



the way we. give

as a community is generous – in time, skill and dollars. It's personal, individual, sometimes anonymous; and just as often, it's communal (we in Decatur do like to have a good time together). It can be creative: an idea dawns, inspiration strikes, and we act. It might be utterly spontaneous or woven into weekly routine. It's born from the heart, or the mind, or both. The point is, when it comes to expanding the view and experience of our children and youth, *Decatur gives in so many ways.*

**IMPACT
REPORT
2012-2013**



New life for older books – and new funds for literacy



Photo: Alisa Lewis

Readers-to-Reader is the name of DEF's annual book sale at the Decatur Book Festival – and for good reason. Each year the Foundation collects thousands of gently used children's books from readers across the community, then sells them at a low cost to inspire and encourage more kids to read. The 2012 sale generated nearly \$6,000 to support other literacy efforts from DEF.

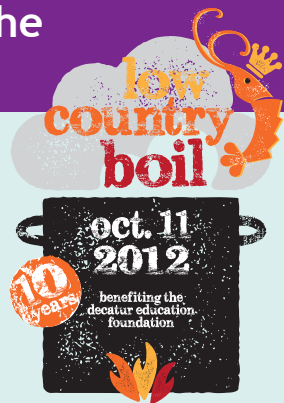


Photo: Arthur Ratliff



Photo: Mike Curtice

Did you get your fill at the Low Country Boil?



More than 400 people turned out to support DEF's 10th annual Low Country Boil in October 2012. Chefs Michael Condon and Ray Allen of Decatur's Badda Bing again worked their culinary magic; and beer donated by Victory Brewing and wine provided by Universal Joint were enjoyed as well. The "Gourmet-and-Getaway Auction" presented by NuBarter – featuring experiences and items generously donated by Decatur residents and businesses – helped the event generate more than \$32,000 for DEF programs.

Above left: Volunteers Marifel and Ralph Verlohr take a quick break from serving guests. Above right: Chef Ray makes sure there's plenty of shrimp to go around.

Good-time generosity in Oakhurst

Decatur kids celebrated St. Patrick's Day 2013 at an activity tent behind Steinbeck's in Oakhurst. The owners of Steinbeck's hosted the event, which was staffed by DEF volunteers. Funds from face painting and other activities supported teacher innovation grants and other Foundation programs.

Photo: Kara Johnson



A historic moment — and gift

Then-Mayor Bill Floyd addressed Decatur residents from the community bandstand as he kicked off last year's Nov. 8 announcement of a \$500,000 gift to DEF from an anonymous donor. The gift – the largest in the Foundation's history – targets a range of educational programs that provide student support and enhance learning across the school district.

Photo: Arthur Ratliff



Fifty years later: Going back (and giving back)

Members of Decatur High's Class of 1962 – gathered here as part of their 50-year reunion – participated in a 50/50 fundraising campaign last fall. The classmates' gift of nearly \$2,000 helped fund several educational adventures, or Decatur Student EdVentures (page 8), in summer 2013.

Join the community of giving

- ★ **Share your talents** by serving on one of our new Community Committees in Outreach, Programs or Communications; or volunteer in other ways. Contact Nia Schooler at nia@DecaturEducationFoundation.org.
- ★ **Make a financial gift** at DecaturEducationFoundation.org or by sending in the form on the back page of this report.
- ★ Contact Gail Rothman at Gail@DecaturEducationFoundation.org to **discuss other ways to give.**

A gift of support for the next step in life

Over the years, people throughout the Decatur community have established scholarship funds for graduating DHS seniors. This year, the number of such funds reached 17, and the scholarships were awarded at the Foundation's Celebration of Excellence event in May. The annual celebration also recognizes volunteers, educators and others for their contributions – such as Decatur residents Dale and Jennifer Gonzalez. The couple continued their support of “Tools for Success,” which provides laptop computers for college-bound graduates, an effort matched by Dell Computer Corp.

Top Right: Manal Sidi joins Mary Lou and Michael Comer, who presented her with the first Calvin and Mary Renfroe Memorial Scholarship, named for Mary Lou's parents. Manal was the first DHS graduate in the Foundation's history to receive two scholarship awards – she was also awarded the Sarah Lynn Woolf Memorial Scholarship.

