

COOKE CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE

Year ended June 30, 2011

89%
EDUCATION FEES
\$ 15,026,000

9%
**CONTRIBUTIONS &
SPECIAL EVENTS**
\$ 1,555,000

2%
**CONSULTATION AND
TRAINING FEES**
\$ 391,000

TOTAL REVENUE
\$ 16,972,000



EXPENSE

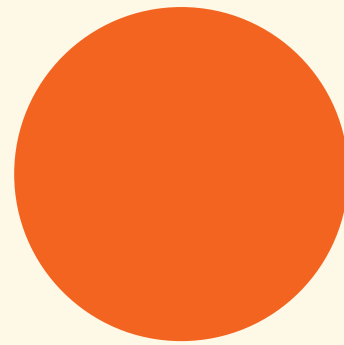
Year ended June 30, 2011

87%
**EDUCATION SERVICES
AND PROGRAMS**
\$ 14,207,000

11%
ADMINISTRATION
\$ 1,783,000

3%
FUNDRAISING
\$ 414,000

TOTAL EXPENSE
\$ 16,404,000



**"We all have special
needs. Our children
are not different
from other kids,
they just need to be
taught differently."**

— Serena B., Middle School Parent

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DEAR FRIENDS,

As we approach our 25th anniversary year, all of us at the Cooke Center have been spending a great deal of time considering how to mark this important milestone. Beginning in January 2012, we will launch a yearlong calendar of events to engage our families and the greater Cooke community in the anniversary celebration. As a first step, we refreshed our logo, reflecting the spirit of our students' growth and achievements and at the same time representing the optimism we feel as we look forward to the next twenty-five years of our journey. You may also notice that we retained our tag line – Independence through Education – as it underscores the vision articulated in our mission: “a world in which all people with special needs are included as valued members of their communities, leading independent and purposeful lives.”

In the pages of this report, you will hear directly from students and parents about the impact Cooke has made on their lives. Whether it's helping a child read when he never thought he could or sitting down with a student to discuss the perfect job placement, Cooke is there for its families every step of the way.

We are so grateful for our donors who have supported us in this important work year after year. It is thanks to you that we are able to fulfill our mission to serve any child who needs us.

WITH OUR HEARTFELT THANKS,



Eileen Caulfield Schwab
Chair



Michael Termini, PsyD
President

PROGRAMS

PRESCHOOL



LOWER SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL



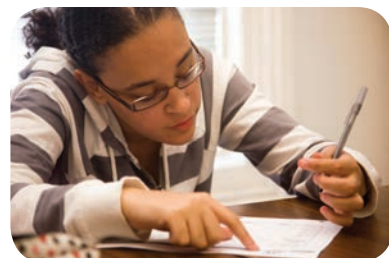
COOKE CENTER
ACADEMY



SKILLS



COOKE
INSTITUTE



COOKE IS COMMITTED TO ITS MISSION OF SERVING CHILDREN WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM A COOKE EDUCATION, REGARDLESS OF THEIR FAMILIES' ABILITY TO AFFORD TUITION. COOKE IS THE ONLY PRIVATE SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL IN NEW YORK CITY COMMITTED TO A NEEDS-BLIND ADMISSIONS POLICY.

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES FOR THE YOUNGEST LEARNERS



Cooke provides early childhood services directly in a child's own classroom in preschools and Head Start centers throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn, where our students learn alongside their typically developing peers.

Cooke's goal is to elevate the level of instruction school-wide, to better prepare all students – those with and without special needs – for a bright academic future. Through Cooke's signature preschool program, Collaboration for Inclusion, our special educators and clinicians become an integral part of the partner school community. Long-term, sustained partnerships allow Cooke consultant teachers to provide parent support, teacher coaching, student evaluations and special education services. We also help identify children who are at risk for language, social and learning delays, and provide the support they need in those crucial early years.

