

Reaching Heights

THE CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

2006 Annual Report



Reaching Heights ...

An Entry Point for Community Support for Our Public Schools

REFLECTIONS ON 2006

Public schools and educators have a daunting responsibility and they simply cannot achieve everything we expect of them all by themselves. They shouldn't have to since we all benefit from their success, and because they are a public institution — we are responsible for them.

Reaching Heights is an entry point for the community to support the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools — the students, families and educators who make up these human institutions dedicated to learning. Our programs increase opportunities for students to thrive, and for citizens to connect with our schools, learn more about them, appreciate them, and take greater responsibility for them. It makes sense to mobilize our community as a resource for public education because our schools are critical to our future, and our community has much to offer to support their success.

I am proud that Reaching Heights programs keep growing and improving! We learn from our experience and refine our programs so our resources are used as effectively as possible. We also use our insight and relationships to identify new opportunities to strengthen the community's commitment to our schools, and to support our educators and students. We collaborate with the schools to create workable strategies, and organize people and resources to make a difference.

In 2006 we maintained our core programs and launched two new initiatives to help students. Both programs enhanced our contribution to student success by mobilizing community resources. Many Villages mobilizes volunteers to support student achievement. In the first year we helped four schools establish programs that brought nearly 100 hours a week of volunteer attention to our students. Thanks to a special music benefit held in 2006 at Cain Park we now have a special purpose fund to support music lesson scholarships for our students. The Patti Family Music Fund makes this long needed resource a reality.

Please read the 2006 annual report and learn more about what we were able to accomplish because of our receptive and generous community, our donors and volunteers, our eager students, and our dedicated educators. Feedback from students, families, teachers and neighbors who have been touched by our programs affirms the merit of our efforts. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to our success.

The Reaching Heights Board of Trustees believes that our students deserve everything we can do as an organization and community to propel them forward. It is an honor to be able to help translate their vision into reality.

*Susie Kaeser
Executive Director*

In 2006 Susie Kaeser received the first Teachers Union Tribute Award created to honor a leader, an activist, a reformer, and a true champion of the Heights Schools. In giving the award union president Tom Schimda said, "Susie Kaeser truly appreciates and values teachers ... and we value her more than words or any form of award can ever express."



Reaching Heights ...

A COMMUNITY RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS, LEARNING AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

MISSION

Reaching Heights mobilizes community resources to foster highly valued public schools that provide all Cleveland Heights-University Heights students a successful education.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Our children depend on the public to provide them something they deserve: an education that prepares them to navigate a complex world and to be good citizens.
- Our community benefits from successful and appreciated students and schools.
- Citizens are an invaluable resource for successful students and respected schools. An informed, supportive, and involved community can contribute to the vitality of the education process and the stature of the schools within the community.
- Teachers are central to the education process. The community has a unique opportunity to support excellence by encouraging, valuing, and supporting teachers.
- An independent, non-political community organization can help citizens contribute to their public schools.

BACKGROUND

In 1986 the Heights Community Congress, Heights Interfaith Council, and the Cleveland

Heights-University Heights Board of Education convened a blue ribbon task force to examine issues affecting the public schools. Among other things, they recommended the formation of a citizen organization to advocate for the public schools. Several members of the Schools Consensus Project Task Force met in 1988 to make this recommendation a reality.

In January of 1989, the Board of Education convened the first meeting of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Schools Foundation. By 1990 the group, soon to go by the name of Reaching Heights, earned start up funding for a half-time staff, and unveiled the School Team Grant program. The program established Reaching Heights as a resource for educational excellence and teacher empowerment. In 1993 Reaching Heights published a brochure featuring testimonials by school district parents about the varied strengths of the school district. This established a second core focus: to provide credible information about the public schools and invite district residents to be agents for promoting public confidence in the schools.

Since then our credibility, programs and resources have grown. In 2006 a board of 18 trustees, three part-time staff, hundreds of community volunteers and three part-time consultants, implemented a substantial set of projects that bring the Reaching Heights mission to life. This report describes the highlights of the programs that have become central to our work.

