

2009



beacon house
annual report 2009

from the chairman of the board



Beacon House continues to grow and thrive despite a very difficult economic environment. As the annual budget has approached \$1 million, fundraising has been solid in the context of a difficult economy and we have continued to serve nearly 500 youth through academic, athletic, and developmental programs.

In many ways, however, Beacon House is at a crossroads. We have achieved much in developing and implementing an array of programs that meet the needs of the Edgewood Terrace Community at large. Yet to continue to grow and meet a changing demographic constituency, we must look to the future to meet expected space needs, develop new programs to bridge athletics and academics, and establish a higher level of community presence to diversify and expand funding sources.

Due to the generosity of Jeff Leonard, a former Chairman of the Board, we have established an endowment fund that will enable Beacon House to generate a portion of needed operating cash on an ongoing basis through investment returns. In 2008, Beacon House hired F.L. Putnam to manage investment cash as well as operating cash to meet return objectives and provide liquidity as needed. In our annual review of their performance, the Board was pleased to learn investment returns have exceeded expectations and F.L. Putnam has proved to be a solid advisor and provided strong governance and operational risk management in Beacon House cash management.

In 2009, Beacon House expanded its physical space when the Community for Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC) donated much needed space to Beacon House.

We have reconfigured our programs to allow teens and younger children to each have their own distinct space. We've already seen the impact of the separate space by age group which has allowed for greater teen participation and more in-depth teen programming. In addition to the physical space, CPDC donated computers, which are already being highly utilized by the youth of Beacon House.

In 2009, the Board of Directors conducted a strategic planning process to establish priorities and set the stage for the next phase of growth. The Board approved that plan in January and will focus on Program Development, Infrastructure, and Fundraising over the next 3 years. Specifically, the Board will strive to provide resources to integrate athletic and academic programs, develop a technology platform that will allow for greater growth, and diversify and expand funding sources.

Beacon House is blessed with a dedicated and capable staff led by Stacey Erd, our Executive Director. Gerry Kittner, the Deputy Director continues to be a cornerstone of the funding process and has largely fueled the growth of Beacon House. The consistent dedication and expertise of Rodney Cephas, Athletic Director, Morissa Hargrove, Teen Program Coordinator, Nadia McNeil, Education Director, and the other dedicated employees continue to make Beacon House special. And of course, Rev. Donald Robinson, our President and Founder, continues to be an inspirational force. The Board, the staff, and the countless volunteers continue to work toward the vision set forth nearly 19 years ago. As we march toward our 20th year, we are cognizant of the many blessings we have and aware of the challenges that lie ahead. We hope you will continue to support Beacon House as we collectively work to enrich the lives of children in the Edgewood Terrace Community.

Michael Taets
Chairman, Board of Directors

95 athletic coaches provided **123,120** hours of mentoring, coaching, and outreach throughout the year.

60 students received 2200 hours of one on one reading and math tutoring.

from the executive director

Year 2009 was filled with tremendous highs and extraordinary lows for Beacon House. While we were able to forge new program partnerships, double our program space, and serve more youth, 2009 also brought a decrease in funding due to the economy, children with greater needs, and most sadly an increase in violence on the Edgewood property which led to the tragic death of long time Beacon House youth Kenyetta Stanley Nicholson. Kenyetta was the granddaughter of a founding Beacon House board member and Edgewood Terrace activist Rogerline Nicholson. She was seventeen years old, two days away from taking her SAT's, and definitely college bound.

With a heavy heart, we move forward in spite of this tragedy and every day arm our youth with the tools they need to make better lives for themselves. Beacon House remains a steady, familiar, unwavering, and reliable factor in our youth's lives, serving nutritious meals daily, providing stimulating academic programs, meaningful athletic programs, motivating mentoring and arts programs, and educationally sound health programs. This year alone, we've affected the lives of over 500 youth.