**"QUENTIN HAS MADE TREMENDOUS
PROGRESS IN HIS SPEECH, SOCIAL
AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
AND ACADEMIC SKILLS.
WE CANNOT OVERSTATE COOKE'S
IMPORTANT INFLUENCE. "**

– Susan M. , Preschool Parent





“Cooke provides the right kind of environment, and also has the specific things we wanted in a school: small class size, great student-teacher ratios, therapies in the classroom, and a high level of attention to the individual needs of each student.”

– Limor G., Lower School Parent



SMALL STEPS, BIG STRIDES

Heading off to elementary school can be a little scary for children and parents alike. The faculty at the Cooke Center Lower School has created a warm, yet structured environment that makes our younger students feel at ease and inspires confidence in parents that their children are in capable hands.

Our Lower School curriculum is based on New York State standards. Instructional strategies and related services are individualized to build on each student's strengths and developmental needs. Inclusion activities are developed throughout the year to bring Cooke students together with their general education peers. This can mean anything from a Cooke student participating in a general education math class, to Cooke students inviting their peers into an arts and movement activity. Trips to New York's museums, parks and other neighborhood resources offer students opportunities to advance their academic and social goals out in the greater community.



"The persistence and willingness of the faculty to try new methods is why I think Blaise finally overcame his insecurity about reading – he used to say 'I'll never read' and now he comes home proud of the books he's working on."

– Doug B., Middle School Parent

The Cooke Center Middle School begins preparing students for all of the transitions that lie ahead. As a sign of their growing independence, students manage individualized schedules where they move from class to class, learning to become comfortable with a number of transitions throughout the day. As in the Lower School, we also integrate related services – counseling, speech, physical and occupational therapy – into the academic schedule, depending on the needs of each student. Important off-site education experiences such as shopping and travel training prepare our middle schoolers for greater independence. We round out the curriculum with weekly clubs such as songwriting, film, yoga and cooking.

THE MIDDLE YEARS

MOVING ON UP

The Cooke Center Academy is a freestanding high school in New York's SoHo that provides students with special needs with all the things that make a high school a high school. In addition to individualized academics that meet New York State standards, we give students the opportunity to do all the things high school students do – run for student council, join the cheerleading squad, and pick the perfect prom dress, just to name a few.

A critical piece of the Academy's programming is transition planning, and every student leaves Cooke with a concrete plan in place. Beginning freshman year, transition staff work closely with students to select internship placements that meet each student's strengths and interests. In fact, Academy students can be found in offices, museums, parks and non-profits throughout the city. Students also get hands-on lessons in daily living, from navigating the subway system to learning how to manage a household in the school's Daily Living Lab. Finally, transition staff counsel current families and alumni on matters pertaining to life after Cooke, helping them create a plan for ongoing support for their adult children.



"ONE OF THE THINGS I LOVE MOST ABOUT THE PEOPLE AT COOKE IS THAT THEY NEVER MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ASKING TOO MUCH. I ASKED ONCE IF I WAS OVERREACHING WITH WHAT I WANTED FOR SERENA, AND THEY SAID, 'NO, WE'RE REACHING TOGETHER.'"

– Frances K., Academy Parent





SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE FOR INDEPENDENT LEARNING AND LIVING



The SKILLS program is designed to help young adults with disabilities, ages 18-21, make the transition from high school to adulthood, with a level of independence that is appropriate for each individual student. Located on West 29th Street, this new, dedicated space is close to mass transit and community resources such as libraries, museums and a recreation center, offering students a “living classroom”.

Through person-centered planning, we create opportunities for students to be actively involved in identifying their areas of interest and in developing their individual goals. A strong emphasis is placed on vocational training, leisure activities and daily living skills that foster independence. In addition, we strive to make sure that our students can claim their rightful place in the world, and speak up when they need to. SKILLS students have formed a self-advocacy group with the assistance of the Self Advocacy Association of New York State, of which they are now members.

After successfully completing the SKILLS programs, students are eligible to access adult transition support programs, including the Cooke Center Academy Transition Career Office and the Cooke Alumni Program.