Meeting our Goals

2006 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Reaching Heights may be best understood by the way we act on our commitment to public education and Cleveland Heights-University Heights students. We set five goals to direct the work that supports our mission. Here are the highlights of the projects that helped us achieved our goals in 2006.

Goal #1 Reaching Heights will provide independent, accurate and compelling information about the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools in order to inspire public confidence, commitment and active support for the schools.

Reaching Heights encourages our residents to advocate for our public schools and uses many venues to share information that is often not typically available about students, teaching, district initiatives, and Reaching Heights programs.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTERS

Reaching Heights provides a vital link between the community and the daily life of the Heights schools by producing eight newsletters focused on each of the elementary schools. Parents, teachers and principals have the chance to describe the everyday reality in classrooms throughout the district by writing for their school's newsletter. More than 350 student and community volunteers helped us reach out to the community by delivering the newsletters door-to-door in each school attendance area.

Dominion, Homewood Residence, and Reilly Painting and Construction sponsored newsletters.

EMAIL NEWS

Email makes frequent communication possible!

Reaching Heights added more than 500 subscribers to its bi-weekly email newsletter and over the course of the school year shared news briefs about Reaching Heights programs, district news, education issues and school and community events with nearly 1,500 readers.

WWW.REACHINGHEIGHTS.ORG

Information about Reaching Heights' purposes and programs is universally accessible on our website. The Email newsletters also drive readers to the website which had an average of more than 30,000 visits a month.

Goal #2 Reaching Heights will link community members, parents, educators and students in order to foster an atmosphere of appreciation and strengthen the school community.

We want the public to value our students, teachers and staff. This appreciation is a fundamental motivator for those who work in our schools — teachers and learners. It is also the source of confidence in the schools and community. Connections also humanize this important public institution. Here are some ways we increased connections and fostered appreciation for the members of our school community:

THANK-A-TEACHER PROGRAM

Recognition and thanks contribute to trusting relationships and inspire effort. The Thank-A-Teacher program invites families to make the simple but powerful gesture of expressing appreciation to an educator who has helped them. In 2006, 92 families added to the success of our schools by honoring 241 educators

with wonderful compliments expressing their gratitude, and with donations to Reaching Heights of more than \$3,800. Reaching Heights invests the donations in good teaching through the School Team Grant program.

Reaching Heights increased the program's visibility with a series of posters featuring four different families with the teachers they honored. They gave a face to our students, families and staff, and communicated that teachers change lives. Photographers Jean Van Atta and Bill Meckler and graphic designer Amy Jenkins created the posters.

PUBLIC FORUM

Over the last 10 years the school district administration and staff have engaged in a developmental process to transform education practices in the district so that our schools are more effective with all students. The Reaching Heights Annual Meeting in December of 2006 provided a forum for the district's Education Services Team to describe this journey and to help the community better understand the administration's commitment to student success and their strategic approach to aligning with the educational practices that research shows are effective.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS GRANTS

Five Community Connection grants made during the 2006-07 school year strengthened school-community connections, and fostered pride in our students and schools. Diversity on Parade supported a Cleveland

teachers
change
lives

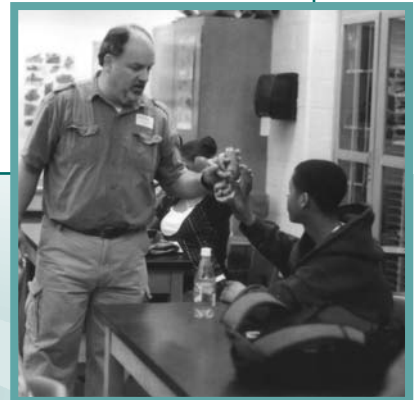
Reaching Heights invites you to **THANK A TEACHER** who made a difference to you.

Karen Claas, her father Jeff Doan, and Heights High English teacher Mrs. Sylvia Stewart-Lamplin, the teacher they thanked.