We could not do what we do without the extraordinary Beacon House staff who inspire me daily, and the passionate and enthusiastic support of our foundations, individuals, corporations, churches, the District of Columbia, volunteers, board of directors, and partners who have stuck with us throughout the economic crisis. In the simplest terms, we would not be here today without these great contributors. Many thanks go out to you.

In loving memory to Kenyetta, we dedicate this year's annual report to her and her grandmother Rogerline, and the entire Nicholson and Stanley families.

With Warm Regards,
Stacey Gold Erd, MSW, LICSW

from the president and founder

It has been eighteen years - what a journey! Someone asked me recently if I liked my job. I said no, I LOVE IT! Anyone, I believe, would LOVE to be a part of helping to transform a community that was figuratively dead. Back in the early '90s, the Edgewood community possessed all the social ills of society. One of my major concerns was to find a way to help children to progress academically. I wanted children of Edgewood Terrace and the surrounding community to one day be able to compete nationally with other children no matter where they lived. Because of our after school tutoring programs, and partnerships with D.C. Preparatory Academy and College Bound, we are moving toward accomplishing this goal. In 2009, 33 youth that participated in our programs finished high school. Thirty-one were accepted to two or more Universities and vocational schools. We have come a long way baby and it is my hope that we continue to help our children, teens and young adults to grow positively.

Rev. Donald E. Robinson, Founder and President





mission

Beacon House's mission is to assist at-risk youth to identify and pursue educational objectives that will culminate in college or vocational training, and, more generally, to prepare them for productive involvement in their community and society. Beacon House's goal is to lift as many children as possible up and out of their sometimes difficult familial and socio-economic circumstances so that they go on to lead lives of financial security and personal dignity. Established in 1991, Beacon House has supported the youth and families of the Edgewood Terrace and surrounding communities in Ward 5, Northeast Washington, D.C. ever since.

programs

In 2009, Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC) which owns the Edgewood Terrace property where Beacon House is located, generously donated an additional 6,000 square feet of program space to Beacon House. With the additional space, Beacon House dedicated our traditional space to our teenage population, while the newer space is primarily used to serve our younger children. We've been able to serve more children and youth than ever before.

During the school year, approximately 125 children and youth, ages 5-18, came to the center daily after school to receive a nutritious meal, get help with their homework, and participate in our tutoring, mentoring, singing, art, dance, recreational and athletic programs. During the summer we operated a no-cost summer camp for 155 children, ages 5-13, and employed 45 teenagers from the community as junior counselors.

Given that our overall emphasis is on helping our children and youth succeed in school, we engaged about 60 children and youth, grades 1-12, in structured tutoring programs each school year. For our 1st-8th graders, we offered a back-to-basics math and reading curriculum, which we call FOCUS on Excellence. The program relied on a one-to-one student to tutor ratio, and volunteer tutors were recruited and trained at the start of the school year. Based on assessment tests administered at the beginning and end of the school year, the average grade improvement in the 2008-09 school year was 2.6 grade levels in reading, and 1.2 grade levels in math. For our high school students, volunteer tutors helped each student with the subjects that were giving them the most difficulty. Our tutoring programs met for two hours each week throughout the school year.

Students who participated in the Focus and Yes Tutoring programs averaged a **2.6** grade level performance increase in reading and **1.2** grade level performance increase in math for students in FOCUS and YES Programs. Overall, **82%** or more of the students showed improvement in reading and math performance scores in both programs.



Over **125** students received over **13,800** hours of homework assistance.



40 brand new bicycles and helmets were distributed to Beacon House youth by a grant made possible by Rails to Trails Conservancy.



33 graduating seniors who participated in the Targeting the Future group completed high school and **31** received college acceptance letters from colleges and universities including: Bowie State, Delaware State, Drexel University, University of the District of Columbia, Morgan State, Coppin State, University of Maryland, Kent State, Trinity University, George Mason, Penn State, Ferron College, West Liberty, South Georgia, and others.





volunteers

Volunteers make it happen at Beacon House. We are extremely grateful to the over 100 talented and committed individuals who volunteer as tutors and mentors; coordinate and provide arts, reading, and math programs; coach athletic teams; and organize and participate in field trips and special events. We are especially thankful to the metropolitan D.C. Unitarian Universalist church community for their commitment and support and to Catholic University of America and Howard University who provided enthusiastic and energetic volunteers as well.

