




hms school
for Children with Cerebral Palsy

**Annual Report
2009-2010**



HMS School For Children with Cerebral Palsy

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Leadership Message

Dear Friend,

This annual report celebrates the creative arts at HMS. Touching the emotions and encouraging engagement, the arts have a huge impact for our students. As we watch children express their originality in the art room, take on an acting role, whirl in their wheelchairs during a dance work or sing out with voices and communication devices, we, too, are transformed.

HMS works hard to secure foundation, government and donor funding for the arts. Unlike many schools that have cut arts funding, we have remained committed to expanding our programs. Ten years ago, at a staff member's urging, we started dance/movement therapy with a part-time graduate-student intern, soon recognizing that dance merited a permanent place in our curriculum. We found the resources. Six years ago, we experimented with hands-on theater-arts activities, thanks to volunteer education staff from Walnut Street Theatre (WST). Student successes came in tiny, but steady increments. Today every youngster participates in some form of theater-related activity, and we have funded WST's continued involvement.

We recognize our students' achievements. But HMS is also validated by arts organizations city-wide. WHYI-TV highlighted our dance program on an *Experience* spot; Art-Reach honored HMS with its "Commitment to Cultural Access" award; Fresh Artists featured our students' work; "Independence Starts Here: A Festival of Disabilities Arts and Culture" showcased HMS actors; *How Philly Moves*, a Philadelphia Mural Arts Program initiative, will include HMS dancers.

We invite you to visit and observe our young artists at work or attend a performance or opening day of our annual art show. You'll find it a powerful experience. For now, we thank you for your continued interest and support of HMS.

Anne P. Wilmerding
President, Board of Trustees

Diane L. Gallagher, Ph.D.
Executive Director

The Creative Arts: Nourishing the Spirit

The creative arts at HMS help youngsters to express their inner selves. For children in wheelchairs, with limited muscle control, and who speak primarily through a communication device, artistic expression is especially significant. The arts provide a source of confidence and self-esteem, joy and accomplishment.



Through HMS's varied offerings, every student can discover a meaningful path. Music, art, dance and theater are integrated into the school day, with additional after-school and evening activities.

Collaborations with outside groups provide further enrichment. Teaching artists in residence; visits by actors, dancers and musicians; and outings to museums and cultural performances broaden students' arts exposure.

Music: Feeling the Beat



Music is everywhere at HMS—in music therapy sessions and in the classroom, at school dances and after-school song fests, at performances and on communication devices. Children sing, create songs and listen to and play music. They use their hands or switches

to play keyboard, bells, guitar and drums, often adapted for easier access.

Music excites; music soothes. It is a powerful motivator—to move, to reach out, to practice a skill. “Music is a co-therapist,” says music therapist Brad Biedermann. “Put a song out there and a child responds to that song, she has a relationship with the song. For some students, music is intrinsic—it’s more than just social or casual.”

Art: Making It Any Way We Can

“Art is like food—everybody needs it!” asserts Eiko Fan, art specialist. She devises a way for every student, no matter how limited his movements, to make art—with fingers, with bare feet, with a brush attached to a head band, with any body part that can move.

Art projects explore varied media and often represent a theme: a famous artist’s style or a popular culture figure. They may enhance students’ self-identity, with each youngster’s photo central to his creation. Students’ work—powerful, passionate, colorful, whimsical—is on display at the annual art show, expressing their talent and personality, their energy and desire.



Dance: Finding the Body’s Rhythms

Dance/movement therapy fosters students’ socialization and body awareness. Breath exercises that begin and end each class session promote relaxation. Over time, dance/movement therapist Rachel Federman-Morales sees youngsters increasing focus and attention span, expressing themselves more freely and spontaneously, taking more initiative and contributing ideas. “It takes the whole person to do that,” she says. “Dance/movement therapy helps to integrate the mind, the body and the spirit.”



Students and staff also love to spin wheelchairs on the dance floor at informal dances and hoedowns. After-school wheelchair dance classes add another dimension. Collaborations with able-bodied teenagers and university students offer the excitement of working toward a choreographed performance and building relationships with partners outside HMS.

Theater: Playing the Part

Walnut Street Theatre (WST) teaching artists performed at HMS for years. Now they facilitate a program that engages every student in theater-arts activities appropriate to their skills. Recreation therapist Rich Magnuson sees remarkable growth in students' level of involvement and communication over time. "WST folks... have a knack for adapting their curriculum so it's meaningful and useful for our students," he says.



Warm-ups exercise students' bodies, their voices and their imaginations. Youngsters practice expressing emotions with their faces and pretending to be someone different.

Many can help to devise skits and enjoy taking on roles. "Theater adds another dimension for students to express themselves," says Mr. Magnuson. "Some are more touched by dance opportunities or music or art, while others are excited by theater."

Performance: Celebrating Achievement

For HMS students, performing is an important component of all the creative arts. Every child has the opportunity to celebrate accomplishments and savor the nervous excitement of being on stage or seeing one's artwork exhibited. Performing the Holiday show, a *Something Magical* musical with partners from Germantown Friends School, a theater skit or dance piece at Volunteer Recognition Evening or impressing visitors with displayed artwork can be empowering.