Reaching Heights

Contact Reaching Heights at 932-5110 or find a Thank A Teacher form online at www.reachingheights.org

photos by Jeanne Van Atta and Bill Meckler of Green Street Studios



Heights-University Heights elementary school entry in Parade the Circle that involved students from six elementary schools. Additional projects connected Roxboro Middle School students with senior citizens at the annual Grandparents dinner theater night; brought together students past and present to learn about the history of Coventry Elementary School; promoted school pride and civility through community outreach by Wiley Middle School student ambassadors; and promoted self confidence and good manners among Monticello Middle School girls.

FRIEND OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD

As a champion for citizen involvement in public education, Reaching Heights recognizes an individual who exemplifies how each of us can use our time and talent to contribute to our schools. In 2006 Reaching Heights gave the Friend of Public Education Award to Cleveland Heights graphic designer Amy Jenkins for helping Reaching Heights, and many school groups including the Coventry, Roxboro Middle and Heights High PTAs communicate more effectively about the schools by designing their materials.

Goal #3 Reaching Heights will support school-based initiatives to promote student achievement.

The primary work of our schools is to help students become successful learners. Teachers are the pivotal actors in the process. Reaching Heights supports their work by directing additional resources to the classroom.

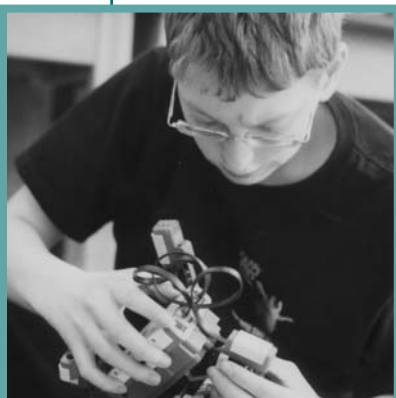
SCHOOL TEAM GRANTS

Reaching Heights supports the search for effective strategies to meet the varied needs of our students by providing grants of up to \$1,500 to school-based teams to test their ideas for helping students. Funds for the grants come from the community through the spelling bee, Thank-A-Teacher gifts, and other donations. This community-school connection is empowering to educators and to students who benefit from these creative initiatives. Both the quality and quantity of grant requests each year demonstrate the determination, commitment and creativity of our educators.

In 2006 Reaching Heights allocated a record \$21,200 to 19 projects in eight schools. A total of 28 teams applied for funds. For the first time in the 17 year history of the grant program, high school and middle school projects out numbered elementary school grants. Various small schools at Heights High received six grants, Bellefaire and Wiley Middle School each earned two grants, and one grant served the three middle schools. The remaining eight projects were developed by teams at Boulevard, Coventry and Noble elementary schools. Nearly \$220,000 has been invested in projects to help students achieve since the grant program began in 1990.

MANY VILLAGES

Reaching Heights launched a new initiative in the fall of 2006 to increase volunteer assistance in the classroom. With guidance from Reaching Heights, school-based teams create the infrastructure to mobilize and engage volunteer tutors to advance student learning. Many Villages builds on the Village Volun-



teer program developed at Roxboro Elementary School.

In 2006 project leader Dennis Osgood, and consultants Kim Conklin and Lisa Berusch worked with parent-teacher design teams at Canterbury, Fairfax, Noble and Oxford. Each school has its own program design and leadership, and meets the program's goals: it is supportive to teachers, effective with students, and rewarding to the volunteers. We also laid the ground work for new schools to join the project in 2007.

Starting in the fall of 2006, Many Villages volunteers provided more than 140 hours of assistance each week in the four new schools and at Roxboro Elementary. While parents form the backbone of each school's academic volunteer corps, Reaching Heights also developed partnerships with Church of the Savior, John Carroll University and Ursuline College which supplied 40 additional volunteers.

A \$7,500 grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation and an \$800 gift from US Bank enabled Reaching Heights to assist the school-based teams. The school district and a large cadre of volunteers supported the initiative by creating standards based tutoring materials. A guiding committee of district staff and community members oversees the program.

Goal #4 Reaching Heights will support a comprehensive vision of music education.