This year's mentoring programs served over 110 youth and include X-Treme Teens, Our Whole Lives (OWL), Through My Eyes photo narrative project, Young Woman's Empowerment Group, Stride Fashion Girls Group, and the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings.

In addition to our academic, mentoring and cultural programs, Beacon House has an extensive athletic program that engaged 360 children and youth in organized football, baseball, basketball and cheerleading teams. The athletic program is managed by our full-time Athletic Director, who trains, supervises and manages over 100 volunteer fathers and mothers who serve as coaches, role models and mentors.



155 camp participants served for **6** weeks during the summer; **45** D.C. Summer Employment Youth workers served.

\$100,000 was donated by the NFL via the Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the Redskins Charitable Foundation to renovate the field the Falcon Football team plays on.

beacon house

financial statement for the year ended december 31, 2009



revenue

Contributions

Foundations	\$809,602
Individuals	\$311,920
Religious organizations.	\$24,513
Agencies & corporations.	\$4,845
Total Contributions	\$.1,150,880

Other Revenue

Program fees	\$8,365
Partner contributions	\$49,641
Other income.	\$49,376
Investment income.	\$9,482
Net realized/unrealized gain/loss on investments	49,337
Total Other Revenue.	\$166,201

total revenue \$1,317,081

expenses

Program Services

Education	\$305,540
Outreach.	\$116,608
Athletics & Recreation	\$252,049
Cultural & Mentoring	\$108,359
Camps.	\$202,585
Teen Program.	\$139,262
Total Program Services.	\$1,124,403

Support Services

General & administrative	\$82,524
Resource development & fundraising.	\$64,703
Total Support Services	\$147,227

total expenses. \$1,271,630

change in net assets \$45,451

Beginning Net Assets	\$1,046,720
Ending Net Assets	\$1,092,171

foundations and grants

Bank of America Foundation
Capital for Children
Cedar Tree Foundation
Clark-Winchcole Foundation
Community Foundation for the
National Capital Region
D.C. Children Youth Investment
Trust Corporation
Eugene and Agnes Meyer
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Beacon House extends its heartfelt thanks to all its 2009 donors.

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Donn

300+ toys and clothes were
donated to Beacon House
families in December by the
metropolitan D.C. Unitarian
Universalist church community.



We doubled amount of program space from **6,000** to **12,000** square feet via an in-kind donation from the Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC).

Karen and John Donovan
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Cindy Scharf and Olivia Pickett
Eleanor Piez
David and Carol Piper
George and Helen Point

Combined Federal Campaign/United Way

We received many generous donations from individuals who designated Beacon House to receive donations through the Combined Federal Campaign/United Way. We greatly appreciate this support and are grateful to you all, even though we may never know all of your names!



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 Noyes Elementary School
 Operation Hope Financial Literacy
 Rails to Trails Conservancy
 Shaed Elementary School
 Sierra Club Inner City Outings
 Trinity University
 William J. Doer Public Charter School

Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program has armed over **30** teens with the information they need to make self-respecting, responsible, mature, and sensible decisions regarding their sexuality and relationships.





beaconhouse

Where Learning Has A Home

P.O. Box 29629
601 Edgewood Street, NE, Suite 15
Washington, DC 20017
phone 202-529-7376 • fax 202-832-9456
www.beaconhousedc.org

Beacon House welcomes contributions and donations including those of vehicles and shares of stock. Gifts to Beacon House are tax deductible. To donate through the Combined Federal Campaign, designate #85145. To donate online, go to www.beaconhousedc.org. For more information on how to make a contribution, contact Beacon House.