



The Foundation Schools

ANNUAL REPORT
2006-2007

On the path to success.....



Building Leaders for
Today and Tomorrow

A Student's Tragic Death Leads The Foundation Schools Down a New Path

Many of our students and their families struggle with a host of domestic issues, including poverty and homelessness. The Foundation Schools has long recognized these intense needs and responded with special programs to ensure we can best meet our goals for student success. In 1998, we implemented our home-based crisis intervention program, Foundation Links, to help meet our most at-risk students' emergency needs for food, clothing, medication and additional counseling. And in 2005, we put in place a formal school lunch program to ensure that our students received proper nutrition during the school day. Now in 2007, we found ourselves venturing down a new path in response to the tragic and preventable death of one of our students.



Twelve-year-old Deamonte died earlier this year when an infection from an abscessed tooth spread to his brain. His family was struggling with homelessness and did not receive the paperwork to renew their Medicaid coverage that was sent to a shelter they had already left. Even when they did have Medicaid insurance coverage, Deamonte's mother reported that she had a very difficult time in securing appointments with the few participating dentists she could locate.

After reading about Deamonte's death in the Washington Post, Dr. Hazel Harper, former president of the National Dental Association (NDA) contacted The Foundation Schools and offered the pro-bono services of her associates to prevent a similar tragedy from occurring again. With their support and an emergency grant from a local Foundation, we were able to hold a dental clinic at our school in Largo, MD. The school first hosted a parent information session after school. Dentists came into the school and spoke with parents about the importance of good dental care, explained the dental screening program, answered questions and showed the parents the specially equipped van that they would bring back on-site to conduct the dental screenings on their children. After the parent session, the school held a Dental Hygiene Assembly for the students. Dental students from Howard University came on-site to talk about proper oral care. On April 19th, the Dentists arrived with the van and conducted dental screenings on 72 students. They were specifically looking for cavities and infections requiring immediate attention. The dentists then secured free dental care for those students who were identified as needing follow-up treatment and who did not have dental insurance. The Foundation Schools plans to repeat the program and expand it to include the low-income students in our Montgomery County school location as well.



Dental students from Howard University put on a skit for the students.

"Tooth decay remains America's most prevalent chronic childhood disease. The greatest tragedy of Deamonte's death is that tooth decay is easily preventable."

—U.S. Senators Benjamin Cardin and Jeff Bingaman.

What Is Thirty-Three Years?

A Good Start.

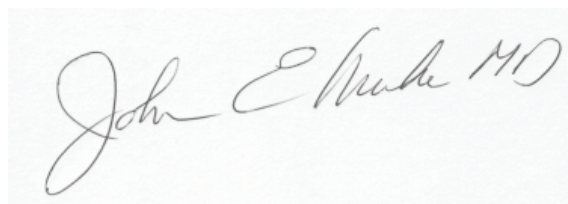
A Letter From The Retiring President and Chief Executive Officer

As I turn over the CEO mantle to Andy Adler I look back at all the different work experiences that I have had. I have been fortunate enough to lead a medical university child psychiatry program, a mental health clinic and a psychiatric hospital before Mary Jane Kennelly and I created The Foundation Schools. I enjoyed all these challenging and rewarding positions. However, I can tell you in all honesty that none of these earlier jobs gave me the satisfaction and pride that The Foundation Schools have provided.

I believe that everyone associated with The Foundation Schools – teachers, therapists, behavior management personnel, Board Members, Development Committee Members and generous donors - is in the business of education in all its aspects: building character, teaching cooperation, improving self-respect, crafting emotional intelligence, as well as core academics. The reason I am so proud of my association with The Foundation Schools – my association with all of you – is because I believe that your efforts represent a powerful change agent that has a major impact for the good of the youngsters we serve and for the community around them. I am very proud of what you have achieved and I look forward with eager anticipation to your next accomplishments. I am confident The Foundation Schools will scale new heights of service.

As many of you know, my co-founder Mary Jane Kennelly brought many skills to her job. She was tough minded yet devoted to education. She could inspire others and her business sense was excellent – a rare combination for those of us who set out to save these young souls. When she became ill I felt it best to delay my plans to retire until I could be sure that The Foundation Schools had the leadership in place to insure continuing success. Andy was Mary Jane's right hand as our programs became too large for one person to direct. Andy learned all the ins and outs of maintaining a positive working relationship with the public school systems, the everyday challenges of redirecting troubled young people, and maintaining the delicate fiscal health of a growing nonprofit enterprise.