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district music program has an inspiring tradition of excellence. In 1995 Reaching Heights organ-

ized a remarkable concert at Cain Park that featured more than 100 music professionals from across the country who started their musical journey as students in our school district. Their loyalty and the impact that their public school education had on shaping their lives inspired Reaching Heights to ensure that future generations experienced the multiple benefits of learning music by adopting music as a special focus. We support the continued success of the program by organizing and sponsoring opportunities for students to learn music outside the classroom.

PATTI FAMILY MUSIC FUND

The Patti Family Music Fund, created in 2006, provides Reaching Heights funds for a critical resource for aspiring musicians: private music lessons. The fund is named for Vince Patti, who taught music in the Heights schools from 1956-1976. Following Mr. Patti's death his sons and many of his former students came forward to pay tribute to their beloved mentor by establishing this fund. They worked with Reaching Heights to organize a benefit concert at Cain Park featuring Mr. Patti's sons, Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus musicians, and the TOPS Swing Band. Proceeds from the benefit, A Night for Musical Memories held on July 19, 2006, launched the Patti Family Music Fund of Reaching Heights. A major gift from the McGregor Retirement Home provided the cornerstone for an endowment for the fund that will give music lesson scholarships to 5th-8th graders enrolled in the CH-UH music program. The scholarships will add to the Heights tradition of musical excellence, a tradition Mr. Patti helped to shape.



HEIGHTS SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

Reaching Heights initiated the Heights Summer Music Camp in 2005 to give young music students a week of concentrated music exploration with expert instruction and personal attention. In 2006 the Heights Summer Music Camp served 93 students from grades 4 to 8. Instruction and inspiration offered by district music teachers, and Heights High instrumental music students and alumni helped campers perform demanding music, improve their skills and motivation, and deepen their commitment to music and to excellence. The school district made the camp possible by providing the space and serving as a co-sponsor. Individual donors provided scholarships to 25 campers, making the camp accessible to any interested student.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR BAND AND ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

Middle school is a critical time to motivate and engage students in instrumental music. Reaching Heights sponsors a district-wide orchestra and band to keep motivated students challenged. The district's instrumental music teachers provided 81 young musicians extra instruction during seven weekly evening rehearsals that culminated in a concert.

BANE JAZZ SCHOLARSHIP

Percussionist James Muschler received the James Bane Jazz Scholarship for 2006. The annual award, named for a former Heights High jazz band leader, is given to a leader of the jazz ensemble. The scholarship is for private music lessons.

Goal #5 Reaching Heights will ensure that it has sufficient financial and human resources to carry out its mission.

Reaching Heights fund raising connects the community with us and with the schools. Our special events allow us to build community while mobilizing essential resources. The community responds. Our work would not be possible or as meaningful without their generous support.

GRANTS

The George Gund Foundation, a founding and long-term resource for Reaching Heights, made a \$25,000 operating grant for 2006, and agreed to match up to \$10,000 in new donations to us raised in 2006. Thanks to several new donors including a \$2,000 gift from BAT, a group of Heights High alumni, we earned the \$10,000 match and expanded the base of support for our work.

This is the first year Reaching Heights has received a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. The \$7,500 grant funded the start-up of the Many Villages program. The continued support of the DiGeronimo Foundation, the Wean Foundation and the Wolpert Fund supported special projects and our grant program.

