



Pro Bono Publico Foundation 2011-2012 Report to Donors

This year, through the generous support of its donors, the Pro Bono Publico Foundation was able to award grants totaling almost \$545,000. This is the fourth PBPF grant cycle, with the grant total growing each year. Last year's grants totaled \$320,000.

Grants primarily support the continuing process of transforming New Orleans Public Schools, assuring that all of New Orleans' children have access to excellent schools. Nearly 80% 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 focus of PBPF investment, as well as the commitment of dozens of Rex members serving on their boards.

The Foundation has also approved a grant to help sponsor the Taylor Playground Booster Club. Taylor Playground is immediately adjacent to the Rex den, and the Rex Organization has actively supported the formation of the Booster Club and the rebuilding of sports and other programs at Taylor Playground. PBPF believes that this program is an important extension of its support of public schools by helping provide healthy after-school activities for our city's most needy schoolchildren. The Rex Organization also helps support a number of neighborhood

initiatives, including programs sponsored by the Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Association.

Here are the recipients of this year's PBPF 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
New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy
Educators for Quality Alternatives/Net Charter High
Lafayette Academy Charter School
ReNew Schools Charter Management Organization
Belle Chasse Academy
Jefferson Foundation Academy

Foundation for Science and Math Education (Sci High)

NET Charter High/Educational Quality Alternatives

Lake Forest Charter School

French and Montessori Education, Inc. (Audubon Charter School)

Crescent City Schools

Chartwell Center

Supporting Organizations/Other

Teach for America

New Schools for New Orleans

Center for Development and Learning

New Orleans Outreach

Communities in Schools

Bayou District Foundation

Kidsmart

City Year

Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools

Urban League College Track

Louisiana Alliance of Charter Schools (Eastbank Collaborative)

Police and Justice Foundation/Police Cadet Academy Project

Taylor Playground Booster Club

TEACHFORAMERICA

Teach For America • Greater New Orleans continues to play a critical role in the dramatic gains achieved in our public schools. This year over 480 corps members, graduates of the nation's top colleges, are working in underserved schools across Greater New Orleans. Joined by more than 650 TFA alums, they work 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 nearly 28,000 students. Board members include Hunter Pierson, Bill Hines, Wendy Beron, Andrew Wisdom, and Mary Kay Parker.



New Orleans

New Orleans OUTREACH

New Orleans Outreach brings professionals and volunteers into school classrooms to directly support classroom teachers, to build the capacity of schools, and to increase public support of and involvement in public education.

Adding to their list of partner schools each year, New Orleans Outreach has also added an innovative tutoring program to other efforts now reaching nearly 3,000 students. Data driven tutoring allows early identification and intervention to strengthen student performance. Outreach coordinates the work of over 1,500 volunteers who last year committed almost 20,000 hours of service in partner schools. Students reached by these programs show significantly stronger progress compared to their peers.

Sci Academy

New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy

Sci Academy is a remarkable example of what can be accomplished 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 2010 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, and Sci Academy has been awarded a charter to expand to a second campus. Douglas Finnegan and William Langenstein serve on the Sci Academy board.



The Future Is Now.



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. 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.



NEW ORLEANS COLLEGE PREP
Preparing Students for College Success

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 its success in achieving that mission has allowed it to expand—it now runs three

schools on two campuses. As an open admission charter school NOCP students are 99% African-American, 96% qualify for free or reduced lunch and 12% are classified as Special Education. NOCP students continue to make significant strides each year on standardized tests. PBPF's grant helps



support the continued success of this fine school, whose main campus is located in the old Sylvania Williams building only a few blocks from the Rex Den.



Founded by Jay Altman and Tony Recasner, FirstLine Schools now operates four K-8 schools and one high school--Samuel Greene (with its Edible Schoolyard), Arthur Ashe, John Dibert, Langston Hughes and Clark--schools achieving strong academic success while emphasizing the school's role in the neighborhood and community. FirstLine is doing innovative work in introducing "blended learning" to their classrooms—integrating technology to

supplement the work of excellent FirstLine classroom teachers. This is the third PBPF grant awarded to FirstLine, one of the strong Charter Management Organizations (CMOs) helping transform the educational landscape in New Orleans. Cathy Pierson serves on the FirstLine Board.

