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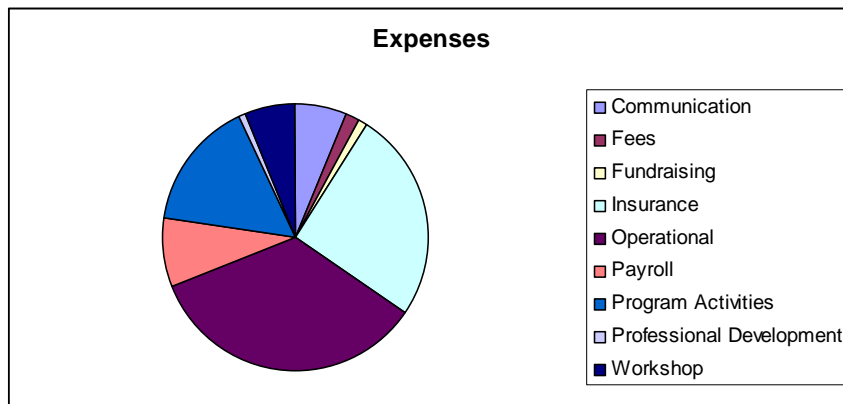
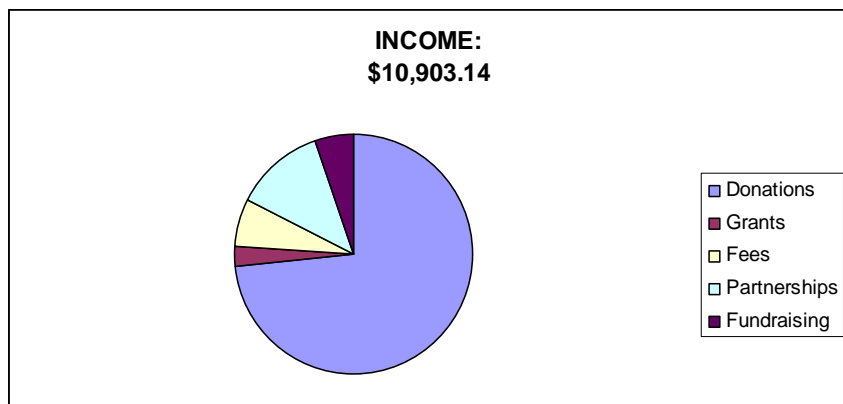
And special thanks and good luck to our awesome intern, Lindsay Kimbro, and her anonymous sponsor.

HIGHLIGHTS

- June 9, 2008** CLAS/S Training on Welcoming Children with Asperger's Syndrome
- June 11 -13, 2008** EnvironArt Camp
- June 18-19, 2008** Mask Making Workshop Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Program
- September 2008 - April 2009** Enrichment Place Programs
- March 23, 2009** All Day Children's Workshops for School Closing Day
- April 17, 2009** Workshop: Positive Behavior Support for Children with Developmental Disabilities

115 Children Received Direct Service Through Our Programs, Including Program Collaborations.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



The work of the Enrichment Alliance of Virginia would not have been possible without the extremely generous in-kind donations of office space by The Studio Art Shop, classroom space by Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church, and the program director's unpaid hours. The total value of these in-kind contributions comes to \$40,000, which must be considered in the calculation of our total budget.

Did you know the Center for Disease Control reports that the average American child spends 6.5 hours a day on television, computer games, and other forms of media?



A YEAR OF ACTION

SUMMER

ENVIRONART CAMP. The 2008/2009 fiscal year began joyfully with EnvironArt Mini-Camp, an art and nature program held at Camp Albemarle. The camp was attended by ten elementary and middle school children. Four children had neurological, emotional, or learning needs. Seven children had been resettled or were the children of resettled people. They hailed from Iraq, Burma, Tanzania, and The Ivory Coast. Two had recently arrived and spoke limited English. None of children's unique needs negatively impacted the cohesiveness of the group or the success of the program. The children assimilated easily, and were cooperative and enthusiastic throughout the three days of the program.



We were privileged to welcome two excellent guest teachers, who led the activities along with Mary Anna Dunn, our program director. Janet McDonald led our environmental arts activities with the assistance of Phyllis Fontana and Ansley Luce. John Williams, a special education and biology teacher, lead fly fishing and stream studies, and Mary Anna ran a "Poet's Corner" where students responded to the environment with poetry. VSA artist Rose Williams also conducted a poetry workshop.

. We were extremely grateful for our outstanding staff, who made this program so much fun We are also very grateful to Graceworks, Charlottesville League of Therapists, and Cherry Stewart, for their assistance in connecting us with the community of English Language Learners and to VSA of Virginia, for their support of our arts activities.

