants supported several health and physical education projects that set participating youth on the road to better health (and better performance).

What better way to ensure that kids exercise than to start a club? To improve the cardiovascular health of young residents of the Swanton Heights community, DEF provided funds to create the Swanton Heights Track Club, which paired each participating child with a "running mentor." Organized by school nurses Elizabeth Hanna and Sally Dobbins, the club brought "an observable improvement" in the endurance and cardiovascular strength of every student who participated. Local merchant Fleet Feet of Decatur donated running shoes to the club.

The words of authors open up new worlds for children and youth. DEF helped bring nearly a half-dozen authors to various venues this year to share their works and perspectives with a range of audiences. To further support youth literacy, the foundation provided "Book Bucks" to help kids in need build their home libraries and helped ensure that every student in City Schools of Decatur was able to experience the 2011 Decatur Book Festival.

THE GIFT OF NEW IDEAS

Winnona Park Elementary students walk to Renfroe Middle School to hear author Kevin Henkes, whose appearance DEF co-sponsored with Little Shop of Stories.



Author and educator Rachel Simmons addresses a full house of students and parents. Simmons – whose appearance was sponsored by DEF and A Cappella Books – provid

Photo: Cheryl Nahmias

Glennwood Academy fourth graders interact with author Laurel Snyder, who visited the school to share how she went from writing stories on notebook paper to publishing best-selling books. Snyder also donated 240 copies of her book – one for each student.

Author and educator Rachel Simmons addresses a full house of students and parents. Simmons – whose appearance was sponsored by DEF and A Cappella Books – provided insights on navigating the 'tween and teen years and talked about instilling courage and confidence in girls.



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Participants in Project Bookshelf kick back at Little Shop of Stories and dig into the pages of new books. The project was designed to encourage reading during summer months and other periods when students are out of school. DEF funded the purchase of "Cryers Cross," by Lisa McMann, who visited Renfroe Middle School participants in the fall.



Above: Two dozen Glennwood Academy students learned the art of Salsa dancing this year, thanks to a DEF grant. Spanish teacher Melanie Speed applied for the grant to hire dance instructor Malita Belloso, who owns a dance academy in Decatur. The project used kinetic learning – engaging students' minds through movement – to impart important lessons about the history of immigration.





Above, left: After DHS sophomore Kyle North moved to Decatur, he wanted to join the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra and continue his mastery of the viola. But the move meant he no longer had access to an instrument – the viola Kyle played was owned by his previous school. DEF put out the call for help, and several people in the community responded. One of these was Anna Mackowiak, a resident of Kirkwood, who gave Kyle a viola she no longer used. And this fall, Kyle is once again making music.

Above, right: All 2nd graders at Winnona Park Elementary experienced the rhythm and focus of drumming and learned of its role in various cultures within Africa when DEF funded a mini-grant request from music teacher Martha Tepper. The grant helped bring Colleen Caffrey and Amy Jackson in for hands-on workshops and performances during the school's weekly community circle.



Left: Oakhurst Elementary students took a different kind of expedition into geology by creating their own bronze sculptures. More than 60 third graders made sketches that were inspired by fossils. They then created sand-resin molds and filled them with molten bronze. Local metal artist Todd Fuller and his colleagues from Inferno Art Foundry took care of the smelting and pouring, which was made possible through a DEF grant.

The arts are about much more than creativity - they engage students and promote learning. This is why the Decatur **Education Foundation** consistently helps students express themselves through performing and visual arts. In their reports back to the foundation, Decatur teachers attested to the power of expression. "Students learn in different ways," wrote one. "For many students, the arts are a powerful tool to help them grasp lessons."

The facts are astounding: Fewer than a third of American eighth graders are proficient in math and science, and compared to students in 30 industrialized nations, the U.S. ranks 25th in math and 21st in science. With the support of the community, the foundation this year continued its efforts to strengthen teaching and learning in math and science. Here are just a few examples.

math/science acumen

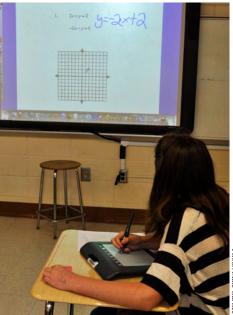
"I used to be sorta good at math," a Clairemont Elementary student wrote last spring, "but now I'm *really* good at math." So was his conclusion after attending a Math Academy (right) for 10 Saturdays at Decatur High School. The academy was one of two such programs supported by the foundation this year. The other, Math Pirates (above), engaged Winnona Park Elementary students in a variety of games and activities to sharpen their math skills.



