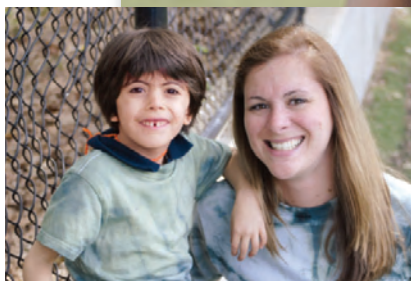


Unique Among Schools

Annual Report 2009-2010



“Walking into the Cooke Center Academy was a breathtaking experience. It was nurturing while at the same time encouraging independence in students in ways we never would have thought of before.”

— Cooke Center Academy Parent



The Cooke Center is incredibly grateful for the generous support of our long-term leadership grantors, including:

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Year Ended June 30, 2010

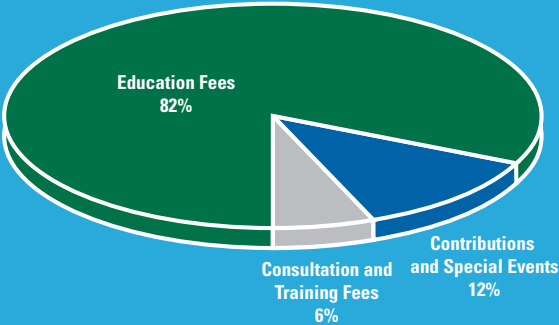
REVENUE

Education Fees	\$ 12,978,766
Consultation & Training Fees	923,049
Contributions & Special Events	1,981,059
<hr/>	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 15,882,874

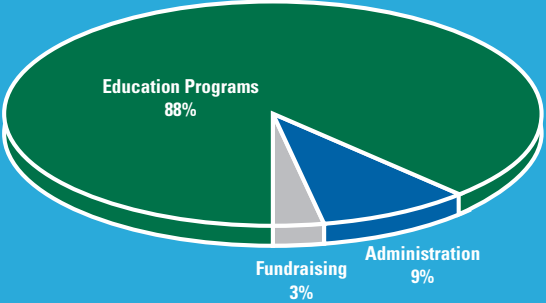
EXPENSES

Education Services & Programs	\$ 12,963,007
Administration	1,350,040
Fundraising	361,695
<hr/>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 14,674,742

SOURCES OF REVENUE



EXPENSES





November 2010

Dear Friends:

In this annual report, we salute the dedicated staff that makes Cooke “unique among schools”. Throughout our various school programs, the common thread is the experience, talent and love our teachers bring to the classroom each and every day.

The growth that has occurred since Cooke opened its doors to the first classroom of seven students in 1987 is nothing short of miraculous. This kind of growth can only take place when the board, parents, and faculty regularly ask themselves, “What do our children need from us today?”

As we move toward our 25th anniversary, we are asking the Cooke community to help us answer that very question. Over the coming months, Cooke’s core constituents—board members, senior leadership, faculty, parents, and supporters—will gather in groups to participate in a strategic process of reflection and planning.

Throughout the strategic planning process, the values at the heart of Cooke will continue to guide all that we do. We remain committed to parent engagement, inclusive opportunities, diversity, and instruction that builds upon the strengths and interests of our students. With all of us working together, Cooke will continue to foster independence through education for many years to come.

As always, we are so grateful to our generous friends and supporters. It is thanks to your support that Cooke is here some 25 years later, reflecting on our past successes and preparing for a better future for our kids.

With our heartfelt thanks,

Kenneth I. Wirfel, Esq.
Chairman

Michael Termini, PsyD
President

Cooke Preschool

Cooke's Preschool offers special education and therapeutic services to children aged 3-5 in Head Start and preschool programs throughout the city. Cooke's signature "Collaboration for Inclusion" program takes this one step further, training teachers to prepare *all* children for kindergarten and beyond. Through long-term coaching directly in the classroom, we help teachers create language-rich environments and help children develop the learning and social skills they need for a lifetime of academic achievement.

Cooke Preschool providers are highly trained, experienced educators. In addition to their work in the classroom, they share what they know with hundreds of parents and teachers every year through on-site trainings and workshops in a myriad of preschool specialties.



Preschool students hard at work and play at West Harlem Head Start.





Cooke Program Supervisor **Dr. Joselyn Fine** coordinates early childhood special needs programming at the nationally-recognized Harlem Children's Zone. "The Cooke Center provides a spectrum of services to HCZ, including identification of children with delays, parent workshops and staff consultations. We also oversee assessments, which help determine whether youngsters are school-ready."