Far Right: Dale and Jennifer Gonzalez pose with college-bound DHS graduates receiving laptop computers. First row, from left: Jennifer Gonzalez, Manal Sidi, Breanna Jones, Fatma Alnedawi and Fikrea Tesema. Back row: Kierra “Imani” Morgan, Dale Gonzalez, Cordele Jackson and Greg Thomas.

Right: Valedictorian Clare Lombardo, recipient of the Harry Edwards Class of 1960 Memorial Scholarship, is pictured here with former classmates of Harry Edwards Jimmy Moore and Peggy Gladding Smith (DHS Class of '60).



Photos: Terence Dickenson



The power of a hand that's raised

Because the Foundation has just two full-time staff members, the impact of volunteers can't be overstated. From staffing the office to staging events to sharing talents, volunteers are why the Decatur Education Foundation is a true community effort.

Left: DEF's volunteer office crew pauses and poses after receiving the Foundation's 2013 Star Power Award, given to individuals and businesses who step up and lend a hand. From left: Nia Schooler, DEF administrative and volunteer coordinator; Paula Collins, 2012-13 DEF chair; office volunteers Teri Wall, Queata Cassell, Talia Meyers, Robert Griffin, Kathryn Purselle, Tamara Jones, Amy Pfeufer, Anne-Christine Armstrong; Gail Rothman, executive director.





Photo: City Schools of Decatur

Tour deCatur 2013: Wet and wonderful

Despite heavy rain, nearly 1,000 runners jogged and slogged through the 2013 Tour deCatur, which generated more than \$80,000 for the Foundation. Participants gathered in Decatur High's cafeteria – and the youngest ran the “Tot Trot” in the high school's hallways.

Above: Teachers and staff at Oakhurst Elementary pose with their Golden Shoe Trophy, given to the school with the highest percentage of employees participating in the Tour (74 percent for Oakhurst). Inset: Reagan Johnson (left) and Nubia Issa of Clairemont Elementary were recognized for generating a combined \$2,700 in support of their Tour participation through DEF's Win!Win! program. Half of the proceeds went to their school, the other half to DEF. Right: Despite the rain, the 2013 Tour brought out the smiles.



Photo: Kara Johnson



Photo: Alisa Lewis

Parties with a Purpose

When Decatur residents welcome neighbors and friends into their homes to benefit the Foundation, it's the perfect picture of community support. Case in point: DEF board members Jill Joplin and Maureen Richmond co-hosted a coffee to collect gently used books for the Foundation's Reader-to-Reader book sale. (The sale itself raised \$6,000 for literacy programs.) And for three years, Richmond has hosted a holiday get-together in her home, raising more than \$2,000 each year.

Jill Joplin (left) joins guests Michelle Mattingly, Elizabeth Moore and Kelly Berry.

why we give

is evident every day. We see it all around Decatur – in the faces peering out of school bus windows, in the teens gathering in packs or pairs, in the stroller-bundled infants and swing-set toddlers. These young people will lead our nation and world next; but right now, they need their community to add shape to their youth. They need us to move obstacles from their paths; to stretch them and challenge them; to help them see and think about a bigger world. *They need us to care.*



One more child gets an early start

For some Decatur families, the cost of early childhood education can be prohibitive. This year, DEF was able to provide a full tuition scholarship of \$12,000 to a family in need so their child could be enrolled in the 1-year-old class at College Heights ECLC. That child will move into the early Head Start class next year, then the Head Start class, then finally the state-funded pre-K program — all to help him start kindergarten with the tools he needs to be successful.



Stirring and spurring the entrepreneurial spirit

DEF launched a novel program this year to award students “microloans” of \$50 to \$300. The students use proceeds from their business ventures to pay off the loans (or they provide community service, should their ventures underperform). The first microloan went to Morgan Pope of the 4/5 Academy at Fifth Avenue, who purchased supplies for her jewelry-making business. Morgan’s business plan included donating a share of profits to the United Methodist Children’s Home.



