

OUR MISSION

Southside Family Charter School is a small K–8 school that meets the needs of a culturally and ethnically diverse population by engaging children in critical thinking and problem solving, involving children in political and social activism, encouraging creative expression, offering a wide range of electives and advocating for children and families.

OUR VALUES

- Freedom from racism, sexism, classism, homophobia and other cultural biases
- An opportunity for educational excellence regardless of income
- Involvement in issues of social justice
- Diverse cultural identities are honored
- Our community is an extension of our classrooms
- Community members are encouraged to participate in our programs



EDUCATING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
annual report 2010–2011

“I can tell my children someday that this beautiful world didn’t come for free—people had to fight for it.”

—Ezra, 7th grade

From the Executive Director

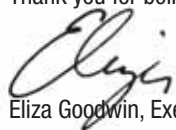
Dear Friends,

As we approach 40 years of educating for social justice, I’m often reminded why this community of learners succeeds. We owe so much to the deep and varied contributions of parents, families, volunteers and community members. Our students’ remarkable accomplishments—academic, social, political—are possible because our community supports them in reaching their potential.

This annual report details some of our accomplishments over the last year. We continue to provide an excellent academic experience through a justice-focused holistic approach to learning. We engage families as partners—challenging and supporting students together. We celebrate the diversity of experience our students bring and continue to recognize that we are all teachers and learners. We share the joy of exploring ideas and we know that we achieve more when we work together.

We are confronted every day with obstacles: from the disinvestment in public institutions to the too-prevalent challenges of systemic discrimination. In a time when division permeates public life, the Southside community remains a refreshing example of a diverse group coming together to address the challenges we share.

Thank you for being part of our community!



Eliza Goodwin, Executive Director

Revenue and expense

June 30, 2011

With comparative amounts for June 30, 2010

Revenues	2011	2010
Program revenues		
Operating grants and contributions	\$420,573	\$363,863
Capital grants and contributions	364,996	0
Charges for services	5,844	5,315
General revenues	860,369	866,482
Total revenues	1,651,782	1,235,660
Expenses		
Administration	32,261	65,831
School support services	183,175	163,267
Regular instruction	541,033	580,206
Special education	60,612	84,549
Instructional support services	124,692	107,821
Pupil support	36,410	42,373
Building and equipment	332,051	264,651
Fiscal and other fixed costs	8,073	8,165
Total expenses	1,318,307	1,316,863
Change in net assets	333,475	(81,203)
Net assets - beginning	148,180	481,655
Net assets - ending	\$481,655	\$400,452



Lilia and Ella work with Philip, a University of Minnesota student volunteer.

“Your school is my dream school to work with... Each and every time I engage with your school, I am left deeply moved and satisfied.”

—Nicole Smith, guest teacher from Pillsbury House Theater

2010–2011 Accolades

In 2011, SFCS was recognized with the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation’s School Spotlight Award for the school’s efforts to substantially involve parents, volunteers, mentors, community groups, businesses and other individuals and organizations in the school in order to increase academic growth in students.

Southside received the Financial Management Award from the Minnesota Department of Education for the fourth year in a row. SFCS was also the recipient of a 2010–2011 Magnet Program grant from the Minnesota Department of Education for the Community as Classroom program.

Southside was chosen by researchers from Wollongong University in Australia to participate in a study about how student engagement is fostered in American schools.

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Resource Center recognized Southside as a “Partner in Closing the Gap” for the school’s innovative Civil Rights Trip curriculum and program.

The City of Minneapolis awarded the school with a Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities grant to support the expansion of the on-site school garden and the curriculum that supports garden-focused learning.

On the cover: Ezra, Hassan, and Da’Jon observe a moment of silence at the Montgomery Civil Rights Memorial on the 2011 Civil Rights History Trip

“You young people give me hope.”