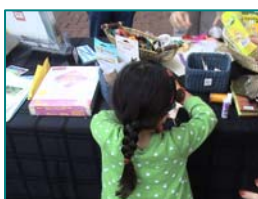
Providing transportation was problematic. We were able to provide transportation for five of the children by renting a van, the cost of which was covered by an anonymous donor. One staff member drove the van and a volunteer accompanied her to increase safety. This reduced the number of staff members available to greet and assimilate children arriving in family cars. In addition, transporting children was logistically challenging as all staff members lived in Western Albemarle County and the students transported lived in the city.

Due in part to the transportation challenges, we suspended the camp for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. This decision was disappointing to the children; however we believe we need a stronger system of support in place as well as a realistic budget to continue to offer the camp in the future. We will be addressing this in a number of ways. Mary Anna will be serving on a newly formed transportation subcommittee through the Charlottesville Albemarle Youth Development Network. We will also be targeting grants and community outreach efforts towards creating a sustainable summer enrichment program. At this time, we have not made a decision as to whether to resume the camp in 2010-2011. This question will be addressed as we develop a strategic plan and evaluate the resources available to us.

SUMMER WORKSHOPS Enrichment Alliance staff led two workshops for other organizations in June of 2008. Mary Anna Dunn and Jeanne-Marie Peterson presented a workshop on *Welcoming Children with Aspergers and High Functioning Autism* for CLAS/S summer programs. CLAS/S summer programs are held at schools and parks through the city and employ both school and parks and recreation staff. We trained approximately 60 personnel on strategies for creating a positive environment and easing children with Aspergers through transitions. The program director wrote, "Thank you for the wonderful job you did at our training on June 9th. As the staff prepared for the campers, I heard several of them discussing setting up their rooms to allow for a quiet space and having items to carry along to help with transitions." We are very grateful to have had this opportunity to impact children with Aspergers syndrome and high functioning autism in inclusive programs throughout the city.

Mary Anna also offered a two day workshop on mask making for Charlottesville Parks and Recreation's Therapeutic Recreation Program. 34 children and teens with disabilities participated. The program director wrote, "Thanks for coming through for us! The staff and kids love your activities."

Research has repeatedly affirmed that positive creative activities during out-of-school time significantly decrease at-risk behavior and improve school performance.



FALL THROUGH SPRING

THE ENRICHMENT PLACE enjoyed a lively year, opening with *Backyard Biologists*, in which children learned to observe, appreciate, and protect the environmental wonders of their own backyards. We particularly enjoyed a guest visit from Melissa Hutchinson of *The Wintergreen Nature Foundation*, who helped us create a composter. For the remainder of the year, all left over food and paper products were composted for use in the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church gardens.



This session was followed by *A Musical Montage*. In this session we were treated to visits from guest artists Kim and Jimbo Cary, Pete Vigour, Jim Gagnon, and Mike Dunn. Mike helped the children make their own mandolins. This extremely engaging unit was supported by VSA of Virginia and The Virginia Commission for the Arts.

In the spring we collaborated with Mecca Burns of Presence and The McGuffey Art Center to implement her new curriculum, *Unpacking Drama*. In this session, children enjoyed exploring folktales from around the world through dramatic activities enhanced by PowerPoint.



We concluded our year with our annual trek downtown. For three weeks children converged at our studio and rode the trolley to the Downtown Mall where we had the opportunity to enjoy workshops at Central Library, The Light House Studio, and The Charlottesville Ice Park.

A total of 10 students were included at The Enrichment Place this year. Four had disabilities and four were resettled children from Africa, Asia, and The Middle East.

None of these Enrichment Place activities would have been possible without the enormous amount of support we received. *Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church* has generously offered us the use of Summit House for the past three years without charge, and we are deeply grateful to them for providing this opportunity to the children we serve. We could not have served many of these children without our faithful drivers: Janet McDonald, Marian Morgan, Laura Jones, Lindsay Kimbro, and Jean Botts. Transportation is a critical issue and their support has been invaluable to us. Laura Jones and Katie Pollard also assisted at The Enrichment Place and Lindsay Kimbro served as our staff assistant, thanks to a generous anonymous gift. We are grateful to John Williams for his support of our scholarship program. As mentioned above, our music session was made possible by The VSA of Virginia and The Virginia Commission for the Arts, as well as by our wonderful guest musicians.