Right: DEF helped ignite a chain reaction in 2008 after providing a grant to launch and support a science club and three Lego robotics teams at Renfroe Middle School. One of those teams reached the state finals in its first year – and since then, the program has exploded. Decatur now has nearly a dozen teams from Fifth Avenue Academy, Renfroe and DHS competing in robotics competitions. A merger between DHS and a team from the Georgia Robotics Alliance may even be in the works, which would bring robot parts, sponsors and mentoring to the high school team.



Right: Everyone remembers the days of math class, when one student worked a problem at the chalkboard while the rest of the class watched. But for Renfroe Middle School eighth graders, every student gets to work on the problem at the same time. A grant from the foundation enabled Renfroe teachers to buy interactive tablets for eighth graders to use. Called ActivSlates, the handheld tablets feed information directly to an interactive whiteboard (ActivBoard) mounted on the classroom wall.



Decatur students often have the opportunity to go on field trips, but not every student can afford to participate in these learning excursions. As a result, the foundation occasionally fills the gap by providing scholarships to offset travel costs and give students the gift of experience.

THE GIFT OF EXPERIENCE

Above: Talore Vaughn and other Decatur High School students experience the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. The students participated in a five-day visit to the nation's capital through the Close-Up program, orchestrated each year by social studies teacher Chris Billingsley. In addition to experiencing historic sites, the students met with members of Congress and participated in mock governance sessions.



For the past several years, a late-winter journey to Tybee Island has been a rite of passage for Decatur fifth graders. The three-day trip allows them to experience nature up close and learn more about science and ecology. Gavriel Bailey (right) gets acquainted with local wildlife and Glennwood Academy students (above) examine pond life.



THE GIFT OF celebration

Achievement takes hard work, so it deserves to be

celebrated. The Decatur Education Foundation plays a pivotal community role in ensuring that the greatest accomplishments of Decatur students and educators are marked and remembered. Each spring brings two such occasions - Academic Recognition Night and the annual DEF Board Dinner.

Photo: Lampe-Farley



Current board members Paula Herrema (far left) and Kyle Williams (far right) with past board member Haywood Curry and Linda Curry celebrating 10 years of foundation impact.



Diondra Powers (center), 2011 recipient of the Bailey Family Scholarship, with (from left) Denise Bailey, Tony Powers, Alex Powers and Leisa Powers.



Ellie Hamalian, 2011 recipient of the Harry Edwards Class of 1960 Memorial Scholarship, with (from left) Jimmy Moore, Tom Morrow, Peggy Smith Gladding and Roy "Bunky" Herring.



Farley

Beverly Beyer (right) of Oakhurst Elementary, 2011 recipient of the Carriere Family Scholarship for Teachers, with Jane Carriere.



2011 STAR Student Mallory Little with her STAR Teacher, Robyn Tibbetts.



Outstanding Teachers of the Year from Left: Kim Jeffreys, Julanda Thompson, Wanda Nesbitt, Marc Wisniewski (school board chair), Dr. Phyllis Edwards, Sabrina Manns, Laconia Massaquoi, Kristen Embry and Dawn Bolton.



DeAndre Primus, recipient of the Bill Mealor Jr. Memorial Scholarship with (from left), Bill Mealor, Stephanie Corder, Phyllis Primus, Marie Mealor, Bill Corder and Timothy Primus.



Spencer Taylor Patterson, 2011 recipient of the Glennwood Academy Instrumental Music Award, at CSD Awards Program with Superintendent Dr. Phyllis Edwards.



Klay Wissah, 2011 recipient of the Physical Education Award for Decatur High School, with Superintendent Dr. Phyllis Edwards.



Clairemont Elementary honors Volunteers of the Year for their work on Safe Routes to School. Left to right:Neil Norton, Greg Coleson, Principal Erin Wheeler and Peter Wakefield.





2011 Laptop Scholarship Winners from left: Jada' Norman, Emma Blasingame, Joseph Ali, Jessica Canty, Hibo Said, Farduwsa Hassan, Satrick Green and Aihlla Debique for Morena Debique.

Jamie Holt (center), 2011 recipient of the, Mary Elizabeth Brown Wilson Scholarship with (from left) Decatur Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson and Marlene Murray.



Outgoing DEF Board Chair Leslie Munson (left) with Executive Director Gail Rothman. Leslie was honored for her service: a gift was made to install a handicapped accessible bed in the outdoor classroom at College Heights in recognition of Leslie's passion for early childhood education.

