APS Education Foundation

Paying it Forward
Giving Back

Annual Report 2010

www.apseducationfoundation.org
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2009-2010

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Qwest veterans donate $5,000 for literacy.

Members of the Desert Ridge Middle School Choir help kick off the Horizon Campaign.
In September 2009, the Albuquerque Public Schools Education Foundation embarked on its first-ever fund raising drive, an effort we call the Horizon Campaign.

Skeptics told us we were crazy. Positively nuts. They said you couldn’t raise money – let alone $1 million – in this difficult economy. They said businesses and individuals wouldn’t be able to commit to making our schools better as private-sector budgets got tighter. They questioned whether Albuquerque would really invest in its public schools.

We are happy – thrilled, actually – to report the skeptics were dead wrong. Our community is stepping up in a big way, and the momentum is real. In less than a year, the Horizon Campaign has raised nearly a half-million dollars from individual donors, small and big businesses and even schoolchildren as we work to put money into four key programs: Fine Arts, Literacy, Classroom Teacher Mini-Grants and Middle/High School Activities.

It’s the kind of help that will make a difference in the daily lives of our students – and improve their chances to graduate from one of the best urban school districts in the nation. It’s our goal to make the Horizon Campaign and the APS Education Foundation a daily topic when people ask about our schools.

We have a board of two dozen leaders in our community, many of them APS graduates. For too long, the Foundation was a well-kept secret, but thanks to our partners, our board, our teachers, kids and parents, we’re raising the profile.

Our message is simple and consistent: We want to help kids reach their full potential, and we won’t rest until we raise the educational bar even higher in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. Our horizons are limitless, and you can help us shoot for the stars.

To learn more or to contribute to the Horizon Campaign, go to our website at www.apseducationfoundation.org.
How We’re Helping

The APS Education Foundation put thousands of dollars back into the schools during the 2009-2010 school year, and partnered with many community organizations to improve the fortunes of Albuquerque Public Schools students.

It’s a wide-ranging list of projects that we’ve helped – and to be honest, they are too numerous to list here. But with each partnership, both the Foundation staff and our Board of Directors have student achievement and community engagement guiding their decisions.

United Way

The Foundation operated the district’s United Way employee campaign, which raised a record $275,000 from APS personnel. With the help of Superintendent Winston Brooks, the United Way staff and caring teachers, administrators, staff and students, the campaign helped put money back into schools – and into worthy charities throughout the city.

Fine Arts

Thanks to the generosity of William and Lillian Dolde, community members who created a trust fund to support fine arts in the district, the Foundation has been able to provide supplemental funds for music, visual arts and performing programs. Those kinds of efforts help built a broad-based educational path.

Scholarships

The Foundation manages more than a dozen separate scholarship funds made possible by the generosity of people throughout the city. These scholarships are provided to graduating seniors, so they may continue their education. New this year is the Frank Frost Scholarship, which goes to a graduating APS senior interested in continuing his or her education in the visual arts. The scholarship honors Frank Frost, a noted local photographer and West Mesa High School graduate who has helped make the Foundation’s Selfless Seniors program a reality.

Middle School Sports

The Foundation helps support the APS Sports Fund’s annual Golf Extravaganza, which in 2010 raised $68,000 to support middle school athletics and high school sports in their developmental stages, including freshmen and junior varsity programs.
ABOVE: More than 700 APS students took the stage in February, showing off their singing, dancing and instrumental talents at the two-day Festival de Bellas Artes.

CENTER: APS employees gave generously to the United Way Campaign, which puts money back into schools.

RIGHT: Adrianna Lucero of Valley High School was one of 26 Selfless Seniors honored in the spring for giving back to their community.

And There’s More...

Among many other projects, the Foundation this year

» Recognized some of Albuquerque’s best teachers. With our friends at Pepsi, the Foundation honored top teachers with the APS Foundation/Pepsi teacher of the month event. Teachers received city-wide acclaim for their work in our classrooms, along with a $50 check from Pepsi.

» Honored 26 of the city’s high school seniors during the APS Education Foundation/Frank Frost “Selfless Seniors” event, sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank. Seniors were recognized for their community- minded work both inside and outside of school during the annual awards ceremony, and received a $100 check from Wells Fargo as a way of honoring their service.

» Supported 30 students from Albuquerque and Highland high schools who visited Civil Rights Movement memorials, museums and historical sites during a Black Student Union trip to the South.

» Helped send JROTC teams from six APS schools to Anniston, Ala., to participate in the National JROTC Shooting Championships.

» Funded a De Colores Inc. project in which APS students were encouraged to write and illustrate points of pride during Hispanic Heritage Month.

» Backed Valle Vista Elementary School’s “Once Upon A Theater” performance.

» Supported the Festival Bellas Artes performances at the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

» Provided support for Junior Achievement’s efforts to make kids more career ready.

» Sponsored Harrison Middle School and other schools in Albuquerque’s South Valley invigorate their music programs in collaboration with the New Mexico Jazz Workshop.

