

Learning Leaders®

Making New York Smarter



2005 Annual Report

Learning Leaders helps New York City public school children succeed by providing them with tutoring and other services from our trained volunteers, and by equipping parents to foster their own children's educational development.

The support and dedication of parents, corporate employees, students, seniors and other concerned community members makes Learning Leaders New York City's largest and strongest volunteer organization working to helping students succeed.



It all adds up:

219,000 public school children served

14,933 volunteers – 3,844 new!

937 schools – including 90% of the City's elementary schools

18,495 adult program participants

90% of volunteers are women

77% are parents of public school children

70% are people of color

Teachers assessed a sampling of students who had received instructional help from our volunteers. Teachers reported that at least 92% of the students had made gains in school work, self-confidence and interest in school.

In an independent telephone survey of 573 parent volunteers, 77% reported that since they became a Learning Leader, their own children got better grades.

Letter from the Chairman and President

The future of our City is in the public schools right now — more than a million children each year representing a wealth of talent that needs to be nurtured. These students embody the diversity of our global city. Learning Leaders volunteers are in 937 schools across the five boroughs. In 2004-05, nearly 15,000 volunteers helped more children than ever — 219,000. Our volunteers also put in more hours than ever — over 2 million. We could not be more grateful or more proud.

In addition, our staff offered training and workshops to parents, including recent immigrants, in more languages than ever: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Haitian-Creole. We also recently added a Russian-speaking Program Coordinator to our team. Our immigrant outreach could not be more timely. Studies recently released by New York City show that 6 out of 10 children born here since 2000 have at least one foreign-born parent. Many parents are able to use our training and materials to improve their own learning of English. This is a wonderful side benefit to getting them more involved in their children's education at home and at school.

There are many other exciting programs and initiatives underway. We know that our work is made possible by contributors and partners who share our vision of a city where all children of all backgrounds have access to the educational help they need. Together, we are able to play a part in the success stories of children, families, schools and communities. We deeply appreciate your support.



Iris Weinshall Schumer
Chairman



Digna Sánchez
President/Executive Director



Spotlight on Special Programs

In addition to its core instructional program, Learning Leaders develops and implements special programs to meet specific needs or interests.

Project IMPACT

This major citywide project recruits and trains NYC public school parents to serve as school volunteers; helps parent volunteers and non-volunteers become better educators of their children at home; and helps parents become important members of the educational team at their children's schools. The project includes special outreach to recent immigrants and parents of very young children, who have not traditionally been involved in school activities.

(161,500 students/11,554 parent volunteers/
773 schools)

Project Home Stretch: Empowering Teens at Risk to Finish High School

Tutorial volunteers help students to master basic skills, school subjects and English as a second language, and to pass the Regents and other critical examinations. College Planning volunteers (73 at 59 sites) assist with college decision-making and applications for admission and financial aid.

(6,385 students/434 volunteers/98 high school sites)

Middle School Initiative

This project promotes the involvement of parents and other volunteers in traditionally under-served NYC public middle schools and increases understanding of adolescent development, parenting/working with teenagers, and making the transitions from elementary to middle school to high school.

(10,350 students/740 volunteers/1,100 parent
workshop attendees/139 schools)

2004 - 2005 Highlights

September 04

Learning Leaders Annual Opening Meeting takes place at the Marriott Marquis. More than 2,000 volunteers are addressed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

October 04

Learning Leaders supporters join us for our theater benefit, *Twelve Angry Men*.

November 04

Learning Leaders' family literacy guide for parents, *The Helping Handbook*, is translated into Chinese.

December 04

Learning Leaders hosts Informational Workshops for Immigrant Parents.

Learning Leaders Board of Trustees approves Strategic Plan for 2005-08. Key priorities for the organization include assuring the effectiveness of our programs as our volunteer force grows, reaffirming our commitment to children in the early grades, improving the measurement of our impact, becoming more visible as champions of

parent and community volunteering in public schools, and helping more parents to work with their own children at home.

January 05

Iris Weinshall Schumer becomes Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Learning Leaders' first Family Fun Raiser attracts 200 children and adults to the Field House at Chelsea Piers. Rock climbing, soccer, batting cages, basketball, and the gymnasium are enjoyed by all!