THE GIFT OF COMMUNITY

Bringing people together in the name of Decatur's children and youth is important.

Cars.

So throughout the year, the foundation stages events that connect people with each other – in learning, physical activity and celebration. Each event strengthens the fabric of community and takes us closer to helping each child reach his or her full potential.

Above: Nearly 2,000 runners turned out for this year's Tour deCatur, by far the largest field in the event's nine-year history. The 1-mile Fun Run and 5-kilometer race attracted runners and walkers from Decatur and beyond – including student track clubs at Decatur's schools. Mizuno served as the presenting sponsor at this year's event, which for the first time

featured team competitions.

Low Country Boil







The eighth annual Low Country Boil brought a record number of attendees in 2010. Guests dined on shrimp, sausage and other delicacies of the low country, all prepared by chefs Michael Condon and Ray Allen of Badda Bing. And local artists Sydney Rhame and The Dammages rocked the house. The event raised \$25,000 for Decatur's children and youth.



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Left: For the first time, DEF orchestrated a community introduction to the inner workings of City Schools of Decatur. Citizens who enrolled in the first class of CSD 101 met weekly for five weeks in fall 2010 to gain a closer look at administration, budgets, governance and other issues related to Decatur's school system. The success of the program assured that a second class would convene in 2012. hoto: Mike Curt

THE GIFT OF generosity

Without the generosity of individuals, companies and organizations, there is no Decatur Education Foundation. We are grateful for your support of Decatur's children and youth.

HONOR ROLL OF SUPPORTERS 2010-2011

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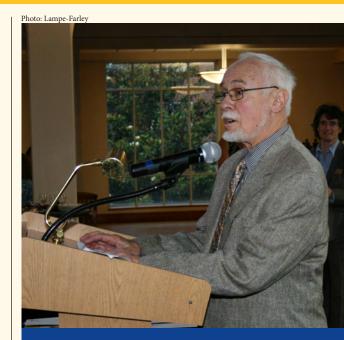
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Funk Morning Announcement Fund

It ignited as an idea and quickly morphed into a movement: the designation of a fund within the Decatur Education Foundation to honor Bill Funk, principal of Decatur High for two decades. Unbeknownst to Bill, scores of DHS alumni, friends and family collaborated on Facebook to secretly create the Funk Morning Announcements Fund in the spring. The fund – which grew to \$45,000, nearly halfway to its goal of \$100,000 – will be leveraged to expand support of the foundation or support activities that generate repeated benefits over time.

Donna Lee The Little Shop of Stories Joseph and Elizabeth Mahany Mobley Tire and Auto Service Thomas and Melissa Moore J. Tom and Carol Ellis Morgan Kimberly Moss New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church Emily Norton Joanne Nurss

Lexie and Dick Parker Renewal Design Build Julie and Rhett Rhame Rebecca Rhodes Maureen Richmond and Jeff Berhold Chantrice Rogers Alan and Meg Rosselot Lynn Scharf Schiff Hardin Foundation Chris Schwab and Melinda Simon



Tools for Success

When Decatur Metro heard that Decatur Education Foundation was raising funds to provide laptop scholarships to graduating DHS seniors they responded with a campaign on the blog called Tools for Success. Michelle Adams and Joe Mattern were inspired but they wanted to do something more than make a gift. So last spring, they staged an Adult Prom at the Solarium and dedicated the proceeds to DEF. While both efforts were a success, the need turned out to be greater than the resources – so an anonymous donor filled the gap with a \$5,000 gift. All told, the effort funded seven laptops, which were presented to students in the spring.

Isaac and Bernadette Seals Lydia Sharian Henry and Ellen Cliburn Slack Fred Slotkin Todd Speed Steinbecks - Marc Brennan Conway Thomas Marie Tingle Liz Warwick Mark Whatley Heather E. Whitman Whole Family Medicine LLC Kyle Williams and Larry Kosten John Witte Zulu Racing LLC

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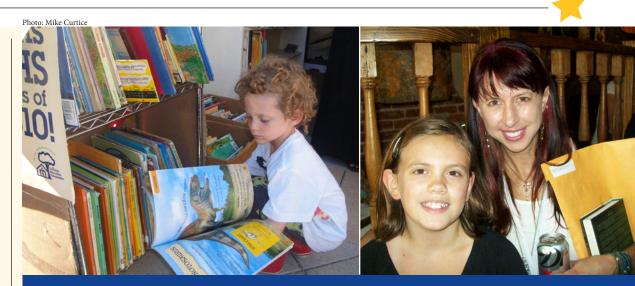
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Decatur Book Festival

An attendee at the Decatur Book Festival previews one of the thousands of children's books sold in the foundation's festival booth. The books were donated by members of the community, and volunteers worked to sort, label and sell them at a discount. Right: Author Lauren Myracle poses with Emmaline Burrell, whose mother, Jennifer, made the high bid for Myracle in DEF's "Book the Brick!" auction of authors. Seven top authors agreed to spend an hour with a top-bidding fan at the Brick Store Pub. Proceeds from both the book sale and author auction will support DEF's literacy programming.

