



Pro Bono Publico Foundation 2010-2011 Report to Donors

This year, through the generous support of its donors, the Pro Bono Publico Foundation was able to award 25 grants totaling almost \$350,000. Grants will support the continuing process of transforming New Orleans public schools, assuring that all of New Orleans' children have access to excellent schools. Nearly 75% of New Orleans students now attend public charter schools, and standardized testing shows dramatic improvement in student performance. These schools, and organizations supporting their important work, have been the main focus of PBPB investment, as well as the commitment of dozens of Rex members serving on their boards.

Here are the recipients of this year's PBPB grants, followed by profiles of several of these organizations.

Schools

New Orleans Charter College Prep
Warren Easton Charter High School
KIPP New Orleans Charter Schools
FirstLine Charter Schools
McDonogh City Park Academy
Crocker Arts and Technology Charter School
Miller-McCoy Academy for Mathematics and Business
The Good Shepherd School
Cathedral Academy
New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts
Sojourner Truth Academy*
New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy*
Educators for Quality Alternatives/Net Charter High*

Lafayette Academy Charter School*

ReNew Schools Charter Management Organization*
New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy*
Belle Chasse Academy*
Jefferson Foundation Academy*

Other Organizations

Teach for America
New Schools for New Orleans
Center for Development and Learning
New Orleans Outreach
Communities in Schools
Bayou District Foundation*
New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation--New Orleans Police Cadet Program*

*denotes first grant

Sci Academy

New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy

Sci Academy is a remarkable example of what can happen in an excellent open enrollment charter high school. Sci Academy's students are often at least three grade levels behind when they enroll, but they get on track to graduate in four years with the realistic opportunity to attend four-year colleges and universities. In its first year, Sci Academy's 9th graders had the highest proportion of students scoring proficient in the Recovery School District. Last year Sci Academy's Graduate Exit Exam scores were the highest in the district and 3rd highest in the city, outperformed only by two academically selective high schools. These extraordinary results reflect the leadership of school founder Ben Markovitz and the commitment of his teaching staff. Douglas Finnegan and William Langenstein serve on the Sci Academy board.



The Future Is Now.



New Orleans
OUTREACH

New Orleans Outreach brings volunteers into school classrooms to directly enrich children's education, to build the capacity of schools, and to increase public support of and involvement in public education. After Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans Outreach was one

of the first nonprofit education organizations up and running in four public schools in January 2006. New Orleans manages the ARMS-Outreach collaborative agreement that brings other New Orleans organizations working in visual arts, reading, and other areas together into a comprehensive after-school program. Students who attended ARMS-Outreach after-school programs showed the greatest academic gains of all students tested by the state of Louisiana in the four-parish area.



New Orleans College Prep's mission is to prepare each of its students to enter and excel in a rigorous four-year college or university, and it recently earned state permission to add an upper school to its charter. NOCP students

are 98% African-American, 93% qualify for free or reduced lunch and 12% are classified as Special Education. NOCP students have made significant strides on standardized tests—an average 17% improvement over last year's

scores. PBPF's grant helps support the continued success of this fine school, located in the old Sylvania Williams building only a few blocks from the Rex Den.



KIPP New Orleans currently operates seven schools serving over 1700 students, including two of the highest performing open enrollment schools in the city, and PBPF grants have helped support that expansion and success. The mantra "work hard, be nice" remains central to what it means to be a KIPPster—big and small—and the pillars developed by the founders of KIPP continue to guide KIPP schools across the country including those operating as KIPP New Orleans Schools. 2010 saw the opening of the first KIPP High School, KIPP Renaissance High School, as well as a fourth middle school. A total of 12 KIPP schools are planned, ultimately serving nearly 5300 students. John Landrum and Clifford Favrot serve on the KIPP New Orleans board.

TEACHFORAMERICA

Teach For America • Greater New Orleans is playing a critical role in improving schools and communities. This year, a corps of 435 of the nation's top recent college graduates is working in underserved schools across Greater New Orleans to ensure that students facing the challenges of poverty are given the educational opportunities they deserve. TFA has made one of its largest national commitments in the New Orleans area, where TFA corps members are touching the lives of over 27,500 students. Board members include Scott Cowen, Bill Hines, Wendy Beron, Andrew Wisdom, and Mary Kay Parker.



Police and Justice Foundation/Police Cadet Academy Project



The Police and Justice Foundation, founded in 1996, has worked to support and enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies and other elements of the criminal justice system to respond to the challenges of crime in our community. Our PBPF grant will provide funding to help launch the NOPD Police Cadet Program, a collaboration of Rex, the NOPD, the Police and Justice Foundation, and Delgado Community College. High

school juniors and seniors, recruited from New Orleans public schools, will enroll in Criminal Justice courses at Delgado and do volunteer work with the NOPD while they work towards an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice, preparing them for service with the NOPD. Several Rex members serve on the Foundation board with John Casbon, its Founder.