“COOKE HELPED ME BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT AND LEARN TO MANAGE MY OWN RESPONSIBILITIES.”

– David B., Graduate

Photos by Steve Meyer

SHIORI & ISAAC



“SOMETIMES SCHOOL IS HARD, BUT I LIKE IT A LOT ANYHOW.”

Isaac and Shiori started dating in middle school. Now freshmen at the Cooke Center Academy, they shared their thoughts on high school life. Like many teenagers, Isaac joked that his favorite class at school was “lunch,” but he admitted when prompted by Shiori that he really enjoys arts, movement, and drama, while Shiori said that her favorites were gym and math. They both expressed their fondness for their classmates and teachers, saying that they always felt comfortable asking their teachers for help, and mentioning that they were always happy to help their classmates if they were able.

“Sometimes school is hard,” Shiori said, “but I like it a lot anyhow.” Isaac folded his hands behind his head and leaned back. “All we do is work,” he said with a put upon sigh. Shiori tapped him on the leg several times. “That’s not true,” she disagreed. “Well, that’s what it feels like,” he responded. They frowned at each other for a brief second, then broke into smiles. Finally, they concluded that school is challenging in the right ways, a sentiment echoed by Deidre Freeman, Shiori’s mother, and Miriam Hendel, Isaac’s mom.

“Cooke is a wonderfully supportive environment for Isaac, and one that honors him for who he is, while still encouraging him to reach outside of his comfort zone,” said Miriam. “When Isaac came to Cooke eight years ago, he was a little boy, and really a ‘handful’ behaviorally, but Cooke saw that as a challenge they were willing and eager to take up. They challenged him in return to keep moving beyond what he thought he could do.”

Deidre agreed, saying that Cooke “supports your child as a whole, in the context of all their needs. The level of detail and attention they pay to each child is amazing, and the feelings of caring are so positive, especially when the Cooke community comes together at events like the awards ceremony and graduation. The support and love in the room is almost palpable.”

STORIES BY KATHERINE ROBARDS

Aaron has attended the Cooke Lower School for a year, and his mother, Helena, says that the changes in both Aaron and her life are incredible. "Our family friends come to see us, and they ask 'Is this the same Aaron?' and they look at me and say, 'You look so much more relaxed!' Being at Cooke is a completely different experience from where Aaron was before."

Prior to coming to Cooke, Aaron was in a special ed class at a school where there wasn't enough supervision for him. He had to travel to other therapies each day, and the rigid expectations for learning only served to increase his anxiety. "Half the days of the week the school would call me to bring him home, but they wouldn't listen when I told them about the ways I've figured out to help Aaron calm down or focus. I always felt that they didn't want my input, or that they thought I was wasting their time when I made suggestions. That was so different at Cooke; at our first meeting they sat down with me to formulate a plan, and I really felt they heard everything I had to say. I remember the first time I talked to his physical therapist, and was actually thanked for my input – that was such a new, wonderful feeling."

Aaron looked up from playing with his train – which he said was his favorite – and smiled. "When I grow up I want to drive a train" he said.

"That's another thing I don't worry about as much anymore – his future," Helena said. "I know there's a good high school waiting for him at the Cooke Center Academy, and a good chance at a job and confidence and independence. Our lives have been so much easier now that we have the capacity to think about the future instead of being overwhelmed by our daily struggles."

"He's happy now, and I am too," she said. "I pick him up after school and he introduces me to his friends, and talks about what he did at school that day. I get to meet his friends' parents, and talk to his teachers about his progress. I can tell Cooke anything and they take it to heart and respond. It's a real community, and I always feel like people are looking out for Aaron."

AARON & MOM, HELENA

**"OUR FAMILY FRIENDS
COME TO SEE US,
AND THEY ASK 'IS THIS
THE SAME AARON?'.
BEING AT COOKE
IS A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE
FROM WHERE AARON
WAS BEFORE."**



SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE

Through the Cooke Center Institute, we help teachers and related service providers throughout New York City implement the best practices for educating all kinds of learners. Cooke consultants are experienced reading, writing and math coaches who work with teachers in their own classrooms one or two days each week. They model research-based instructional techniques for achieving balanced literacy and math programs, as well as strategies for differentiating instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners in each classroom. Our consultants also provide professional development workshops on a variety of topics, based on the needs of the faculty and principal at each school.