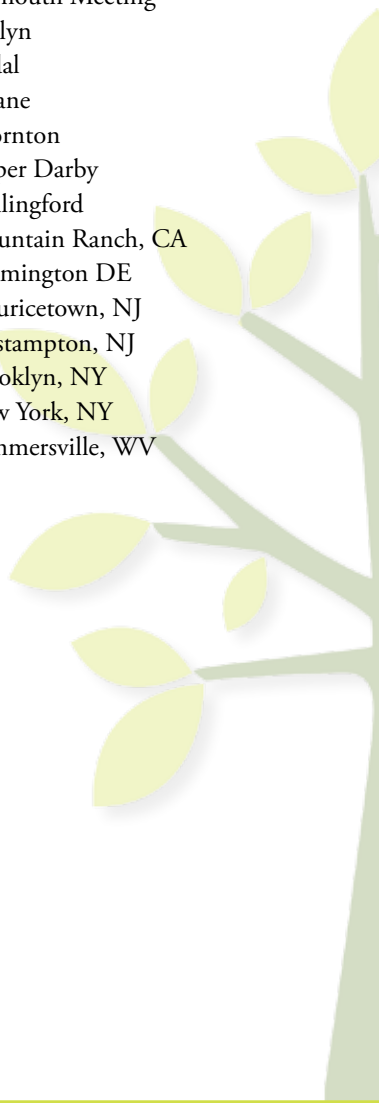


HMS School Serves Students from Philadelphia and Beyond

HMS School's specialized resources for children with cerebral palsy have been recognized by families and school districts from a wide geographic area. In 2009-10 students came to HMS from the following communities in Pennsylvania, California, New Jersey, New York and West Virginia.

Aston
Bensalem
Bethlehem
Blue Bell
Bristol
Bryn Mawr
Cheltenham
Churchville
Collingdale
Conshohocken
Curwensville
Downingtown
East Greenville
East Lansdowne
Elkins Park
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Glen Mills
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Havertown
Huntingdon Valley
King of Prussia
Langhorne
Maple Glen

Merion
Morton
Nuremberg
Philadelphia
Plymouth Meeting
Roslyn
Rydal
Secane
Thornton
Upper Darby
Wallingford
Mountain Ranch, CA
Wilmington DE
Mauricetown, NJ
Westampton, NJ
Brooklyn, NY
New York, NY
Summersville, WV



Internships

HMS is committed to preparing the next generation of practitioners in special education, the therapeutic disciplines and social work. Every year staff members accept the responsibilities of supervising interns for clinical experience with HMS students. From time to time, students who intern at HMS have returned to join our full-time staff. We were pleased to work with 50 students from ten schools, colleges and universities in 2009-10:

Therapeutic Recreation - 7

Drexel University, College of Nursing and Health Professions

Music Therapy - 2

Temple University, Esther Boyer College of Music

Occupational Therapy - 8

Temple University, College of Allied Health Professions

Thomas Jefferson University, College of Health Professions

University of the Sciences in Philadelphia

Harcum College

Social Work - 1

The Philadelphia Center / Great Lakes — Hope College, Holland, MI

Independent Learning Program - 1

Science Leadership Academy

Speech/Language Therapy - 2

Temple University

The Pennsylvania State University

Dance/Movement Therapy - 2

Drexel University, College of Nursing and Health Professions

Physical Therapy — 5

Temple University, College of Allied Health Professions

College Misericordia

University of the Sciences in Philadelphia

Thomas Jefferson University, College of Health Professions

Harcum College

Special Education Internship - 1

Saint Joseph's University

Special Education Observation — 21

Saint Joseph's University

Thank You Volunteers!

Volunteers are a welcome addition to the HMS family. This year numerous individuals gave their time and talents to HMS. Whether reading to our students, playing board games, assisting with the dance or drama programs, helping at performances, making wreaths or tie-dying tee shirts, judging our annual Art Show, hosting a holiday party, assisting with activities, helping at the Book Fair, creating costumes, or organizing and running fundraising events, volunteers enrich all areas of school life. We would like to thank the many staff who volunteer their time to help with special events and activities and offer our thanks to the volunteers listed below for their commitment to HMS.