Photo: Mike Curtice



Photo: City Schools of Decatur

The tools and training to teach better

Decatur's teachers are a target of DEF support, and throughout the year, DEF funds training and equipment to help them stay abreast of new methods and practices.

Left: Teachers from City Schools of Decatur's K-5 schools learn new ways to teach mathematical concepts by getting students to manipulate objects. The training was part of a two-year Math Endorsement Course sponsored by DEF. Right: Special education teachers Dana Jackson, Philip Breaux and Jana Johnson-Davis show off the mini tablets they received to support instruction. A major gift awarded to the Foundation earlier in the year funded tablets for all special ed teachers.

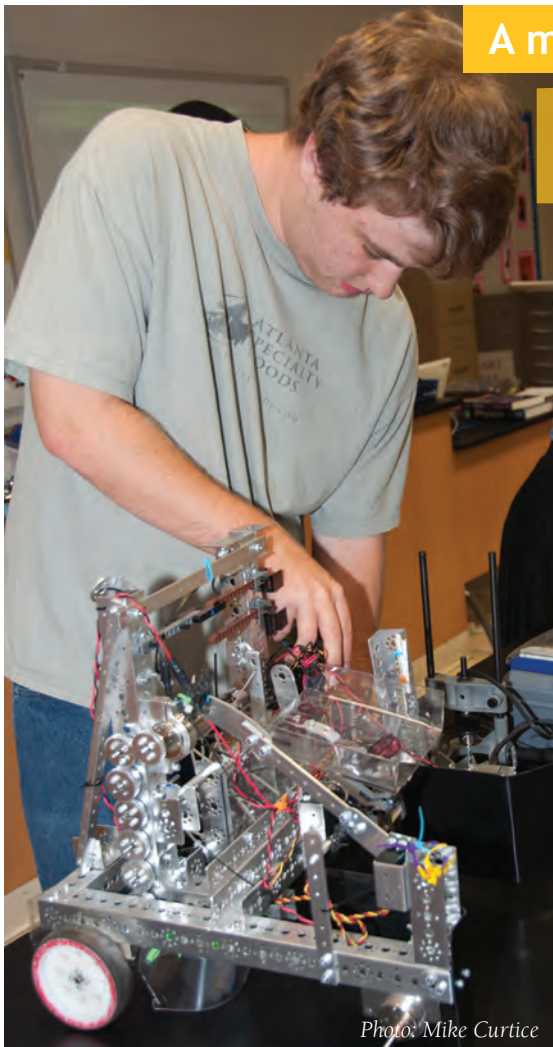


Photo: Mike Curtice

A meteoric rise in robotics competitions

Decatur High's Robotics team took first place out of 60 teams in regional competitions this year, a feat that earned them a spot in the World Championship held last April in St. Louis. DHS sent three teams to the competition – a remarkable accomplishment given that the program is just a few years old. A DEF grant in 2008 seeded a STEM club at Renfroe Middle School, out of which the robotics team grew. Since then, the Foundation has continued its support of robotics to build participation, and the program now fields multiple teams of Decatur students in grades 4-12. Here, Billy Jacobsen fine-tunes a robot early in the 2013 school year.

A closer look at Spanish art and culture

Students and families took in an art exhibition as part of Renfroe Middle School's annual Festival de Arte y Cultura in May. In addition to visual arts, attendees enjoyed food, skits, poetry and musical performances at the festival, which was supported in part by a DEF Teacher Innovation Grant.





How I spent my summer EdVenture

Seventeen students had a crucial piece of their 2013 summer learning experience funded with a DEF EdVenture grant. The Foundation awarded more than \$10,000 in grants to offset the costs of travel, conference registrations and other expenses. Here are a few students' descriptions of their experience; more are online at DecaturEducationFoundation.org.

