



EAST SIDE LEARNING CENTER

“Unlocking each child’s potential through the foundation of reading” since 2001

An educational partnership with the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Fall 2016

The Bookmark

“Bridges to the Future”

Our 16th year of serving the children and families of St. Paul’s East Side is well underway. With five tutoring sites and over 300 children tutored daily, we have a busy year ahead!

This year our Board has adopted the theme: “Bridges to the Future.” What a wonderful way to capture the work we do every day empowering our children to be successful readers. **Reading is indeed a bridge to future academic and life success** for our children.

Our theme acknowledges the shift we are making in our focus. We are finding that the most efficient way to ensure children read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade is to focus on kindergarten. **Prevention is more effective than intervention.** “Catching up” children

earlier prevents them from becoming frustrated as they struggle to keep up with their peers, and prepares them for academic success. At the same time, we remain committed to unlocking each child’s potential through the foundation of reading.

Finally, “Bridges to the Future” provides a context for facilitating a smooth **ESLC leadership transition** as I step down as Executive Director. For 15 years I have been privileged to work with energetic and dedicated individuals committed to making a difference in the lives of struggling young learners. I have seen ESLC transition from a fledgling organization to the well-respected non-profit it is today. And, most importantly, **I have**



A Message from Sister Audrey

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At a Glance 2015-16 Fiscal Year*

All Sites

445 Children Served**
295 Volunteers
28 Part-time Educators

10,674 Volunteer Hours
10,371 Part-time Educators & Staff Hours
21,045 Total Tutoring Hours

*includes Summer 2015
**unduplicated count

A Summer Tutoring Experience

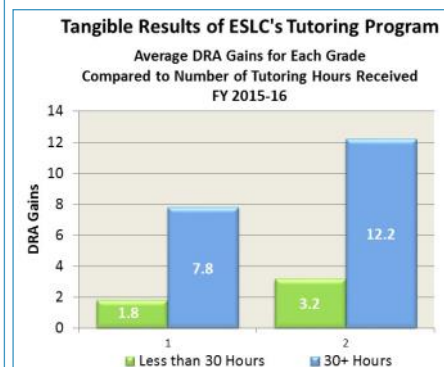
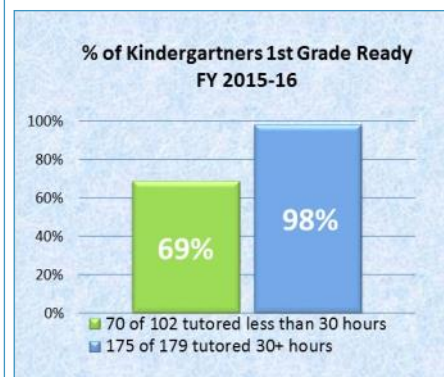
DeSante T. had a tough year in kindergarten. In addition to time-out on a regular basis in his classroom, he was asked in the middle of the school year not to come back to the ESLC tutoring room because he had been too disruptive.

He didn't want to learn to read. In fact, he refused to even look at books. It seemed he had come to school lacking experience with reading and any sense of what those black squiggles on white paper meant. **A proud boy, he refused to try something he was already no good at.** Still, his professional tutor worked miracles teaching him the entire alphabet and sounds, and his volunteer tutors had labored hard to find books and activities that would pique his interest.

Not wanting to give up on DeSante, one of his tutors offered to continue working with him out in the hall. Together, they made a small amount of progress through reading a chapter book that he delighted in and playing consonant and vowel games. DeSante was a generous opponent; he often let his tutor have an extra turn so they could tie.

He also asked on one occasion if anyone could be all bad. His tutor assured him that no, no one is all bad. It was a heartbreaking moment. After the school year was over, **DeSante's tutor and ESLC agreed that he could benefit with more help, and offered to continue working with him over the summer.** His mother agreed, and the tutor picked DeSante up at his home Monday and Wednesday mornings and drove to a local library, where the two of

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School Year 2015-16 Of all children receiving at least 30 hours of tutoring

- ✓ 98% (175 of 179) of kindergartners were first-grade ready
- ✓ 57% (60 of 106) of 1st graders &
- ✓ 85% (34 of 40) of 2nd & 3rd graders reached ESLC reading goals

You did it!