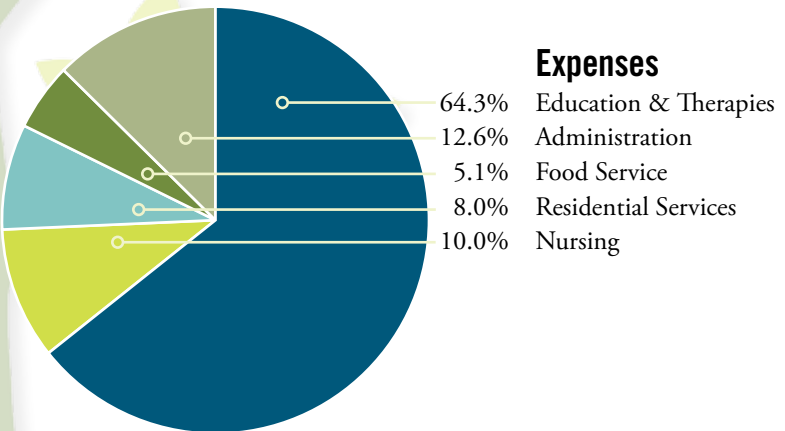
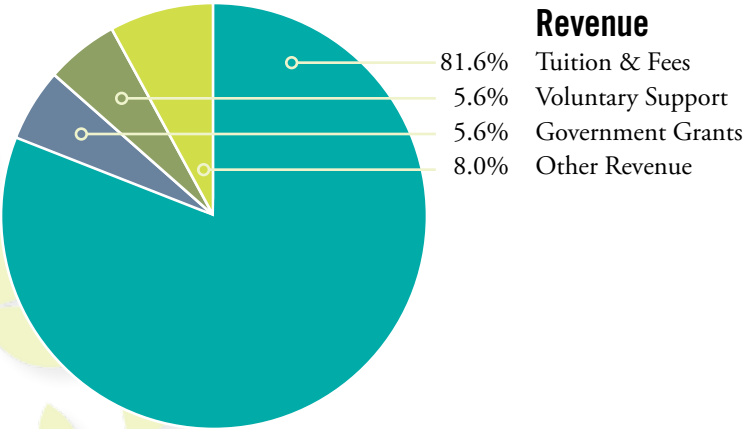
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Jessie Werner
Barbara Ann Zimmerman

Revenue & Expenditures

In 2009-10 HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy had an operating budget of approximately \$7.3 million and, as in past years, had a balanced budget.

An audited financial statement is available on request.



We Recognize Our Contributors

We are most grateful to these individuals and organizations whose gifts have enabled us to enrich our programs and activities, expand and renovate our facilities and build for the future.

\$10,000 and above

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Gifts-in-Kind

We are grateful for gifts-in-kind such as equipment, office furniture,

books, DVDs, services and tickets to events. Our thanks to the donors listed below who have enriched our programs and enhanced the lives of our students and staff.

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Gifts in Honor of People and Events

HMS School is deeply honored to receive gifts in honor of specific individuals and special occasions. They serve to remind us of the importance of HMS in the lives of friends and families. In 2009-2010 we received gifts in honor of the following individuals and occasions:

Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Albanesi's
50th Wedding Anniversary
Nancy Barrow
Christian G. Baus's Graduation
Katelyn Blaszczyk
Becky Bradbeer

Bernard Brewstein
Elease Carter
Natalie Clemens
Chris Coia
Kyle DeLeon
Justin Dysart
Vince Gallo
Billy Geilfuss
Marianne Gellert-Jones
Sean Hanlon's 12th Birthday
Nancy Harris
HMS Teachers, Therapists,
Nurses & CNAs
Michael Casey Kelly
Jody Lanphear
Allison Long's Acceptance to the
College of Her Choice
Robert & Laura Lynam
Patrick McGovern
Carolyn Miller
Carla Talarek
Jordana Warmflash
Melea Wise's Graduation





Gifts in Memoriam:

Gifts to honor the memory of a friend or family member have a very special meaning. They provide a significant memorial to the individual and continued support for HMS School. We are grateful for the gifts received in memory of the following individuals:

Regina Arentzen
Eric Axberg
Nicholas Bracaglia
Peter Bur
Charles Bachrach
Elsie Craft

Lucille V. Jenks
Solveig Jelmert Jorgensen
Peter LaMorgia
Minnie Pearl McCulloh
Mary Ellen McGoldrick
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Richard Mullen
James Passarella
Kathleen Ross
Julius Siegel
Lorine Vogt
Chiyo Young
Stephen Zatuchni
Susan Zerbe-Fecko



HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy Celebrating 127 years of excellence

HMS School, located in the University City neighborhood of Philadelphia, specializes in working with children and young adults through age 21 who have severe, multiple disabilities resulting from cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, or other neurological impairment. As experts in the field, HMS provides specialized education and therapy programs for day and resident students that maximize the possible and empower achievement. In HMS's loving, respectful environment every child flourishes.

Founded in 1882 as Home of the Merciful Saviour for Crippled Children, it was the first institution of its kind in the nation. In its early decades, HMS cared for children with all types of physically disabling conditions, such as tuberculosis of the bone, which are rare today. From the 1920's through the late 1950's, HMS primarily helped children through the convalescent stage of polio until the Salk vaccine virtually eliminated this crisis. Since 1958 HMS has focused on the needs of children with cerebral palsy or similar disabilities.

Originally founded by the wife of an Episcopal minister, HMS today is not affiliated with any religious organization, receives no church funds, and is nonsectarian. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania subsidizes a substantial portion of the educational costs of children who are Pennsylvania residents and are approved for enrollment by their local school districts and the state.

HMS is licensed both as an approved private school and a private academic school by the Department of Education, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is nonsectarian, admitting children from any locality without regard to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or country of national origin.

Over the decades, even as HMS has evolved and responded to children's changing health, educational and social challenges, its mission remains very much the same as in 1882: to provide the special education, individualized therapy and loving attention that empowers children and young adults with physical disabilities to reach their maximum potential.



4400 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19104