Student Donors

Students from Decatur High class of 2014 made a little extra cash from participating as jurors in a Mock Trial competition at Emory University's School of Law. But rather than pocket the money, the students chose to give it to DEF in memory of Imani Twine, a DHS student who died from a stroke in June 2010 while representing the school at the Governor's Honors Program. Their collective gift of \$2,100 will be used to support the foundation's programs.

Dee Anna Rittenhouse

Stephanie Roach

Monica Rucker

Pamela Russell

Fessenden

Susan Sellman

Susan Simpson

Grace Song

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Duane Sprull

Jenny Stauffer

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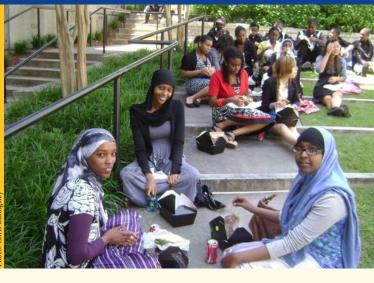
Lydia Carol Tsang

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Up to \$50

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A Holiday Tradition

Photo: Dean Hesse

Kids at College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center have plenty of supplies to inspire their creative side thanks to an annual tradition started by Kyle Williams and Larry Kosten. Each year Kyle and Larry host a New Year's Day brunch and ask guests to bring books, art supplies and financial gifts; The result— well stocked classrooms that support early learning.

Michael and Denise Burfield

Star Power Award

Marc Brennan, proprietor of Universal Joint, Steinbeck's in Oakhurst and newest ventures Oakhurst Market and Pure Station, received DEF's Star Power award at this year's board dinner in May. In the past, Marc has donated cooking equipment for the Low Country Boil and provided gift certificates for prizes in the Tour deCatur. This year, he contacted the foundation with a fundraising opportunity that netted \$4,000 for foundation programs.



Cynthia Aldridge Elizabeth Alexander Gloria Ann Alexander Jarda Alexander George Allen Kathy Allen Beth Allgood-McKinnon Doug Altizer and Gail Rothman Ianet Amos Gary Anderson Julie and Keith Arderhold Joseph Austin B2 Creative, Inc. Eric and Anne Baca Tennielle Bailev Kent and Brandi Baker Jr. Alan and Valerie Balch Melissa Barrett Wanda Belcher Matthew Berberich Diana Evans Berman Sylvia Beverly Neal and Carrie Bhamre Najah Blackwell Ruby Bock Dawn Bolton Heather Borowski Alica Brandt Iane Brawley Tim and Patricia Bricker Annette Brown John and Leslie Brown Stacey J Brown Antonio and Kentria Brown Christopher and Susan Arrington Brown Susan and Randolph Bundschu

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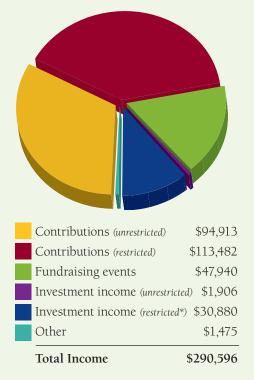
Andrew and Niurka Hettinger Dionne Hicks Elizabeth Hoffman Quentin and Lynn Holden Joanne Holden Cynthia Houston Raymond and Debra Hudgins John and Sara Hughes Wade and Emily Huie Angela James Kathy Januzelli Faybian Johnny Francis Johnson Kimberly Johnson Lavoris Johnson Twander Johnson Sara Joiner Daniel Jones Felecia Hillman Jones Jessica Jonker Kaveh Kamooneh and Rojiar Aldashi Don and Harvey Keiser Wendy Keith-Ott Mary Élizabeth Kelly James and Megan Kirkpatrick Kari Knight-Farmer Virginia Knox Heather Kunz Rebekah Abel Lamar Scarlet Lanier Bruce and Kendra Leffingwell Deborah Lester Charles Daniel and Sabrina Lilly Rochelle Lofstrand Jeffrey and Page Luther Angie Macon