"I could not have asked for better services for my son. I knew if he went to a regular Head Start he would not get the one-on-one attention he receives from the Cooke staff."

— West Harlem Head Start Parent



Bindia Patel is a Level 2 teacher, whose students are exploring the theme of “Problem Solving” this year. “It’s such an exciting new time in the children’s development,” she says. “In Level 2 we can see such a shift towards greater independence.”

Having previously taught Level 1 for four years, Ms. Patel sees first-hand the great strides her students are making. “I’ve been working with one student, for instance, for three years,” she says. “When she first arrived at Cooke, she couldn’t use her words. She has worked so hard—she is speaking in full sentences now, and she’s made so much progress, we’ve placed her into the 2nd grade general ed math class!”



Paraprofessional Blanca Morales with a happy lower school student.

Cooke Center Lower School

“When we sat in on one of the classrooms in the Lower School, I was really impressed with the language and math centers that group kids by ability. The students are the same ages, but in different places academically, and they all receive individual attention. We thought it was just perfect.”

— Cooke Center Lower School Parent

Students at the Cooke Lower School know there's a lot in store for them when they walk into their classrooms every day. Whether participating in Reader's Theater, solving a math problem, or taking a trip on a double-decker bus to the Studio Museum in Harlem, they know their day will be chock-full of exciting experiences.

Teachers and therapists work together to design classroom lessons that can be reinforced on the playground, in the lunchroom, and out in the community. Using research-based programs, a multisensory approach to instruction, and focusing on students' strengths and interests, Cooke has developed a modified curriculum following New York State standards in core subject areas. Speech, occupational and physical therapists deliver services in a variety of contexts throughout the day, while counselors help students develop self-confidence and decision-making skills. Parents appreciate the ongoing communication from teachers about their children's progress and how they can help reinforce learning at home.



Assistant Teacher Katty Vargas helping students integrate technology into their studies.

Cooke Center Middle School

“Cooke teachers make your child feel wanted. They have such patience, and they’re just really into your kid. They care about parents, too, which we appreciate.”

— Cooke Center Middle School Parent

At the Cooke Center Middle School, an individualized schedule means that students are moving towards even greater independence. As they move from one class to another, they are working on becoming more flexible in their routines and transitions. Like middle schoolers everywhere, they are becoming increasingly aware of their place in the community and this year the Middle School theme challenges them to ask: “How Can We Make a Difference?” Homerooms have a service learning component and in math and science, students are asked to identify a community problem and create practical solutions to help solve it.



Occupational Therapist Catherine Miranda demonstrating a proper pencil grip.



Cooke Center middle schoolers taking part in the weekly Arts and Movement program. The students pictured above are practicing yoga and having a go on the bongos during a percussion class with Mr. Fitz.



Rachel Munz is a Middle School Head Teacher who has come up through the ranks, beginning her career as an Assistant Teacher. “Cooke works non-stop for kids. Our students come with so many learning styles, and we have to continually adapt the curriculum and plan lessons so that we can reach every single one. But that takes a lot of training, so Cooke brings in experts and uses the talent we’ve got right here.” An important goal at present is collaborative planning so that students receive instruction and therapy in as seamless a manner as possible. “It’s a tough challenge,” says Ms. Munz, “but Cooke gives us what we need to make it happen. As a teacher, I really feel that Cooke is a place where I can grow.”

“I see big changes in my daughter since she’s been at Cooke. She was so frustrated at her old school. Now she comes through the door, changes out of her uniform, and starts on her homework all by herself.”

— Cooke Center Middle School Parent



“My daughter feels at home at Cooke—she’s never felt that way at any other school.”

— Cooke Center Academy Parent

As the Cooke Center Academy’s Community Transition Coordinator, **Jillian Ma** serves as an important link between the Academy and the city. Responsible for helping students develop the tools they need for success, she takes them through the resumé, job-hunting and interview processes, and helps them with their time management skills. Ms. Ma also reaches out to dozens of community partners, seeking internship opportunities that provide valuable real-world experience.

“Cooke students work so hard to prepare themselves for the world of work, from researching what most interests them to making sure they know exactly how long it will take to get to work on time,” says Ms. Ma. “The actual on-the-job experience then drives home the rewards and responsibilities of being a good employee.”

Cooke Center Academy



The Cooke Center Academy curriculum is aligned with a traditional high school model, with varying levels of modification individually tailored to the needs of our students.

In addition to attending classes, students at the Cooke Center Academy practice important living skills, explore jobs of interest, and learn to travel on buses, subways, and through bustling city streets. An important part of the Academy's transition curriculum is the requirement that students participate in community service as well as internships in corporate offices, small businesses, restaurants, parks, child care centers and healthcare and cultural institutions around New York City.