I think the quickest way to sum up Andy's last two years is to say that she now stands triumphant on Mary Jane's shoulder and on mine. I believe that from this perspective Andy's forward view is very clear. She brings total commitment, intelligence and a caring heart. The Foundation Schools could not have a finer guide as you continue on the path of spinning untended, neglected, often damaged lives into the gold of intelligent, constructive and fulfilled human beings.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Meeks MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

John E. Meeks, M.D.
Founder
Senior Medical Advisor
The Foundation Schools

Preparing Our Students for Graduation and

Foundation High School Student, Maurice, Graduates Against All Odds



Maurice proudly poses with his therapist and FSHS Clinical Director, Theresa McAlpine during the graduation ceremony.

Maurice came to The Foundation Schools in 1997 as a 2nd grade student. He and his brothers had been removed from their home because of neglect and were placed in foster care with their aunt. Maurice struggled with his family issues and found it very difficult to trust others. Understandably, he was quite angry and resistant.

The staff worked patiently over the years with Maurice and he made tremendous progress. He went from refusing to participate in counseling sessions to actively seeking out his therapist. He evolved into a mature student and achieved success in decreasing his anger and applying his strong will in more positive directions. He became involved in the Peaceaholics, an advocacy group that works with kids to promote non-violence. Maurice was also a tremendous athlete and was a strong asset to the Foundation School's basketball team. He received one of the first Mary Jane Kennelly Scholarships which enabled him to attend the basketball camp at Georgetown University where he was honored with an award for "most improved."

Maurice's strong will and determination was never more evident than during his senior year at The Foundation School. Just a few weeks after his terrific success in the basketball camp, Maurice was shot and sustained tremendous internal injuries. The staff had just started their summer leave and rallied to provide a support system for Maurice and his family. They helped advocate for his care and spent countless hours at his bedside holding his hand, reading to him and providing extra comfort as he recuperated. It is nothing short of miraculous that Maurice survived, and he recently received an intestine transplant.

Despite his injuries and poor health, Maurice was eager to return to school in the fall. He began asking to come as soon as he was discharged from the hospital and was thrilled when the doctor provided his release to attend. His recovery continued to be a bit of a roller coaster ride with set-backs to his healing and recovery and two additional hospitalizations. Throughout it all, Maurice was a true role model of incredible resiliency and determination. He never complained and he welcomed the support of the staff and his peers. He was able to complete the requirements for graduation and has been accepted into the University of the District of Columbia where he will study history or political science. He plans to pursue a career in the political realm, and we have no doubt that he will continue to be an inspiration to all he encounters.

The Mission of The Foundation Schools: to provide a specialized educational and therapeutic program for students with emotional disturbance and prepare them to be productive and successful in their future academic and career paths.

Beyond.....

Soaring Into the Future and Success with The Career Connections Program

Over ten years ago, The Foundation Schools implemented a comprehensive vocational education program to help prepare our students for success after graduation. This program, which has been modified and expanded over the past few years to better meet the needs of our students, received a new name this year that is more descriptive of its intent and goals in helping the students to make the connection between school and the workplace. The newly renamed Career Connections Program provides students with job readiness behavior training and skills, verbal and written communication skills, career interest exploration, application and interview skills, resume writing, daily life skills training, finance and budget training, technical skills in software usage and webpage design, work ethic development and independent living skills.



Students from the high schools learn about the employment opportunities available at Safeway.

All students begin participation in the program starting in the 8th grade. As the students progress in the acquisition of the aforementioned skills, staff members work with them to secure opportunities for apprenticeships, externships, supportive and competitive employment and technology certification. Special speakers, vocational development trips and activities are scheduled regularly throughout the school year, and The Foundation Schools also serves as a work site host for summer employment and provides job coaching to all participants. Opportunities to interface with potential employers and representatives of higher education are provided at The Foundation School Career Expo. This year's expo was held on April 12, 2007 and featured representatives from 34 businesses, colleges and other vocational training programs. The students were well-prepared and enthusiastic about the event, and several students expected to secure employment as a result of their interactions with the representatives.