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Richard and Kirsten Hawkins

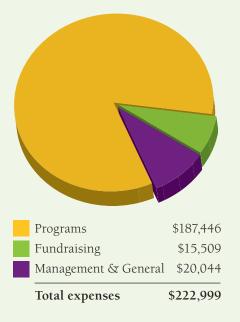
2010 Audit Report

Income



* restricted for future scholarship payouts

Expenses





50/50 Project

While planning their 50th high school reunion, members of Decatur High's Class of 1961 had a brilliant idea: encourage classmates to give \$1 for every year that has passed since graduation. The idea became the Class of '61 50/50 Project, and several members were inspired to give in multiples of \$50. The foundation is applying the gift to help cover costs for DHS students to participate in academic competitions, internships and other enrichment opportunities outside of school. Above: Two alumnae of the class of 1961 Lee McFall, a former nurse, and Dale Mobley Miller, one of the main instigators of reunion plans over the years and former kindergarten teacher, work on nametags for the reunion.

Gerard Pendrick Randy and Malinda Pennington Nedra Perry Joseph Perz and Fleur Hartmann Ana Maria Pino and Jose Manuel Gonzalez Laura Pitts Suzanne Plishka Timothy Primus Brian and Susie Spear Purcell Carlton and Rakale Quarells Jon Reese Carl G. Renfroe Middle School M. Page and Mark Rivera Bruce Roaden Bonnie Roberts Olivia Roller Margaret Roney Kenneth and Linda Rosskopf Julie Royer and Nancy Noblett Ben Scott Russell Caroline Saffo Cindy Sanders Martha Sansone Margaret Scott Kathleen and Mark Scott Nkenge Ayoka Shakir Toshi Shimizu Steven and Julie Siler

Nancie Sill Robert and Roberta Silliman Cynthia Smith and Frank Reiss Peggy Smith Richard and Rebecca Smith Diamond Smith Cynthia and Rick Snider Nathan and Sela Soldat Patricia Solomon John Sommer Louise and Robert Sparks Jennifer St. John Sally Stapleton Douglas and Alice Stark Arthur Starr Shannon Stewart Clarence Strickland Mary Strickland Jacob Strickland Margo Surovikbohnert Monica Swann William and Aleesa Talmadge Keisha Tennyson Jacqueline Theisen Deanne Thomas Julanda Thompson Virginia Cox Thompson Authurine Thornton Robyn Florence Tibbetts

Robert Timmins and Nancy Ruggeri Kathleen Turaski Nancy Turnipseed Mary Turninseed Becky Vaughan Argean Vokes Angela Wade Willie Washington Robert and Karen Watts Alison Weissinger Agnes Wells Erin Wheeler John and Carrie Wheeler Shannon Wheeler Patrick and Lisa Whelchel Kathy Whorton Laura Willard David E. Williams Kerri J. Williams Arlethea Williams Vickie Wingard William Withers Brett and Angela Witz Nancy C. Woodley Yanna Yannakakis Ilene Zeff Chris Zimbardo

THE GIFTS OF talent + time

The Decatur Education Foundation is able to accomplish so much because so many people give their talent and time. Throughout the year, hundreds of people give themselves to the cause, and in a kaleidoscope of ways.



Drop by the Decatur Education Foundation's office any given day, and you'll find several volunteers like Robert Griffin (left) helping with a variety of tasks. From maintaining databases to orchestrating mailings to processing payments, these priceless volunteers keep the foundation running. Thanks to all those who generously give to the foundation's cause throughout the year.



Special Thanks

Many of the photographs you see in this report and on the foundation's website are the excellent work of Mike Curtice. Mike has donated hundreds of hours photographing the community that is the foundation – its benefactors and beneficiaries. For his superb talent and generous gift of time, Mike was the second recipient of DEF's Star Power award last spring.

Board of Directors 2010-2011

The board of directors for the Decatur Education Foundation is truly a working board. In addition to building support and providing expertise, each board member maintains responsibility for a signature foundation project during the year.





Paula Collins, Chair Leah Vaughan, Chair-Elect Andrea Arnold



Robert Di Vito

Shelley Parnes







Cinque Axam



John Joyner



Michael Baxter



Micki Price-Harvard



Roy Reese







Marty Sadler





Eric Toole

and help ensure that every child in Decatur has opportunities to reach

Contributions are tax-deductible his/her full potential. Thanks for your support!

Todd Speed

Donate online at www.decatureducationfoundation.org or send your check to: Decatur Education Foundation, 315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.,





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