2006 ANNUAL FUND

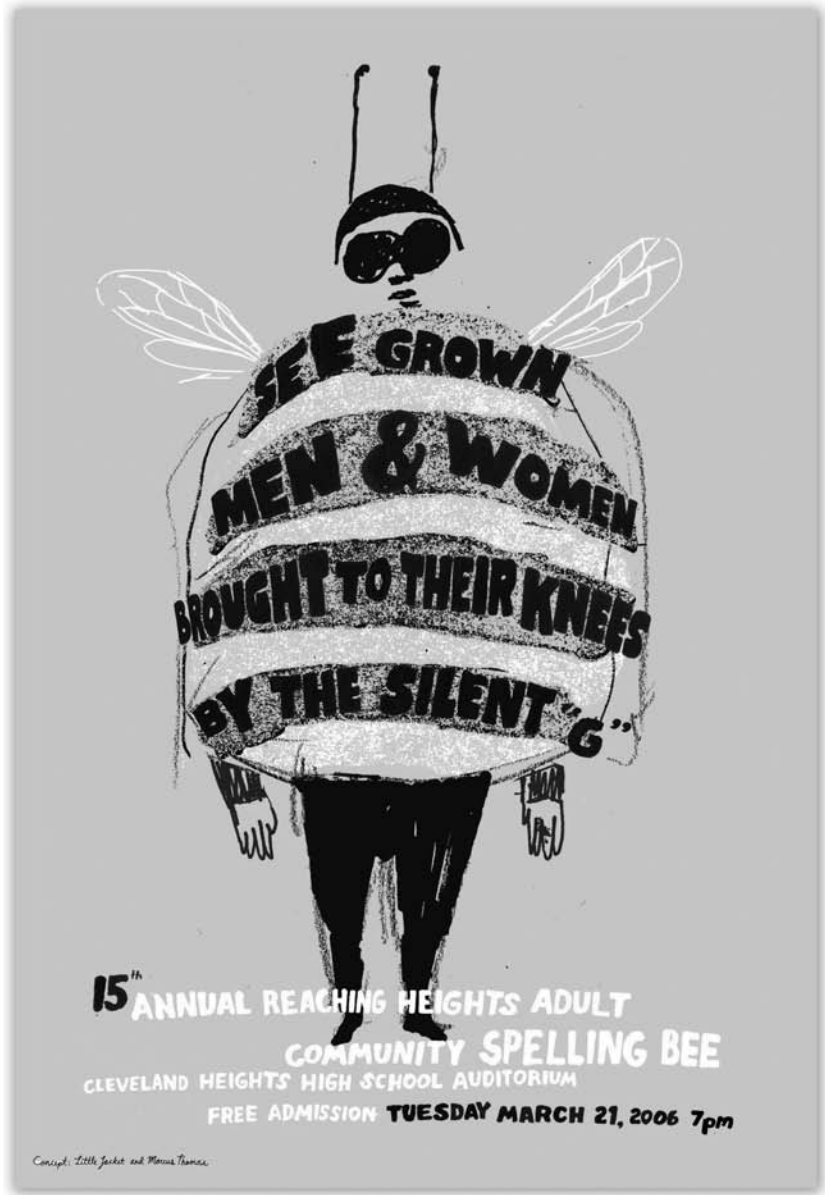
This was a milestone year for individual giving to Reaching Heights. About 290 regular donors continued their giving in 2006 and were joined by 60 new donors. Special gifts to honor Marian Morton's retire-



ment and donations in memory of career educator Pauline Gustely pushed the number of individual donors past 400. We also received a record number of large gifts (more than \$2,000). These positive trends boosted income from the annual fund to more than \$54,000, up from \$42,000 last year. The gifts, given between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, provide operating funds that make it possible for Reaching Heights to be a long-term support and consistent citizen advocate for the Heights schools. Our donors make up the Reaching Heights membership.

15TH ANNUAL REACHING HEIGHTS ADULT COMMUNITY SPELLING BEE

Spellers and spelling fans look forward each year to a friendly competition at Heights High that supports the School Team Grant program. The 15th bee attracted 25 teams that paid a minimum of \$500 to compete. A new team made up of members of the Cleveland Orchestra won the competition while more than 120 team, bee and word sponsors provided more than \$15,800 for grants to improve student achievement. An award winning poster by Little Jackets promoting the bee added to the bee's identity as a fun competition.



2006 Financial Support

Reaching Heights is grateful to the individual, business, foundation, and civic organizations who participate in our programs and provide financial support to make our mission a reality.

