

YEAR IN REVIEW



REACHING HEIGHTS is a citizen voice for public education and a resource for the students and educators of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools. We exist because we know our students deserve the best education possible. We also know that the success of our schools is everybody's business and that successful schools are a critical part of successful communities.

SIX GUIDING PRINCIPLES DRIVE OUR WORK:

- Our children deserve an excellent education and our community is responsible for making it available.
- Our community benefits from highly valued, successful public schools.
- An informed public is important to successful public schools.
- Vital schools depend on the support, and involvement of the families and community they serve.
- An independent community-based organization can help citizens contribute to their public schools and can build confidence in them.
- Supporting teachers, who are at the core of the educational process, fosters educational success.

HIGHLIGHTS

ON April 11, more than a thousand music lovers gathered at Severance Hall, world-famous home of the Cleveland Orchestra, for Reaching Musical Heights. It was the third such concert featuring instrumental and vocal students from the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools performing. As on two earlier magical evenings in 2003 and 2007, CH-UH students from across the district demonstrated the power of music to unite and transform. Reaching Heights worked closely with our schools' music faculty and the event's music directors, Daniel Heim, instrumental music director at Cleveland Heights High School, and Richard Waugh, violist with the Cleveland Orchestra and member of the Reaching Heights board of directors. Events like this, as well as our Heights Summer Music Camp, Patti/Jackson Music Lesson Scholarship program, music grants, and the Middle School Honor Band and Orchestra Festival, share a common goal: to build on and celebrate the Heights tradition of musical excellence, and to expand opportunities for students to be a part of that tradition.

ON THE COVER: ROXBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL VOCAL MUSIC TEACHER MARIO CLOPTON CONDUCTS THE HEIGHTS HIGH A CAPPELLA CHOIR AND SINGERS IN A ROUSING PERFORMANCE OF ELIJAH ROCK DURING REHEARSAL FOR THE REACHING MUSICAL HEIGHTS CONCERT AT SEVERANCE HALL.

LEFT: HEIGHTS HIGH INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DIRECTOR, DANIEL HEIM, CONDUCTS AT THE HEIGHTS SUMMER MUSIC CAMP FINALE CONCERT.



REACHING HEIGHTS

Our Passion: Excellent Public Education

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November 2011

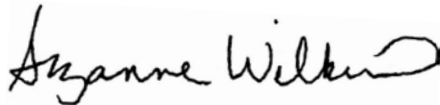
Dear Friend of Reaching Heights,

From the beautiful music created by our students on the stage of Severance Hall during Reaching Musical Heights to the equally beautiful sound of a kindergartener recognizing letter sounds with the help of one of our Many Villages tutors, our work at Reaching Heights has a common thread: We strive to help every student in the Cleveland Heights-University public schools reach their fullest potential, we support our teachers in their crucial work, and we seek to strengthen connections between our schools and the wider community.

We're writing to share highlights of our recent efforts, and to ask that you make a donation to our 2011 Annual Fund to help continue those efforts. Your contribution provides essential operating support that allows us to serve as a catalyst for excellence in our schools.

Please complete the survey on the back of this letter (of if you prefer, online using the link provided). This will help us continue to sharpen our focus and ensure that your gift is used wisely. Thanks to all who have supported us for more than twenty years, and thanks in advance for your contribution this year.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Wilkins

President



Patrick Mullen

Executive Director

1991 Lee Road, Suite 106
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-2571

216-932-5110

rh@reachingheights.org

www.reachingheights.org

2011 FRIEND OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD

SINCE 2002, Reaching Heights has presented this award to honor citizens and institutions that embrace our shared responsibility for the success of our public schools. Their example reminds us that, together, we can improve the lives of our students, families, and community. The award certificate recognized Susie Kaeser with these words: “We are all responsible for the successful education of our children in our public schools. Citizens who embrace that shared responsibility deserve our gratitude. Public education has few better friends than Susie Kaeser. For more than a quarter century, she has been a passionate and tireless advocate for children and educators. The guiding spirit behind Reaching Heights, Susie’s work continues with Heights Summer Music Camp, as a volunteer tutor, and in countless other ways across our community. For all her great work, Reaching Heights is proud to present the 2011 Friend of Public Education Award to Susie Kaeser.”

REACHING HEIGHTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PATRICK MULLEN PRESENTS FRIEND OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD TO SUSIE KAESER.



KAL ZUCKER

SURVEY FALL 2011



Reaching Heights Program Survey

Reaching Heights is a community non-profit founded in 1989 that supports excellence in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights (CH-UH) public schools. We want to know what you think of our work, and new ways Reaching Heights can support our teachers and students, and connect our community to our schools. If you prefer, you can complete this survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9H2VVR5>, or scan the QR code.

WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION OR AWARENESS OF THESE REACHING HEIGHTS PROGRAMS?

	Participated/ volunteered/ contributed at least once	Know about it	Never heard of it	Please indicate what you think are our three most valuable programs with a 1, 2, or 3 in the boxes
Many Villages Elementary Tutoring				
School Team & Community Connection Grants				
Patti-Jackson Music Lesson Scholarships				
Reaching Musical Heights Concert at Severance Hall				
Heights Summer Music Camp				
Middle School Honor Band & Orchestra Festival				
Thank-A-Teacher				
Adult Community Spelling Bee				
Email Newsletters				



MARIGOLD CATERING FOUNDER AND CLEVELAND HEIGHTS RESIDENT JOAN ROSENTHAL (FOREGROUND) PROVIDED A GOURMET OUTDOOR LUNCH FOR 40 COMMUNITY LEADERS ON A SUNNY SEPTEMBER DAY. THE LUNCH RAISED NEARLY \$2,000 FOR REACHING HEIGHTS WHILE STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS AMONG LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

Reaching Heights continues to bring the schools to the community, on the printed page and online. Here are ways we get the word out about our work:

SCHOOL NEWS FROM REACHING

HEIGHTS. In each of the last two years, we published four-page inserts in the Heights Observer called *School News from Reaching Heights*. They provide residents who are not regular school visitors an inside view of school life. Other ways we connect our schools and community include:

THANK-A-TEACHER. During 2011, grateful families made donations to Reaching Heights honoring the work of 65 teachers. Their wonderful words of appreciation draw attention to a great strength of our school district, our teachers.

EMAIL NEWSLETTERS. Reaching Heights reaches out with monthly email news

briefs delivered to more than 2,100 subscribers. We deliver current information about Reaching Heights and district developments, news from the community, and links to other sources of information.

REACHINGHEIGHTS.ORG. Over the last year, more than 5,500 unique visitors logged more than 15,000 pageviews at reachingheights.org, our online home. The site is regularly updated with information about our programs, schools, community, and public education issues. It includes videos of our concerts, bee, and annual meetings, all posted on our YouTube channel, ReachingHeightsOH.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS.

Reaching Heights organized a series of events at which interested citizens could hear from, and talk with, our district's superintendent, CFO, and assistant superintendent about initiatives that are transforming instruction in our schools.



LISA M. HUNT

DA'VON LEGGETT, A KINDERGARTEN STUDENT AT FAIRFAX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IS LEARNING HIS LETTER SOUNDS WITH HELP FROM A VOLUNTEER WORKING WITH THE REACHING HEIGHTS MANY VILLAGES TUTORING PROGRAM

SINCE 2004, Many Villages has sought to discover best tutoring practices and provide teachers across the district with quality classroom support. The Many Villages mission is to deliver help where it is most needed. During the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years, the focus of the program is to help early-grade students master skills that will help them become strong readers. This work is in alignment with the CH-UH school district's efforts to ensure that every student can read at or above grade level by the end of third grade.



BOB LANGRISH

2010 REACHING HEIGHTS SUPPORTERS

This is a list of donations received from August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2010.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

AHS Foundation
Christine & Guido DiGeronimo Foundation
Cleveland Foundation
Dollar General Foundation
Dominion Foundation
Jewish Community Federation
Mollusca Foundation
Parker Hannifin Foundation
SS&D Foundation
Wean Foundation

CORPORATE & MATCHING SUPPORT

Advanced Drainage Systems
Alliance Holdings, Inc.
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP
Bremec on the Heights Garden Center
Calligraphy Studio
Clyde's Bistro & Barroom
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Crowe Horwath LLP
Dominion Resources Services, Inc.
Heights Dental Group
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
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Lusty Wrench
Mac's Backs Books
Microsoft Corp.
National Healing Corp.
North Eastern Ohio Education Association
Reilly Painting
Retired CH-UH Teachers
Seitz-Agin Hardware
Severance BPE Leasing Co (Pine Tree Comm. Realty)
Still Life Landscapes
Stone Oven Bakery
Verne & Ellsworth Hann, Inc.
Whole Foods Market
Zagara's Marketplace

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

\$1,000 +

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Susie Kaeser & Jerry Blake
Larry & Marlene Fischer
Forest Hill Thunder Run
Lauree P. Garity Trust
Thomas & Marilyn McLaughlin
Patrick & Heather Mullen
Albert & Audrey Ratner
Dallas & Bill Schubert
John & Barbara Schubert
Thomas & Christine Sumner
James & Debra Vail
Raymond J. Wean