The collaborative activities we offer at the Enrichment Place and out in the community are important not only to the children served directly, although the benefits to them are great. These activities deliberately draw in guests from the community in order to increase their experience with the populations of children we served. The benefits extend beyond our immediate circle by providing opportunities for artists, musicians, teachers, and service groups to learn more about special needs and resettled children. An example of how these benefits ripple into the community is *Monumental Collaborations*, a new alliance formed this year which is described under Collaborations.

SPRING INCLUSION TRAINING. In March we held our third annual training on inclusion. Our topic was “Positive Behavior Support for Children with Developmental Disabilities.” We were fortunate to have five excellent panelists. Mary Voorhees and Marti Snell, of the Curry School of Education, were there to discuss inclusion and support strategies for young children, especially those with intellectual disabilities. Andrew



Elgort, a child psychologist who works in the schools and in private practice, shared his considerable experience with children with Aspergers and autism spectrum disorders. Elly Tucker brought a parent’s perspective and Cecily Reynolds of Little Gym brought an enrichment provider’s perspective to this well-balanced and expert panel. Evaluation feedback was overwhelmingly positive. One attendee wrote, “Thank you for this wonderful workshop. It is so very appreciated.” A complete discussion of evaluation results is available on our website.

We offer our deep appreciation to Mary Voorhees, Marti Snell, Elly Tucker, and Cecily Reynolds for their in-kind contributions; to our anonymous donor for support of our Project Access Intern; to Alpha Phi Omega for their volunteer support; to Whole Foods for the delicious snacks; and to Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church for the use of their Social Hall.

100% of local enrichment providers surveyed believed that access to training in inclusion would improve their ability to serve children with special needs.



COLLABORATIONS

COMMUNITY MENTORS

This year for the first time we were able to send a trained mentor into a public school afterschool program to support an English Language Learner with special needs. We are told this opportunity had a positive impact not only on the child served, but on all the children in the program, as it reduced the time spent dealing with the behavior issues. We appreciate the dedication of Elizabeth Demarchi for her support of this child.

SERVICE PROJECTS We were privileged to collaborate with three wonderful groups on additional activities this past year. For The United Way's Lawrence Richardson Day of Caring, volunteers from Albemarle County Department of Social Services assisted us with community outreach by blitzing the city and county with information in the morning and helping us with a **Paper Caper** in the afternoon. Paper Capers involves taking paper activities, such as origami, paper airplane making, and paper dolls, out into the community. We took our Paper Caper onto the downtown mall to create airplanes and paper dolls with children passing through.



In Fall 2008, we also had a great time with the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, who helped us again this year with our **"How Books,"** step-by-step flip books that use photographs to help special needs children complete creative, constructive activities, such as Lego's and origami. We appreciated two further collaborations with APO in the spring, when they helped us with our spring inclusion workshop, described above, and accompanied us to Heartwood

Apartments for another Paper Caper.

The Junior League of Charlottesville sent volunteers for our first ever **Teacher's Workday Activities**. This year, on March 23rd, seven children spent the school day at Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church's Summit House enjoying activities with guest artists. In the morning, they took part in a woodworking workshop with Judy Cahill, and in the afternoon they had a photo-collage workshop with Virginia Dawnsir. Most of the children participating had either neurological or orthopedic challenges. We are grateful not only for the Junior League, whose volunteer support was indispensable, but once again to Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church for providing a site and to VSA for financial support.



MONUMENTAL COLLABORATIONS was inspired by numerous collaborations between the Enrichment Place and McGuffey Art Center artist-in-residence, Ninni Baekstrom. Since the Enrichment Place opened, Ninni has been a favorite guest, and we have been guests at her studio during A Downtown Sampler. In 2007, during a Mask Making workshop sponsored by VSA, Ninni was struck by the superior artistic talents of a resettled child with limited English skills. We realized that the visual arts provide a powerful opportunity for limited English speakers to express themselves and succeed within their age-level peer groups.

In the fall of 2008, Ninni and I invited Elizabeth Breeden, program director of Art-In-Place, to join us in conversations about how art could be used to empower underserved communities. Initially our conversation began with the engagement of resettled children in the arts. As a result of our early conversations, and with the support of VSA of Virginia and Art-in-Place, Ninni has begun work on her first Monumental Collaborations project. This spring she began working with approximately 40 English Language Learners from Charlottesville High School and one English Language Learner from Post High¹ to design a statue commemorating the experiences of contemporary immigrants. The artist and students worked together to develop the design for the statue, and the statue will be collaboratively built and installed at Charlottesville High School in the upcoming academic year. In keeping with our emphasis on inclusion, this project has intentionally included special needs youth.