Of course, it would not be a high school without all of the activities that create community. Throughout the year, students enjoy participating in athletics, yearbook, a talent show, spring musical, art, student government and school dances.

Cooke's SKILLS Program ("Skills and Knowledge for Independent Living and Learning") gives older students through the age of 21 the opportunity to fine-tune their transition plan, continue their studies and find jobs that meet their interests. A large part of the program is exploring all of the resources in the city that students can participate in as independent young adults. One such activity is participation in a state-wide self-advocacy coalition for persons with developmental disabilities.



SKILLS students enjoying their internships at Animal Haven, an animal shelter in SoHo , and CVS Pharmacy.



Moody's volunteers visit CCA every year to conduct mock interviews with students.

Cooke Center Institute



Photo by Laura Dwight

“With the help of our Cooke Center literacy consultant, we raised our English Language Arts test scores by 28 percentage points!”

— Principal Ann Marie McGoldrick

Driven by Cooke’s mission to support inclusive educational programs for students with special needs, the Institute provides literacy, math and special education consulting services to inner-city charter, Catholic and independent schools, Head Starts and preschool programs. Through our consulting work, Cooke seeks to build teachers’ capacity to use a range of data in creating the best plans for their students. Cooke approaches all of the educators we serve with a collegial respect, offering opportunities for professional growth that build on what they already know.

For our corporate partners, the Institute’s ACCESS Project provides lunchtime workshops on current child development topics. Presenters are experts in child development, with years of experience working with children in various settings and age groups.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Twenty top chefs come together in support of the Cooke Center

Cooke Center supporters gathered at La Venue in Chelsea last April for the 2010 spring gala, *Food for Thought*, honoring Chef David and Karen Waltuck of Chanterelle Restaurant. The Waltucks are parents of Cooke Center Academy student, Jacob, and have been extraordinarily generous to our students over the years.

Guests feasted on savory and sweet treats from some of New York City's most beloved chefs. The *Food for Thought* event was such a tremendous success that another tasting is planned for May 2011.

Cooke would like to especially thank our leadership donors Loeb & Loeb LLP, the Estate of Ulryk Eichbaum and Morgan Stanley for generously supporting this inaugural event.

Thank you to all the generous and talented chefs who made this evening a success:

David Waltuck	Honoree, Chanterelle Restaurant
Julian Alonzo	Brasserie 8 ½
Franklin Becker	Abe & Arthur's
Ed Brown	Eighty One
David Bouley	Bouley Restaurants
Maneet Chauhan	At Vermilion
Patricia Clark	Patricia Clark Catering
Alexis Colantonio	Natural Gourmet Kitchen
Karen DeMasco	Locanda Verde
Ricky Estrellado	Nobu New York
Robb Garceau	Hudson Yards Catering
Jacques Gautier	Palo Santo
Charles Grund, Jr.	Hill Country
Craig Hopson	Le Cirque
Michael Laiskonis	Le Bernardin
Anita Lo	Annisa
Michael Lomonaco	Porter House New York
Anne-Marie Noonan	Bryant Park Grill
Laurie Pauker	Lush Candy
Bill Telepan	Telepan

Wine pairings were provided by Evening Land Vineyards, Parlay Wine, San Polino Winery, Southern Wine and Spirits and Loca Linda wine from Clo Wine Bar, along with Master Sommelier, Roger Dagorn of Porter House New York.



Photos by Laura Dwight

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Annual Giving

The following list acknowledges with sincere gratitude those individuals, foundations and corporations that contributed to the Cooke Center annual fund, attended the spring benefit or made a program grant during the period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. We thank all of our longtime supporters and welcome new contributors to the Cooke family.

*Indicates a Road to Independence Campaign gift received in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

LOOKING AHEAD: WAYS YOU CAN HELP US SECURE COOKE'S LEGACY

A gift of a bequest

A gift of life insurance

A gift of real estate

A gift from which you receive income, such as a Charitable Remainder Trust, Pooled Income Fund or an Annuity

A Charitable Lead Trust

For more information, contact Patti Schaefer,
Director of Institutional Advancement,
212-280-4473, x14
pschaefer@cookecenter.org

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\$750,000+

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Every effort has been made to ensure that all of our annual fund and program grant supporters are included in this list and the names and categories are correct. Regrettably, errors do occasionally occur and we appreciate your bringing them to our attention.

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Cooke Center staff provides education and consultation services in the following sites, located throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx.