— Participant at Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement 7th Annual Conference reacting to a SFCS student presentation

Authorizer Transition

Like many charter schools, Southside had to quickly find a new Charter School Authorizer during the 2010–2011 school year after the Hamline University Graduate School of Education decided they would no longer function as an authorizing institution. While we were sorry to lose Hamline as an authorizer, our relationship with Hamline University remains strong and we were fortunate to create a relationship with our new authorizing organization, Volunteers of America. Our interactions with VOA were very positive, and we have found the authorizing program to be responsive, respectful of school identity, focused, and well run. The strong alignment of VOA’s Charter School Hallmarks with SFCS’ mission provides a good foundation for building a cooperative, mission-focused, mutually accountable and mutually beneficial relationship. We were also pleased that in extending their invitation, VOA recognized Southside’s “unique approach and focus on social justice” as “a refreshing and valuable viewpoint” to add to their current network of charter schools. We look forward to working with VOA in the years ahead.

Academic Collaboration

2010–2011 was a year of academic collaboration, both for teachers and students. We were fortunate to host several year-long interns and a student teacher last year. In addition, Southside teacher Susie Oppenheim collaborated with Hamline University Professor Colleen Bell to teach both Southside and Hamline students about the civil rights movement through presentations and classroom discussions. Southside middle-school students were also given the opportunity to present the *Keep the Dream Alive!* civil rights slideshow at the 7th Annual Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Move-

ment Conference during the Civil Rights Trip, and engage in discussions with leading scholars and activists at the event. Southside teachers were also able to collaborate with a variety of guest teachers to bring students opportunities like Japanese classes, a dance performance with artist Larry Yazzie, and family cooking night. Our students were proud to act as both learners and teachers in the community, and Southside teachers and staff were significantly enriched by their collaborations with teachers and community leaders.

Strong Academics

Southside students continued to perform well in the classroom, during community learning experiences, and on standardized testing. Southside students again outperformed national averages on standardized tests, with 25% more students at Southside falling in the average or above average range in both reading and math. In 2010–2011, we reduced the racial achievement gap by 12 percentage points in math and 2 percentage points in reading.

Southside continued to offer Community-As-Classroom programming during 2010–2011; hands-on, multi-dimensional learning opportunities to increase academic performance and understanding, including field trips, guest speakers, and experiential learning opportunities. Teachers, parents, and students reported that these opportunities helped students learn. In fact, 100% of 6–8th grade students reported that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I learn from school trips,” in our annual end-of-year survey.

Social Justice Curriculum

Southside’s Social Justice Curriculum gets stronger and deeper each year. In 2010–2011 we expanded our “Just Food” program to include an active school garden and a fresh fruit and vegetable snack program to help kids learn about nutrition and healthy eating. 2010–2011 also had a strong Civil Rights theme due to the Civil Rights Trip over the spring. Students in all grade levels learned about civil rights history in their classrooms, from their peers, and through all-school activities. Students also participated in several anti-bullying presentations, and organized peer learning to educate one another on LGBTQ issues in the school and community.



Moneek, Coatzin, and Tramaine team up to hone their research skills.

“The movement never ended, and it is up to the children to keep it moving. I promise, we will. And we will not stop until it is over.”

— Rachael, 6th grade

“I loved the trip and will remember it all for the rest of my life.”

— Noah, 8th grade

The Civil Rights Trip

2010–2011 was the year of the 7th Triennial Civil Rights History Trip! Students in 6th–8th grade traveled through five states in the Southern U.S. to learn about the Civil Rights Movement and the influence of children in the struggle. Students met with veterans of the movement and learned about such topics as the Nashville sit ins, Albany, Georgia’s voter registration efforts, The Birmingham Children’s Crusade and Lowndes County actions against rural racism and violence. Parents and the Southside community followed the capstone trip online and upon their return students reflected on the many lessons they learned through journal entries, poetry, and essays. A new *Keep the Dream Alive!* student presentation has been created by lead teacher Susan Oppenheim and provides students with the opportunity to share their journey and bring their learning into the community.

“The students at SFCS exemplified change to me. It is because of students like them, acting as advocates and leaders at such a young age, that I think the world and society can change for the better.”

—Hamline student



Students use laptops to polish their writing skills in class.

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

Parents and families contributed over 250 hours of volunteer work during the 2010–2011 school year.

Partnerships with the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Augsburg College, and the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA) resulted in 50 additional volunteers and work-study students contributing their time to Southside classrooms during the 2010–2011 school year. During an average week in 2010–2011, volunteers contributed 40 hours of time to Southside classrooms as mentors, tutors, chaperones, guest teachers, or helpers.