Foundation and Program Specific Support

Foundation Grants

The Guido & Christine Di Geronimo Family Foundation
The George Gund Foundation
The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation
US Bank
The Raymond John Wean Foundation
The Wolpert Fund of the Cleveland Foundation

Newsletter Sponsors

Dominion
Homewood Residence
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School Team Grant Sponsors

Cleveland Heights & University Heights Teachers, Retired

James Bane Jazz Scholarship Sponsors

Christopher Brandt & Beth Sersig

In Kind Design and Printing

Amy Jenkins
Les Jones

Annual Fund Donors

Gifts made between July 2005 and June 2006

\$2,000 or more

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BAT
Carl Jenks
Justine Theile Trust
Lynn Toler

\$1,000 - \$2,000

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Sally Wertheim
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2006

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Bob Miller & Alison Hall
Wendy Leatherberry
Mark Phillips
Ron Register
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Tommy's

\$50 - \$75

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Antonie Van Den Bogert &
Elizabeth Hardin
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\$10 - \$20

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Attenson's Coventry Antiques
Coventry Food Market
Diamond's Florists
Chantal Dothey
Sandra Haynes
Craig & Janet Hoffman
Inn on Coventry
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Record Revolution
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Cleveland Orchestra
Gayle Crawford
Ground Floor Theater
Hunan Coventry
Little Jacket
Mac's Backs
Marcus Thomas
Melissa O'Grady
Target
Tops at Severance
Tops at University Square
Wonderland Books
Zagara's Marketplace
ZaZa
Kal Zucker

2006 Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Position — Modified Cash Basis 12 Months Ending
December 31, 2006 and 2005

ASSETS	2006	2005
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 25,176	\$ 32,354
Short-Term Investments	20,256	
Grants Receivable	10,000	25,000
Prepaid Expenses	6,900	
Restricted Cash & CD	<u>21,946</u>	<u>17,765</u>
	<u>84,278</u>	<u>75,119</u>
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT		
Furniture & Fixtures	9,546	9,546
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(8,628)</u>	<u>(8,475)</u>
	918	1,071
OTHER ASSETS		
Investments	118,982	107,449
Deposits	<u>360</u>	<u>360</u>
	<u>119,342</u>	<u>107,809</u>
	<u>\$204,538</u>	<u>\$183,999</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Fiscal Agent Payable	\$ 21,946	\$ 17,765
Payroll Taxes Withhold	1,905	1,592
Accrued Wages	<u>4,008</u>	<u>3,678</u>
	<u>27,859</u>	<u>23,035</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	151,125	160,964
Temporarily Restricted	<u>25,554</u>	<u>160,964</u>
	<u>176,679</u>	<u>160,964</u>
	<u>\$204,538</u>	<u>\$183,999</u>

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES	2006		2005	
	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	TOTAL	
PUBLIC SUPPORT				
Individuals & Other	\$	\$ 48,951	\$ 48,951	\$ 41,541
George Gund Foundation		10,000	10,000	25,000
Contributions In-Kind		8,000	8,000	9,225
Jennings Foundation	7,500		7,500	
DiGeronimo Foundation		5,000	5,000	7,500
Wean Foundation		5,000	5,000	5,000
AHS Foundation		5,000	5,000	
Wolpert Fund of the Cleveland Fnd.				<u>2,000</u>
	<u>7,500</u>	<u>81,951</u>	<u>89,451</u>	<u>90,266</u>
REVENUES				
Special Event – Scholarships	24,421		24,421	
Spelling Bee		16,998	16,998	16,413
Music Camp		11,480	11,480	8,060
Investment Income	256	8,789	9,045	9,671
Unrealized Gain on Securities		<u>4,889</u>	<u>4,889</u>	
	<u>24,677</u>	<u>42,156</u>	<u>66,833</u>	<u>34,144</u>
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES	<u>32,177</u>	<u>124,107</u>	<u>156,284</u>	<u>124,410</u>
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS	<u>(6,623)</u>	<u>6,623</u>	<u>156,284</u>	<u>124,410</u>
	25,554	130,730	156,284	
EXPENSES				
Salaries, Employee Benefits & Taxes		63,551	63,551	60,147
Music Camp		14,182	14,182	11,063
Printing & Publications		13,765	13,765	13,481
Occupancy		5,160	5,160	4,861
Office Supplies & Miscellaneous		5,031	5,031	3,134
Tutoring – Many Villages		3,835	3,835	
Postage		2,632	2,632	3,474
Telephone		2,148	2,148	2,298
Thank-A-Teacher		1,261	1,261	
Spelling Bee		1,095	1,095	1,734
Professional Fees		750	750	750
Insurance		500	500	505
Advertising & Promotion		392	392	1,441
Depreciation		153	153	153
Music Enrichment				<u>2,884</u>
		<u>114,455</u>	<u>114,455</u>	<u>105,925</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	25,554	16,275	41,829	18,485
GRANTS TO SCHOOLS		26,114	26,114	21,653
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	25,554	(9,839)	15,715	(3,168)
NET ASSETS – Beginning		<u>160,964</u>	<u>160,964</u>	<u>164,132</u>
NET ASSETS – Ending	<u>\$ 25,554</u>	<u>\$151,125</u>	<u>\$176,679</u>	<u>\$160,964</u>