400 parents attend Learning Leaders' workshop, "Assessment Matters: Student Performance, Grade Promotion, and How to Support Your Child's Learning at Home."

February 05

Learning Leaders is featured as a Community Champion by *Newsday*.

March 05

Learning Leaders President Digna Sánchez is a panelist on the topic of social entrepreneurship at the Columbia Business School.

April 05

More than 1,000 New York City 4th graders attend our Celebrity Read Aloud at Alice Tully Hall. Celebrity readers include Alison Bartlett (*Sesame Street*), Brent and Candace (*Nickelodeon's U Pick Lines*), actor Ben Stiller, CBS2 News Anchor Dana Tyler, and CEOs Reuben Mark, Ann Moore and Jonathan Tisch.

Over 100 parent volunteers attend Learning Leaders' "Log On to Computer Literacy" workshop to help parents improve their own computer skills and use computer resources to strengthen their children's learning.

May 05

Our 4th Carol Kellermann Scholarship for volunteers pursuing a college education is awarded to Marilyn Tirado.

June 05

KeyBank and Learning Leaders co-host a luncheon panel at the University Club on the topic of corporate volunteering.

Learning Leaders hosts year-end celebrations for volunteers in each borough. The 2005 "special venue" is the American Museum of Natural History, where our volunteers tour the permanent exhibitions and view an IMAX film.

ArtWorks

Volunteers introduce students to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Brooklyn Museum and provide preparatory and follow-up experiences in the classroom for each museum trip. Children learn how to view, appreciate and discuss painting, sculpture, architecture and the decorative arts.

(2,450 students/130 volunteers/98 classes/18 schools)

Authors Read Aloud

Through repeated visits to the same classes in inner-city schools, children's authors and illustrators introduce elementary school students to the creative writing process and turn young minds on to the excitement of books and reading.

(1,743 students/36 authors/72 classes/10 schools)

Family Literacy/Numeracy

Interactive workshops and specially developed materials in English, Spanish and Chinese help parents of children who attend or will attend public elementary schools to become more involved, effective, confident and comfortable in reading to and with their own children, building math skills, assisting with writing, and furthering their children's education at home and at school. Parents who speak other languages are served as well.

(2,600 parents served/241 programs/166 schools + 10 Head Starts and CBOs/impacting 5,470 children, ages 1 to 10)

Literary Leaders

Students and volunteers read and discuss contemporary, multi-cultural stories as well as classic children's literature. Students learn how to read critically, think independently and express themselves clearly through speaking and writing. Parent volunteers develop teaching skills they can use with their own children and apply to future employment.

(507 students/95 volunteers/42 programs/27 schools)



Learning Leaders, Inc.

Balance Sheet Year Ended June 30, 2005

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 781,209
Investments	8,005,381
Grants receivable	1,151,000
Prepaid expenses and security deposits	462,219
Fixed assets	88,171
Total assets	\$10,487,980

Liabilities and Net Assets

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 87,714
Accrued payroll and vacations payable	85,528
Capital lease payable	7,327
Advances	31,900
Total liabilities	\$ 212,469

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 8,337,793
Temporarily restricted	700,805
Permanently restricted	1,236,913
Total net assets	10,275,511

Total liabilities and net assets	\$10,487,980
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Statement of Activities Year Ended June 30, 2005

Revenue

Contributions and grants	\$ 1,779,217
Individual giving	926,676
NYC Department of Education	550,000
Donated services	192,200
Value of in-kind contributions	180,765
Special events	402,198
Interest and dividends	157,190
Other	36,663
Gains on investments	132,593
Total revenue	\$ 4,357,502

Expenses

Program services	\$ 3,737,992
Management and general	303,766
Fundraising	494,544
Total expenses	\$ 4,536,302

Change in net assets	(\$ 178,800)
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Copies of audited financial statements are available upon request.

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The Learning Circles recognize those individuals who generously contribute gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund. We deeply appreciate their support.

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Learning Leaders has made every effort to assure that these lists are complete and accurate. Please call the Development Office if you have any questions.



Learning Leaders®

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