Ninni will continue to collaborate with The Enrichment Alliance and other programs to create statues with different demographic groups. In the fall of 2009, she will work with Greene County to create and install a statue celebrating contemporary rural life. This collaboration will be supported in part by a BAMA Works Grant. The Enrichment Alliance has helped Ninni connect with the groups she is collaborating with and has also assisted with Ninni's fundraising activities. Elizabeth Breeden of Art-in-Place will collaborate with us on the Charlottesville projects.

ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

We are excited by the professional look of our website, newly designed by volunteer and board member-elect Lyndelee von Schill. The new design allows us to make more creative use of the website as a community resource. Board members Mary Anna Dunn and Laura Jones and intern Lindsay Kimbro participated in the Mentoring Fair, which was put on by The Charlottesville Leadership Initiative and The United Way. We also participated in Resource Fairs for The Piedmont Regional Education Program, The University of Virginia Medical School, and Blue Ridge Care Connections for Children.

¹ The Albemarle County Special Education Post High School, which serves young adults with special needs.

THE NUMBERS

Individuals Served By the Enrichment Alliance of Virginia 2008-2009

Attendance at Training Workshops	
CLAS/S: Welcoming Children with Aspergers and High Functioning Autism	60
Positive Behavior Support Workshop	20
Total	80

Guest Artists and Guest Teachers At Our Programs	
Summer Camp	3
Science	1
Music	5
Art	2
Downtown Sampler	3
Total	14

Total Number of Community Members Who Gained Training and Experience with Special Needs Children in the Past Year: 94

Children and Youth Receiving Direct Service Through our Programs and Collaborations	
Summer Camp	10
Parks and Recreation Workshop	34
Lawrence Richardson Day of Caring*	6
Enrichment Place	10
Playground Outreach*	8
School Closing Workshop	7
Monumental Collaborations	40
Total	115

*Total Number of Children Who Received Direct Service through Our Programs, Including Program Collaborations**: 115*

Estimated Number of Children Served by Participants in Our Spring Positive Behavior Workshop: 130

Financial Tables

EXPENSES	
Communication	711.17
Fees	168
Fundraising	139.94
Insurance	2791
Operational	3818.55
Payroll	915.82
Program Activities	1738.76
Professional Development	104
Workshop	675.27
	11062.51

INCOME	Donations	Grants	Fee for Service	Partnerships	Fundraising	Total
General	951.92	0	0	0	0	951.92
Annual Letter	990	0	0	0	0	990
Board	4695	0	0	0	0	4695
Restricted Gifts	1360	0	0	0	0	1360
VCA Reimbursement	0	300	0	0	0	300
VSA Reimbursements	0	0	0	1338	0	1338
Amazon Store	0	0	0	0	33.22	33.22
Studio Use	0	0	0	0	550	550
Tuition	0	0	495	0	0	495
Workshop	0	0	190	0	0	190
Total Income	7996.92	300	685	1338	583.22	10903.14

* Estimate

** not the sum of the table, because some children participated in two or more of our programs

SUMMARY AND FUTURE PLANS

In total, during the 2008-2009 fiscal year, The Enrichment Alliance of Virginia provided exposure to, support for, and training in the inclusion of special needs children and English Language Learners to an estimated 94 people. Through our own programs and our alliance with Ninni Baeckstrom, we included an estimated 115 children in the arts and humanities. The actual impact on children is much broader, owing to the number of individuals we have trained in inclusion this year. At our spring training alone, the minimum number of children served by the program staff attending was 130.

We are thrilled with the impact that we are having on underserved children in our community, but realistic about the challenges ahead. In particular, we recognize that transportation issues are limiting our ability to include children we want to reach and are a strain on our resources. We will be addressing this by joining the newly formed transportation committee under the Youth Development Network of the Charlottesville Albemarle Commission on Children and Families. For the time, we continue to rely on our volunteer drivers and on the financial support of our donors in order to continue to include resettled children and other low income children in our programs.

A review of surveys and evaluations that we distributed strongly suggests that more needs to be done to provide support for children and youth with disabilities in enrichment programs in our community. In the upcoming year we will develop a focused strategic plan that will help us respond to the needs of our community without overwhelming our young organization. We are delighted to be working with The Center for Non-Profit Excellence and SCORE in the coming year to develop and implement our strategic plan.

The outcome of the past year and our plans for the future leave us optimistic and excited about the coming year. As I sit at my computer completing this report, I only wish I could read ahead to next year's report. I have a sneaking suspicion that it is going to be wonderful!

Mary Anna Dunn
President and Program Director



The Enrichment Alliance of Virginia: because childhood is not for playing video games.



PO Box 1423
Charlottesville, Va. 22902
www.enrichva.org