The Foundation Schools was especially pleased to welcome alumni, Marquita Washington, to the 2007 Career Expo. Marquita holds the rank of Specialist in the United States Army and attended the Expo in uniform as a representative for the military. She is a 2005 graduate of The Foundation High School and was her class Valedictorian. During her time at The Foundation Schools, Marquita's teachers and therapists worked with her to help her learn ways to manage her anger and express herself in positive ways. She is very articulate and had the honor of speaking at the dedication ceremony for the new school in 2004. Marquita was a real leader at the school and we are very proud to see that she is continuing to use these leadership qualities in her career. She passionately spoke with the current students about how fortunate they are to attend The Foundation Schools and she even took time to teach a group from the middle school how to give a proper salute.



Foundation Schools alumni, Marquita Washington, teaches students from the middle school how to give a proper military salute during the 2007 Expo.

The Art & Soul of Learning 2007 Benefit

The Foundation Schools' Spring Benefit was held on April 19, 2007 at Manor Country Club in Rockville, MD and was our most successful ever, raising over \$40,000 in net proceeds for our special programs. Professional sportscaster and "Voice of the Wizards," Steve Buckhantz, lit up the night as the Master of Ceremonies. A live auction was incorporated into the evening's festivities, and Mr. Buckhantz's lively wit added to the tremendous success of this new addition.

Ms. Dorie Flynn, Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF), presented the fifth Founders Award to Myrna Cardin in recognition of her many years of service to and advocacy on behalf of children with special needs. Ms. Cardin's dedication to children is evident in her contributions as a teacher for Baltimore County Public Schools, volunteer tutor and Board Member for the Dyslexia Tutoring Program, and her eight years of service with MANSEF.

FSMC Student, Katie, smiles along with Founders Award recipient, Myrna Cardin.



The Benefit again provided an opportunity for The Foundation Schools to share the many skills and talents of our students with the community. One-of-a-kind artwork and photographic compositions from students at all three schools were the hallmark of the silent auction, which was then followed by the student performances. Students from The Foundation Elementary and Middle School enraptured the guests with their short play, "The Suitcase Staircase." The Foundation High School Band jazzed up the evening with their gospel-inspired blend of piano, drums, bass, guitar and percussion. And students from The Foundation School of Montgomery County gave the guests a behind-the-scenes look into the art of brass rubbing with a video they produced.

All Benefit photos are courtesy of Daniel Peck Photograpy.



Unique student creations for auction.



The Foundation High School Band.

The Foundation Schools extends a special thanks to our Sponsors:

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Foundation Leadership Program

The Foundation Schools proudly celebrates the first class of graduates from its Foundation Leadership Program. Ten staff from across all disciplines and representing all three FS programs completed a year long course designed to help participants identify and enhance their leadership skills and abilities.

The overriding goal of this leadership program is to contribute to the legacy of quality interdisciplinary leadership within The Foundation Schools. Participants met monthly and were required to meet several program expectations including extensive reading and writing assignments, completion of a special project, class presentations, and meeting regularly with an assigned mentor. Guest speakers in leadership positions were recruited to share their experiences and perspectives on leadership.

A final leadership retreat was held on July 13, 2007. On this occasion participants reviewed their year of study, shared feedback with Dr.

Meeks and Andrea Adler and talked about future professional goals.

The leadership program model was very well-received both within The Foundation Schools and within the greater special education and helping community. We have been honored to share our model for the program with other MANSEF schools as well as other local nonprofits. The second class of Foundation Schools' participants began their study in September 2007.



The Foundation Leadership Program
Class of 2007.

The Zickler Family Foundation Provides Our First Challenge Grant

The Foundation Schools is extremely grateful to the Zickler Family Foundation for providing our first challenge grant. Through their Foundation, Judy and Leo Zickler have generously offered a \$25,000 matching grant for each of the next two school years to help meet the needs of our Food for Thought School Lunch Program.



The majority of our students are living in low-income households and we found that many of these children were coming to school without

having had breakfast and without money or food for lunch. Even our best interventions will fail if our students are too hungry to concentrate. We need new partners from our community to work with us to solve this problem, and the matching grant program will go a long way in encouraging others to step forward to help.