School Team Grants: 2006-07 School Year

Reaching Heights has supported innovation in the classroom with School Team Grants since 1990. Teams have used more than \$215,000 to implement more than 200 projects since the grant program started; they never run out of ideas.

During the 2006-07 school year Reaching Heights awarded more than \$21,000 to 19 school-based teams and 17 of them implemented these projects:

BOULEVARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

I Wear My Success on My Sleeve – \$1,000

Children wrote measurable goals and earned a t-shirt to wear when they achieved their goals.

See/Read About My World – \$540

Special education students took photographs and used them as writing prompts.

COVENTRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sight Word Improvement Project – \$1,484

Special education students in four classrooms used Card-masters to learn sight words.

We Are All Writers: Creating a Love, Purpose and Respect for Writing – \$500

A writer-in-residence helped second graders with creative writing.

Celebrate Coventry: Dramatic Presentation of Our School's History – \$1,500

Kulture Kids led a school-wide study of Coventry's past and produced a play to celebrate the school.

NOBLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Electronic Book Club – \$750

Noble students exchanged their ideas about books via email.

MONTICELLO, ROXBORO AND WILEY MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Progressive Arts Alliance Rapsody Hip Hop – \$1,500

At risk 8th graders developed problem-solving skills through art activities.

WILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Teaming with a "Smart Board" – \$1500

The 7th grade team incorporated a Smart Board into

teaching in multiple content areas.

American History is MY History – \$900

Twelve 8th graders increased their research skills and interest in history by joining an after school club focused on family history.

ROXBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Writing and Reading –

A Cleveland Connection – \$1,000

Sixth graders learned how to edit their writing by working with local author Shelley Pearsall.

BELLEFAIRE SCHOOL

Educational Supply Center – \$750

Students ran a school supply store.

Robotic Invention Program – \$1,400

Students built and programmed robots using Lego Mindstorm sets. This developed their problem solving and math skills.

HEIGHTS HIGH – MOSAIC EXPERIENCE

The MIDAS Touch – \$1,500

Teachers used the Multiple Intelligences Developmental Assessment Scales to identify student learning styles.

Herpetologist With Live Specimens – \$400

A guest herpetologist enriched the Nature Studies class unit on amphibians and reptiles.

HEIGHTS HIGH – PRIDE SCHOOL

Tiger TV Productions – \$1,500

A DV Digital Mixer/Switcher gave the TV Production club access to current technology.

Using Technology to Improve Academic Performance in Math – \$1,500

This team purchased a Smart Board to address failure rate in Algebra I.

HEIGHTS HIGH – LEGACY SCHOOL

Restructuring Advisories – \$800

Student portfolios gave a new focus to the Advisories program.

2006 Thank-A-Teacher Honorees

Pam Adamson	Patrick Dooner	Katherine Ikimis	Charlene Morse	Lynda Steiner
Katie Anderson	Leatrice Douglas	Martin Javorek	Mark Mrazek	Jennifer Steiss
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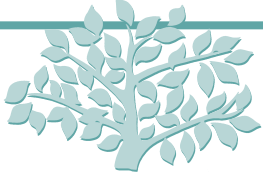
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