Thanks for meeting the \$20,000 challenge match from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation.

♥ Thank you! ♥
Let's do it again!

Thank You!

ESLC sends a big THANK YOU to the following:

The Red Balloon Bookstore for **new books** for home libraries and the new Bruce F. Vento site.



IBM for an **IBM Community Grant**, part of their corporate volunteer and giving campaign.



KARE 11 for **highlighting ESLC** as part of their September "Volunteer Opportunity of the Month."



Cities 97 for **financial support** of our **Summer Literacy Camps**.



3M for **1,000 snack packs** for our students and their schoolmates!



At a Glance 2016 Summer Literacy Camps

Our children are ready for school!

- ✓ 100% (20 of 20) Pre-K children **increased their knowledge** of letters, names and sounds, improved oral language and learned to print their full name.
- ✓ 93% (38 of 41) of the kindergartners not only retained their reading skills, but **improved** them.
- ✓ 89% (32 of 36) of 1st and 3rd graders **increased their reading level**.
- ✓ 100% of students had a **one-to-one caring relationship** with an adult.
- ✓ 100% **received 5 books** for their home libraries.

A special thank you goes out to our **generous volunteers** who **donated 1,148 hours** of their time this summer to make our camps successful. Your support makes a difference!



experienced intense joy and satisfaction from working with our children.

Thanks to our committed staff, awesome volunteers, supportive schools, an engaged board and generous financial contributors, **ESLC is in a very good place right now and well positioned for the future.** Our recent United Way Small Nonprofit Best Community Impact Award is a testament to the strength of our organization in **making a difference in the lives of more than 2500 children.** I am confident that ESLC will continue to thrive and

be responsive to the needs of the East Side community in the future.

You, too, are a “bridge builder.” Your support makes success possible for our children. Please consider a financial gift as we continue this vital work together.

As we build “Bridges to the Future” one very important thing remains the same - the beaming smile that breaks out on a child’s face when things begin to “click” and they proudly say “I am a reader!” **Thank you for working with ESLC to make this happen.**

“Staff are trained very well at ESLC and are able to provide individual lessons to students... We know our students are getting highly effective tutoring.”

*Barbara J. Evangelist, Principal
Saint Paul Music Academy*

Message from the Board

This past spring, Sister Audrey announced she would be relinquishing her role as Executive Director. Sister Audrey has assumed responsibility for this role since ESLC’s inception. Under her direction, **ESLC has expanded to five locations and increased the number of students being tutored from 19 to 320** each week.

Throughout the expansion, Sister Audrey has remained dedicated, excited and steadfast in fostering, promoting and spreading ESLC’s mission. Her compassion and sensitivity to the needs of others has inspired a warm and welcoming organizational culture, serving an ever changing and diverse community.

It is not possible to give back to Sister Audrey all that she has given us. Her positive impact is unmeasurable and everlasting. However, we can offer her a promise. **We promise to continue what she has started,** to follow her example, remember her guidance and strive to make her proud. Most of all, we promise **we will never forget her unfaltering kindness, strength, perseverance and faith.**



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\$51-\$100

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\$1-\$50

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Jackie Freund	Jill Leonard	Elementary
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A Summer Tutoring Experience (Continued from page 2)

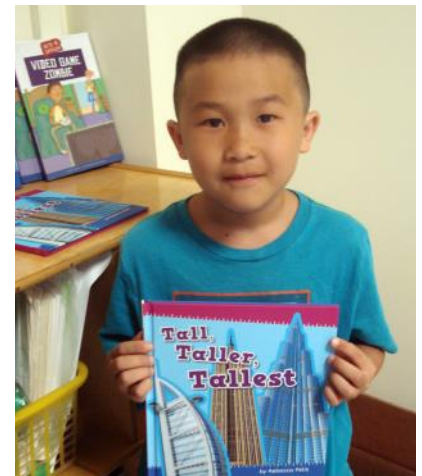
them got a small meeting room and went to work.