The three weeks I spent on my EdVenture in the Dominican Republic were possibly the best three weeks of my life. Between building two schools using collected water bottles, working in a Haitian refugee community and introducing the aquaponics agricultural technique to locals, I discovered more about the Dominican culture and more about myself. This trip has convinced me that I have the power to make a difference. – Sarah Stubbs, Decatur High School

I was able to attend the experience of a lifetime in July, when I attended the National Student Leadership Conference at American University. I already had ambitions to become a teacher, counselor or someone who is active in the education of young people. NSLC provided an action-packed week that included lectures and lessons from D.C.'s finest educators – and fun but difficult collaborative tasks. It taught me to value my passion for education and my ability to trust my own decisions. – Ethan Magnes, Decatur High School

Project Identity, a summer program at Morehouse College, helped me with my academics, and I got to stay active at the same time. In school I wasn't doing so well in math, but Project Identity helped me improve. The mentors, who were college students at Morehouse, taught me new ways to do my math. – Shakim Knight, Renfroe Middle School

My EdVenture was to a CPI Spanish Immersion School in Costa Rica. For four weeks, five days a week, the group was in Spanish class for four hours every day. We were not allowed to speak any English. This trip helped my Spanish skills and made me a lot more open-minded to new cultures. – Alec Ogihara, Renfroe Middle School



Sarah Stubbs



Ethan Magnes



Shakim Knight(right)



Alec Ogihara



Sweet music to our ears

Student musicians got a new option for learning and performing string instruments thanks to a DEF grant that helped fund a qualified teaching artist for a new after-school String Ensemble. Pictured: Joe Gilbert and Kelly Gordon practice a small group ensemble piece.



Photo: City School of Decatur

A new meaning to family connections

Students received netbook computers and parents received training in technology as the “Connecting Families” program marked its third year. The program is a partnership between DEF and City Schools of Decatur.

Above: Heather Borowski, CSD’s director of instructional media and communications, works with a program participant in the training class.



History lessons on parade!

A DEF teacher innovation grant enabled Oakhurst Elementary teacher Amy Evans Radford and her colleagues to try a new way to bring American history to life: making life-sized puppets of historical figures. The students also worked with parade and performance expert Chantelle Rytter to incorporate their puppets in the annual Oakhurst Arts Festival Parade. The lessons were part of the school’s expedition: “A Thread through American Democracy.”



Photo: City Schools of Decatur



Photo: City Schools of Decatur

Because when it comes to reading, more really is better

The commitment DEF makes to literacy takes many forms, but they share a simple guiding principle: Help Decatur kids read more. At Glennwood Elementary, DEF contributes to the school's Birthday Book Club, through which parents celebrate their children's birthdays by buying a book in their honor for the school library.



Left: Siblings LaPrincia and Keith of Glennwood show off their "birthday books." Above: At Oakhurst Elementary, students proudly display their copies of "Holes," by Louis Sachar. The award-winning author appeared at the school as part of On the Same Page, the citywide reading program sponsored in part by DEF. Inset: One Decatur student expresses thanks to DEF for promoting reading.

They didn't just sing - they prepared

When Elise Eskew joined the Decatur High staff to develop the choral music program, she wanted to be sure her students could compete at Large Group Performance Evaluation, or "Festival" as it's known. But she first needed to build the choral music library beyond what her budget would allow. With a DEF Teacher Innovation Grant, Elise was able to purchase music from the required Festival list and prepare students better for the competition. Elise sent this note to DEF: "Because of your generosity, many Decatur High choral students experienced their very first choral Festival, and others were able to continue this essential part of their choral music education begun in previous years at Renfroe Middle School."



Photo: City Schools of Decatur



Photo: Lynette Davis

Two-wheeling for a F.AVE cause

The very first FAVE Bike Derby in October 2012 brought scores of bikes out of the garage – and kids out of the house. Children of all ages participated in the Tour de FAVE, a bike rodeo, cycle stunts and trick show, bike repair and safety clinics and a kids fun zone. The community event, sponsored in part by DEF, generated funds to support educational programs at the 4/5 Academy at Fifth Avenue (FAVE).



Awakening the senses and the mind

Sharpening sensory and motor skills early in life is crucial to child development. A DEF grant provided Angela Gabriel's pre-K students at the College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center with the opportunity to hone their skills at Sensations Therafun – while their parents learned techniques to try at home with their kids.

Above left: Antonio uses strength, coordination and balance to make his way through the spider's web. Above Right: Hudson enjoys the ball pit.