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Lance Witzig
Meghan Wynne

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Micaela Torchia
Lela Trammel
Jennifer Valley
Maria Williams
Erich Wunderlich



Students work with guest chef and parent volunteers to make dinner for Family Cooking Night.

Community Teachers/ Community Partners

Lowanda Aaron of Metro Transit
Alabama State University, National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture
Albany Civil Rights Institute
aMaze
Artscraps
Annie Pearl Avery
Cornelia Walker Bailey
Maurice Bailey
Dennis Banks
Colleen Bell, Hamline University
Conflict Studies and Women's Studies
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
Catherine Burks-Brooks
Center for Book Arts
Children's Museum
Climb Theatre
Como Zoo and Conservatory
Cool Planet Workshops
Council of Federated Organizations Civil Rights Education Center
Danielle Daniel
Brooke Dierkhising
Dodge Nature Center
L.C. Dorsey
Duluth Lynching Memorial
Edinburgh Park
Enchanted Rock Garden
Equal Justice Initiative
Myrlie Evers-Williams
Illana Favero
Jessica Flannigan
Elaine Fleming, Leech Lake Tribal College

Catherine Coleman Flowers
Forest History Interpretive Center, Grand Rapids
Joe Foss
Various family, community gardens, and farmer's markets
Lawrence Guyot
Hamline University
Hennepin County Medical Center Residency Program
Becky Iverson
Jackson State University
Myrna Carter Jackson
Alberta Johnson
D. Quincy Johnson
Larry Johnson
Immigration Naturalization Ceremony with Judge Kressel
Dorie Ladner
Freddie Leonard
Kwame Lillard
Little Rock Central High School
Abby Lopez
Lowndes County Interpretive Center
Mike Mann
Sandra Mansfield
Fred Melo
Midwest Food Connection
Grace Miller
Minneapolis Parks and Recreation
Midtown YWCA
Minnesota Alliance with Youth
Minnesota Zoo
Sharaud Moore
Maisha Moses
Karen Mueller, West Bank School of Music
Nashville Public Library

Neighborhood Involvement Program (Safetouch)
Northern Clay Center
Sara Dejores Olsen
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Pillsbury House Theatre's Breaking Ice Program, facilitated by Nicole Smith
Rainbow Rumpus
Richardson Nature Center
Roller Garden
Rotary Club of Minneapolis
Sapelo Island Land Preservation Organization
Science Museum of Minnesota
Carol Barner Seay
Charles Sherrod
Shirley Sherrid
Soudan Mine
Southern Echo
Southern Poverty Law Center
Steppingstone Theatre
Bobby Talbert
Teatro Del Pueblo
Audrey Thayer, Bemidji State University
Brenda Travis
Minnijean Brown Trickey
Two Pony Gardens Farm
Matthew Walker
Walker Sculpture Garden
Hollis Watkins
William Mitchell College of Law
Woodlake Nature Center
The Works
Larry Yazzie
Youth Environmental Law & Leadership (YELL)
Young Dance Company
Nothando Zulu

Thank you, Donors!

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Vikki Reich



Luca and Lyric help build the Southside School Garden.

Sandra Richardson
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Rosenfeld
Sam and Leona Ross
Rotary Club of Minneapolis
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Rebecca Wilson
Beth Wright
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Ameriprise Financial Employee
Gift Match
Community Shares of
Minnesota
General Mills Foundation
Matching Gifts
Greystone Foundation
Kopp Family Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Minnesota Timberwolves
Community Foundation
REI
Residential Mortgage Group
Target
University of Minnesota
Wedge Community Co-op
Women's Foundation of
Minnesota

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Tania Montgomery, School Director
Sherri Bergwall, Office Director
Erin Wisness, Program Associate
Kali Bauer, Work Study

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Flo Golod
Traci LaFerriere
Cori Wahl



Avery, Myles and Kiki in Brynne's class.



Zoe, Demetrius, Lyric and Bird at recess.



First and second grade students organize a march at school protesting mean behavior they observed on the school bus



SOUTHSIDE FAMILY CHARTER SCHOOL

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Minneapolis, MN 55419

612-872-8322 • www.southsidefamilyschool.org

A MEMBER OF



MINNESOTA