For our corporate partners, the Institute's ACCESS Project provides lunchtime workshops on current child development and special education topics to employees who are parents or caregivers. Presenters are experts in their respective fields, with years of experience working with children of all age groups in various settings. Employee parents who participate are given a safe, nurturing forum and ample opportunities to ask questions and express their concerns. Feedback from companies who participate in ACCESS is consistently positive.



IN MEMORIAM – ALL OF US AT COOKE

were saddened this summer by the loss of **Marcia Gardère**, the Head of the Cooke Center Institute. Marcia was a creative, innovative and visionary educator. Wherever she went a community of children, parents and professionals sprang up and flourished.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT RAISES MORE THAN \$400,000 FOR COOKE



Last May, Cooke Center supporters took part in *Food for Thought: A Grand Chefs' Tasting* at Guastavino's in Manhattan. We honored **Irene Dorner, President & CEO of HSBC Bank USA, N.A.** with the Road to Independence Award and parents **Christine and Kevin Hennessey** with the Founders' Award. Karen and David Waltuck of Chanterelle and Ark Restaurants, also Cooke parents, once again provided their talent and support for this fantastic culinary event.

Food for Thought was co-chaired by parents Wendy Banner and Helen Lee-Warren, and generously supported by Deloitte, Circle of Confusion, Covington & Burling LLP, Goldman Sachs, Horizon Media, HSBC Bank USA, N.A., Loeb & Loeb, LLP, Moody's, Mucca Design and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

THE EVENT FEATURED OVER 20 CHEFS, PASTRY CHEFS, AND SOMMELIERS, INCLUDING:

David Bouley	Bouley Restaurants
Maneet Chauhan	at Vermilion
Vincent Chirico	Vai
Andrea Corrales	Elegant Affairs
Roger Dagorn	Porter House NY
Karen DeMasco	Locanda Verde
Polo Dobkin	Dressler
Laurence Duda and Roni Ross	Neuman's Catering
Josh Eden and Francis Derby	Shorty's .32
Ricky Estrellado	Nobu New York
Marc Forgione	Marc Forgione
Robb Garceau	Union Square Events
Jacques Gautier	Palo Santo
Charles Grund, Jr.	Hill Country
Naoki Kinoshita	Nippon Sushi
Adam Kaye	Blue Hill at Stone Barns
Anita Lo	Annisa
William Oliva	Delmonico's
Vincent Nargi	The Odeon
Anne-Marie Noonan	Bryant Park Grill
Laurie Pauker	Lush Candy
David Waltuck	Ark Restaurants

Wine pairings and other fine foods were provided by **Brooklyn Roasting Company, Caviarteria, San Polino Winery, Tuthilltown Spirits, and Wölffer Estate Vineyard.**

OUR DONORS

The following list acknowledges with sincere gratitude those individuals, foundations and corporations that contributed to the Cooke Center annual fund, spring gala or made a program grant during the period from July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011. We thank all of our longtime supporters and welcome new contributors to the Cooke family.

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, POOL INCOME TRUST OR AN ANNUITY

A CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST

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– West 29th Street
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Incarnation School
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Brick Church Day School
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society:
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• Cleaveland Children's Center
• Nat Azarow Children's Center
• Sumner Children's Center
• Tompkins Children's Center
Central Park Early Learning
Chabad Early Learning Center
Chelsea Day School
Children's Learning Center
at Morningside Heights
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
Gym Time
Harlem Children's Zone
International Preschool
Jewish Community Project
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Manhattan Day School
Montclare Children's School
Morningside Montessori
Preschool for the Arts
PS 243
PS 284 Lew Wallace School
PS 81 Thaddeus Stevens School
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