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Cooke at Ascension Lower School
Cooke at Blessed Sacrament Middle School
Cooke at Corpus Christi Lower School
Cooke at Our Lady of Pompeii Lower School
Cooke Center Academy High School
SKILLs Program—Waverly Place Campus
West Harlem Head Start

Learning Centers

Ascension School
Blessed Sacrament School
Our Lady Queen of Angels
St. Ann School

Consultation & Training Sites

Annunciation School
Ascension School
Blessed Sacrament School
Christ the King School (Bronx)
Harlem Link Charter School
Holy Cross School (Bronx)
Holy Family School (Bronx)
Holy Spirit School (Bronx)
Immaculate Conception School
—151st St. (Bronx)
Immaculate Conception School
—Gun Hill Rd. (Bronx)
Incarnation School
Mount Carmel/Holy Rosary School
Our Lady of Lourdes School
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School
Sacred Heart School (Bronx)
Santa Maria School (Bronx)
St. Athanasius School (Bronx)
St. Augustine School (Bronx)
St. Charles Borromeo School
St. John Vianney School (Bronx)
St. Jerome School (Bronx)
St. Joseph School—Bathgate (Bronx)
St. Luke School (Bronx)
St. Mark the Evangelist School
St. Nicholas of Tolentine School (Bronx)
St. Rose of Lima School
St. Thomas Aquinas School (Bronx)
Transfiguration School

Preschool Services

Acorn School
Brick Church
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society:
• Brevoort Children's Center
• Cleveland Day Care
• Nat Azarow Day Care
• Sumner Children's Center
• Tompkins Children's Center
Chabad Early Learning Center
Children's All Day School
City and Country School
Educational Alliance:
• 197 East Broadway
• Lillian Wald Day Care Center
• PS 15
• PS 64
• PS 142
Harlem Children's Zone
Jewish Community Project
Manhattan Day School
P.S. 81 (Brooklyn)
P.S. 125 (Brooklyn)
P.S. 284 (Brooklyn)
Puerto Rican Family Institute
Head Start
St. Ignatius Day Nursery
Third Street Music Settlement
West Harlem Head Start
Yaldaynu
York Avenue Preschool



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Thank you to the following community partners who have provided Cooke Center students with opportunities for internships, community service and off-site education.

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All Souls Unitarian Church
Allan's Afterschool Program
AMC Movie Theaters
American Museum of Natural History
Bank of America
Beacon's Closet
Bideawee
Bright Healthy Smiles
Bronx Zoo/International Wildlife
Conservation Park
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Brooklyn Bridge, Manhattan
Brooklyn Historical Society
Brooklyn Museum
Cabrinini Center for Nursing
& Rehabilitation
Callen-Lorde Health Center
Caribbean Cultural Center/African
Diaspora Institute
Carnegie Hill Neighbors
CB Richard Ellis
Community Works
Covenant House
CVS
Daniel's Music Foundation
Dyckman Farmhouse Museum
Elizabeth Irwin High School
Ellis Island Museum
Gallop Therapeutic Riding
Habitat for Humanity
Highline Park

Historic House Trust, Wyckoff
Farmhouse and Historic
Richmond Town
Historic Hudson Valley, Phillipsburg
Hudson River Park Trust
Manor Historic Town
Home Depot
Housing Works
Hudson Hudson River Museum
Hunts Point Market
Institute for Family Health
International Gay & Lesbian
Human Rights Commission
Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum
Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum
Jewish Association for the Services
for the Aged (JASA)
Kids in the Game
Law Offices of Hogan & Hartson
Liberty Science Center
Little Red School House
Manhattan Theatre Source
Metropolitan Museum of Art
The Moody's Foundation
The Mulberry Street Library
Museum of Modern Art
Museum of the City of New York
Museum of the Moving Image
National Coalition of
Concerned Legal Professionals
National Museum of the American
Indian (Smithsonian Institution)
News Corporation
New World Stages
New York Aquarium
New York Botanical Garden

New York City Fire Museum
New York Hall of Science
New York Historical Society
New York Park Rangers:
Ft. Tryon Park, Inwood Hill Park
New York Public Library
New York Times Printing Plant
New York Unearthed
Newark Museum
Newton Creek Water Treatment Plant
Nicu's Spoon Theater
NY Parks Department
P.S.1 Museum
Pitney Bowes
Premiere Radio
Queens Botanical Garden
Queens Museum of Art
Rockefeller Center
The Rubin Museum
South Street Seaport Museum
Studio Museum in Harlem
The Tenement Museum
The Unified Court System
West End Intergenerational Residence
West Harlem Headstart Program
Yorkville Common Pantry

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