The tutor made a set of sight word cards, punched a hole in each, and put them on a metal ring. **As DeSante came to recognize the words, they were transferred from her ring to his.** The ring became his Word-Power Ring, and it held 43 words by the end of the summer. DeSante enjoyed pointing out to “Tutor” that her ring was almost empty, while his was getting full. At home, **his grandmother got involved** and quizzed DeSante on the word ring regularly. She also began reading to him, something they both enjoyed.

As DeSante became more skilled at identifying the sounds in words, his tutor tried to get him to transfer that knowledge to sounding out short-vowel words. He came close, but didn’t want to make the leap. The tutor made more flash cards, all short-vowel, single-syllable words, and offered DeSante a box of small plastic dinosaurs from which he could pick one for every word he could sound out. **All of a sudden, he started sounding out words!**

In addition to hard work on reading, the team of DeSante and Tutor also played outside for a few minutes after each session and took three field trips over the summer: to the Children’s Museum, Como Zoo, and Science Museum. **DeSante showed that he could get along well with other children and that he was excited to learn** when he could choose things that interested him and experiment with them at his own pace.

Here’s hoping that the experiences of the summer will carry over into a fantastic year in first grade for DeSante!



Looking for the perfect New Year's Resolution?

What's better than helping to change the life of a child forever by teaching them to read?

When ESLC students return from winter break, many of their volunteer tutors cannot come back due to other commitments.

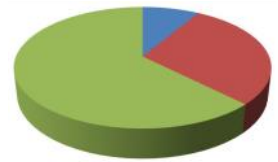
Volunteer to fill the tutoring gaps by building a caring relationship with a student one-on-one for as little as one hour a week!

Please contact
Lauren Johnsen
at 651-793-7364 or
lauren.johnsen@spps.org

Finance

ASSETS		06/30/2016
Current Assets		
Cash or Equivalents	\$	356,927
Pledges Receivable	\$	285,001
Other Current Assets	\$	<u>10,638</u>
	\$	652,566
Total Property and Equipment	\$	1,068
Total Other Assets	\$	<u>0</u>
Total Assets	\$	653,634
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL		
Total Current Liabilities	\$	-
Capital	\$	<u>653,634</u>
Total Liabilities and Capital	\$	653,634

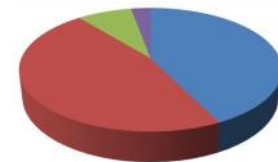
FY 2015-16 One-On-One Tutoring Costs		
Staff:	\$	36,807 (9%)
Part-Time Professionals:	\$	124,814 (29%)
Volunteers – In-Kind:	\$	268,909 (62%)



FY 2015-16 ESLC Revenue		
Grants Unrestricted:	\$	446,249 (45%)
In-Kind Contributions:	\$	484,374 (48%)
Individual Donations:	\$	54,060 (5%)
Contracted Services & Other Income:	\$	20,553 (2%)



FY 2015-16 ESLC Expenses		
Cash Program Expenses:	\$	445,646 (46%)
In-Kind Expenses:	\$	484,374 (43%)
Cash Admin Expenses:	\$	83,774 (8%)
Cash Fundraising Exp.:	\$	29,999 (3%)



Donors and Funders

Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (Employee Match)
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 Katherine B. Andersen Fund of
 The Saint Paul Foundation (Matching)
 F. R. Bigelow Foundation
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You can double your gift to the ESLC by qualifying for a matching grant!

Help match a \$20,000 challenge grant from the
Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation
by December 31, 2016

Donations that meet any of the following criteria will be matched:

- ✓ Dollar for dollar for all **new** contributions
- ✓ Dollar for dollar for contributions from **lapsed** donors who have not given for a year or more in support of the ESLC
- ✓ Dollar for dollar for **increased portion** of contributions of those who donated during the 2015 calendar year

It is easy with the enclosed envelope.
Or if you prefer to donate online visit our website
www.eastsidelearningcenter.org
Click on the orange **“Donate Today”** button

Please remember us on Thursday, November 17, 2016
Give to the Max Day!

East Side Learning Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that relies on the generous donations of individuals and foundations dedicated to “unlocking each child’s potential through the foundation of reading.”

For the sake of children who could benefit from one-on-one tutoring with a caring adult or teen, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution.