\$500 - \$999

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Canterbury PTA
Cleveland Heights Teachers Union
CH-UH Public Library
Cuyahoga Community College
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Darral Gaffney
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Dennis Wilcox & Shelley Kazan-Wilcox
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\$250 - 499

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Roxboro Middle School PTA
Roxboro Orchestra & Band Organization
Tom Sperl & Cindy Watson
Anne Wise & Mike Rubicz
Kalman Zucker & Mary Frances Haerr

\$100 - \$249

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 Roxboro Elementary School
 Sunshine Fund
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 Kara & John Schellenberg
 Mary Sekerak
 Holly Selvaggi & Clark Harvey
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 Stephen & Margaret Wood
 Dan & Ellen Worthington
 Wojbor & Elizabeth Woyczynski
 Jean Wright
 Edward & Catherine Yandek
 Paul & Kathy Yates
 Adrienne & Lanny Yelsky

RAFFLE/IN-KIND DONATIONS

All Makes Vacuum
 Big Fun
 Bryan's Marathon
 Cleveland Heights High School Athletic Dept.
 CH-UH City School District
 The Cleveland Orchestra
 Dobama Theatre
 Denise Jackson
 Liquid Planet
 Laura Marks
 Marcus Thomas
 Melt Bar & Grilled
 Maryann Posch
 Restless Coffee
 John & Barbara Schubert
 Beth Sersig
 Steve Titchenal
 Zoss the Swiss Baker
 Kal Zucker



**AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES, YEARS ENDED
 JULY 31, 2010 AND 2009**

	2010	2009
Public Support		
Individuals and others	\$65,653	\$59,501
Foundations	19,500	21,000
Revenues		
Spelling Bee	15,910	17,802
Music Camp	8,580	11,126
Other	-	900
Investment Income (Loss)	14,848	(8,072)
Total Public Support and Revenue	124,491	102,257
Expenses		
Program	97,322	122,198
Management & general	8,777	8,878
Fundraising	3,729	3,965
Total Expenses	109,828	135,041
Revenues over expenses (Expenses over revenues)	14,663	(32,784)
Net assets – beginning of fiscal year	173,027	205,811
Net assets – end of fiscal year	187,690	173,027
Change in net assets	14,663	(32,784)

The Reaching Heights fiscal year begins August 1 and ends July 31. Reaching Heights is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to Reaching Heights are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

WHO DO I WANT TO BE?

A doctor? A lawyer? A businesswoman?
A politician?

Doctor: Always on call; sometimes separate
from family.

Lawyer: Have to compartmentalize and
stride the line between right and wrong.

Businesswoman: I'll never have the respect
like a man and always have to outdo the
competition.

Politician: Thousands depending on me and
gaining enemies.

Noble professions one and all, but when I
think about what I want to do and who I
want to be and what it will mean to me ...

Why is it that none of these fit or make
me happy? I see the good, the opportunity,
the pride in them but can only focus on the
negative ...

So then I think about what I love:

I love to read.

I love to write.

I love to express.

I love to travel.

I love history.

What profession fits that?

Writer?

Teacher?

And what's more important to me?

A job that pays the bills ... or a job that I love
... can I get both?

Guess it depends on what I want to be.

— *Divyne Harris*

*This poem, written by Cleveland Heights High School
student Divyne Harris, was published as part of the
Sankofa Poetry Project, June 2010, supported with a
Reaching Heights School Team Grant.*

MISSION

REACHING HEIGHTS MOBILIZES COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO FOSTER
HIGHLY VALUED PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT PROVIDE ALL CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS STUDENTS A SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION.

UPCOMING REACHING HEIGHTS EVENTS

Reaching Heights Annual Meeting –
Thursday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m., Deborah S. Del-
isle Educational Options Center, 14780
Superior Road, Cleveland Heights.

**21st Annual Reaching Heights Adult
Community Spelling Bee –** Wednes-
day, March 28, 2012, 7 p.m., Cleveland
Heights High School Auditorium, 13263
Cedar Rd., Cleveland Heights.

**8th Annual Heights Summer Music
Camp –** June 18-23, 2012, Wiley Middle
School, 2181 Miramar Blvd., University
Heights. Finale Concert, Saturday, June
23, 10:30 a.m.



PATRICK MULLEN
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KRISTA HAWTHORNE
Assistant Director
krista@reachingheights.org

LISA M. HUNT
Program Manager
lisa@reachingheights.org

216.932.5110
reachingheights.org