» Helped the student senate at Albuquerque High School host the New Mexico student council organization, an event that drew more than 700 kids from around the state and nearly 300 of the top students in the city to talk about issues that face young people today.
Children naturally strive to be academically and physically competent. Their motivation, though, can wane at times. Fortunately, their innate desire for mastery can be encouraged and fostered by what we do in the classroom.

One of the best ways to support mastery of skills is to implement a service learning project. Service learning helps to cultivate this behavior by instilling a sense of purpose. This sense of significance then fuels their continued desire to master skills and techniques. William Shakespeare described it this way: “It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely help another without helping himself.”

It is a positive and fulfilling cycle. When classrooms participate in service-learning projects, students not only master skills and find a sense of purpose, they also begin to contemplate their own future and start to consider possible career paths. In addition to creating their own identity, studies show that when students engage in meaningful and proactive service learning, they are half as likely to participate in “at-risk” behaviors.

Service learning is an incredibly powerful tool and is being used in classrooms across Albuquerque Public Schools. Van Buren Middle School, where I teach, has begun a cross-age tutoring program where sixth grade students teach reading strategies to younger students at nearby Emerson Elementary.

Sixth graders at Van Buren also participate in the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, collecting research for the University of New Mexico. A fourth-grade class at Zia Elementary worked to have a school zone put in place this winter.

These participants are gaining a greater sense of pride and accomplishment along with helping to create a legacy for themselves and their community. Service-learning projects are growing the next generation of compassionate and engaged citizens. Join in and help to leave a legacy.
It’s not hard to write good things about the APS Education Foundation, if only because we serve a fabulous group – this district’s 90,000 students.

And while I could probably go on and on about all our kids, I’d like to tell you about one in particular. His name is Michael Martinez.

Michael, you probably don’t know. He’s a 2010 graduate of West Mesa High, and was honored as one of our Selfless Seniors last spring. If you met him, you’d like him: he is polite, polished, personable. He did plenty in his four years at West Mesa, both in school and in the community. But he was by no means the stereotype of a high school “star.”

He wasn’t the quarterback of the football team; wasn’t the valedictorian; wasn’t quoted in the newspaper.

All Michael did was succeed. Sometimes, in the face of some fairly long odds.

These are the kids who drive us here – the students who make Albuquerque a better place because of their heart and their drive.

That’s why we look at 2010-11 as a critical year for both the district and the Foundation. If we continue to make progress with the Horizon Campaign, we will do plenty of good for that silent majority of kids who need just a little help to reach their full potential.

In Michael’s case, it was Junior ROTC that helped him dream. It’s the kind of middle/high school activity the Foundation wants to help. But there are other worthy causes – Fine Arts, Classroom Teacher Mini-Grants, Literacy – that will be fostered by the Horizon Campaign. And in our quest to reach our goal of $1 million (and beyond), we’ll need your help.

You can do it with a small donation; you can be part of the United Way campaign; you can ask your employer to support Albuquerque kids by helping the Foundation.

Oh, yes, I forgot to mention one thing, a huge thing. Michael Martinez is going to college.
## 2009 Financial Statements

### ASSETS

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
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<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted</td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents - restricted</td>
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<td><strong>Noncurrent assets, restricted</strong></td>
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<td>Endowment investments</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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### LIABILITIES

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<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<td>Accrued wages and benefits</td>
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### NET ASSETS

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<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
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### REVENUES

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### EXPENSES

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Students at Kirtland Elementary gathered in their school library, along with members of the local media, during a presentation of a $5,000 donation for literacy from Qwest veterans.

Zuni Elementary students received a generous donation of $50,000 from PNM to be used to help purchase books and other literary materials for the school.
Art is Albuquerque. And art is key to Albuquerque Public Schools.

With that in mind, the APS Education Foundation is creating its first ever A is for Art! celebration on Sept. 24, 2010, at the Albuquerque Museum.

The event will feature a live and silent auction of student artwork from the annual APS Metro Youth Art Exhibit – a professionally juried show of student artwork in a variety of media from APS high school students. Students will receive a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of their work, with the remainder going toward the Foundation’s efforts to support the district’s Fine Arts program. Art from several well-known local artists will be included in the auction as well.

The celebration will also include live music performances from schools throughout the district including jazz groups, vocal groups and string ensembles to name a few.

“We’ve never done this kind of event, but we want it to become the signature fund-raiser the Foundation is known for,” says Foundation Executive Director Phill Casaus. “I know for a fact that you simply won’t believe the talent and skill these kids display – whether it’s painting, photography, sculpture, poetry, singing or musicianship. They’re just fantastic.”

Sponsorships for the event are available, beginning at $500 and going up to $10,000. For information on the event, see the Foundation’s website, www.apseducationfoundation.org, or call the Foundation at 881-0841, extension 1.

A is for Art! You won’t believe your eyes. Or ears.