Making camp with the band

Decatur High has a long tradition of cultivating a vibrant and excellent marching band. The DHS Band Parents Association provides much-needed support for the band program, but each year some students need a little additional help covering the cost to attend band camp with their peers. DEF's band camp scholarships ensure that every musician can fully participate in the camp experience.

Thank You! Honor Roll of Supporters 2012-2013

Gifts made Aug 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013

\$10,000 +

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Sycamore Consulting
The Little Shop of Stories
Martha Tepper*

*Participant in City Schools of Decatur payroll gift program



Going forward with a community behind them

Seventeen families and individuals have set up scholarship funds through DEF. Here are the 2013 Decatur High graduates who were awarded scholarships.

Andrew Beck — Bill Mealor, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Ashley Bennett — Coye Foundation Scholarship
Tanner Hendrick — Carl and Mae Renfroe Memorial Scholarship (female)
Cordele Jackson — Carl and Mae Renfroe Memorial Scholarship (male)
Zack Loehle — Mary Elizabeth Brown Wilson Scholarship
Clare Lombardo — Harry Edwards Class of 1960 Memorial Scholarship
Michelle Orabueze — Imani Thompson Twine Memorial Scholarship
Joseph Ronca — Bailey Family Scholarship for Outstanding Student Athletes
Manal Sidi — two scholarships: Sarah Lynn Woolf Memorial Scholarship and Calvin & Mary Renfroe Memorial Scholarship
Lily Spencer — Westchester Lifeskills Scholarship
Fikrea Tesema — Patrick Family Scholarship
Gregory Thomas — Blue & Gold Alumni Scholarship
Frances Wilson — Dr. Phyllis Edwards Education Scholarship
Samuel Yates — Thomas Hawk Memorial Scholarship
Also: The Carriere Family Scholarship for Teachers was awarded this year to Debra LeDoux and Laura Pitts.

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Sara and Bill Turnipseed
US Road Sports and Entertainment
of Georgia
Jeff and Leah Vaughan
Paul and Amy Weisbecker
Kate Curtis and Warren Williams
Angela Wynne
Zipcar, Inc.

\$250-\$499

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Dennis and Janel Byerly
Chris Chavez
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Robert Callner
Robert and Laurie Carter
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Courtney Clinkscales
Greg and Jennifer Cobb
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Paula Collins
The Community Foundation of
Great Atlanta
Nancy Condon and William
Andrew
Matt and Shannon Connolly
Toni Cook
Ann Strickland Cooper

Celebrating 'Super' teachers

City Schools of Decatur is known for having excellent teachers. Several times each year, CSD staff nominate their colleagues for the Superintendent's Award of Excellence. DEF recognizes these wonderful educators with customized gift baskets, which are presented during a surprise visit by Dr. Edwards.

Top right: Helen Carter, a paraprofessional at Clairemont Elementary, receives her Superintendent's Award for Excellence. Bottom left: Oakhurst Elementary Principal Mary Mack (left) joins Dr. Edwards in presenting the award to Sally Dorsett (center), Intervention parapro at Oakhurst Elementary.



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When we needed a home, the church came through

Representatives of First Christian Church in Decatur pose with their Star Power Award, presented in thanks for the extraordinary gift of affordable office space (not to mention their warm hospitality).

Pictured from left: Gail Rothman, DEF executive director; Queata Cassell, Jay and Peggy Norton, Laura and Dave Andrew, Betty and Rev. James Brewer-Calvert of First Christian; and Nia Schooler, DEF administrative and volunteer coordinator.



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Giving thanks for the extra mile

Each year, DEF gives students an opportunity to share how their teachers exceed and excel. Students of all ages submit essays to nominate teachers for an “Extra Mile” award, and the winning writers share their words with their teacher at the system-wide Academic Awards Night in May.

Top: Daveon presents an “Extra Mile” award to teacher Susanna Shewan of Glennwood Elementary. Inset: Milo and Payton join pre-K teacher Aaron Luke of College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center. Milo wrote: “Mr. Luke has a nice singing voice. When he wants our attention, Mr. Luke sings, “Hello boys and girls.” We sing it back to him. When someone in the class is crying for no reason, Mr. Luke does not get frustrated. He asks the kid to sit down quietly until they feel like they can participate.”



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