The lunch program began in our Prince George's County school in November of 2005 and insures that no student goes without the proper nutrition they need to experience academic and personal success. While the lunches are publicly subsidized with funds from the National School Lunch Program, this funding covers less than half of the expenses of feeding our students. Community support is vital to assure the long-term continuation of the program. Donations may be made using the enclosed envelope or online on our website and must be at least \$500 to qualify for the challenge grant match. Pooled group contributions and monthly installments are welcomed.

Leading Our Students Down the Path to

OUR GOALS:

- 1) ensuring our students stay in school and experience some reasonable degree of academic and personal success;
- 2) supporting our students to complete requirements for grade completion or graduation;
- 3) preparing our students for post-secondary education or the world of work so they can become successful contributing members of their communities.

STUDENTS SERVED

FSEM	163
FSHS	119
FSMC	124
Total	406

PARENT SATISFACTION

88% of parents surveyed believe that The Foundation Schools is doing a good job of preparing their son or daughter for the next step (i.e., promotion, graduation, post-graduate employment, public school or post-secondary education).

84% indicated that they were satisfied with the instruction and 80% indicated that they were satisfied with the therapy that their child was receiving at The Foundation School.



GRADUATES

FSEM	36 (8th Graders)
FSHS	9
FSMC	4

Note: all of our high school seniors graduated with diplomas

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

(two high schools)

70% Are going on to college or other post-graduate training

23% Secured full-time employment or internships

OUR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES: address the educational, social and emotional needs of children and adolescents who have previously been unsuccessful in public school settings. These program include:

ATHLETICS

So many of our students are not invested in school or have found destructive ways to deal with life problems. Middle and high school students can participate in Basketball, Softball and Volleyball Leagues where they learn the fundamentals of the sports and enjoy participation and competition in a therapeutic and safe environment. The sports program is a way in which many young people can channel their energy into a healthy and productive outlet. Students learn the importance of rules, practice and teamwork. They often experience success in a sports activity for the first time.



Success...

"When I started this program I was very angry, sad, upset, and depressed all the time. I didn't care which way was up because I always looked down. My teachers always kept me on the right track and on the right path so I can go down the road of success."

D.B., Excerpted from her 8th Grade Graduation Speech

LITERACY AND REMEDIAL READING

As a result of their disabilities and academic and socioeconomic situations, many of our students are not able to decode words, are reading well below their appropriate academic grade level or can be classified as "non-readers." Reading is critically important to academic success. The Foundation Schools recently began implementing a comprehensive remedial reading program in order to improve reading ability and enjoyment.



Comprehensive Results from the Elementary and Middle School in Largo

- 91% of students given the posttest showed significant improvement over their pretest scores. 64% showed at least one full level of improvement and 12% showed at least two full levels of improvement.
- On the pretest only 7% of the students tested at level C (the highest level of the corrective reading program), while on the posttest 42% tested at level C. An additional 11% tested out of the program at the posttest.



FOUNDATION LINKS

Many of our students are in foster care or come from poorly functioning or financially struggling families. As a result, serious family issues, domestic violence, and failure to have their basic needs met for food, clothing, housing and medication are real crises our students are faced with that impact their school attendance and performance. Foundation Links seeks to break the cycle of domestic crises leading to school failure by providing out of school outreach to directly address the external issues that are preventing the students from attending and experiencing success in school. The program provides counseling, food, clothing and other services to our most at-risk children and their families.

Serving Students and Families in Crisis

- 100 students were referred to Foundation Links (55% were referred multiple times or for multiple reasons). 91 students (and their families in many cases) accepted and received services.
- 73% received individual and/or family counseling (338 sessions or interventions were provided overall).
- The majority of parents surveyed reported positive changes in their son or daughter's behavior in school (95%), at home (95%), and in the community (89%) as a result of participating in the program. All of the parents or caregivers surveyed reported an improvement in their son or daughter's self-esteem, and almost all (84%) noticed an improvement in their child's grades. Significant impacts were also reported with regards to improving school attendance.

2006-2007 CONTRIBUTORS

Gifts Received July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007

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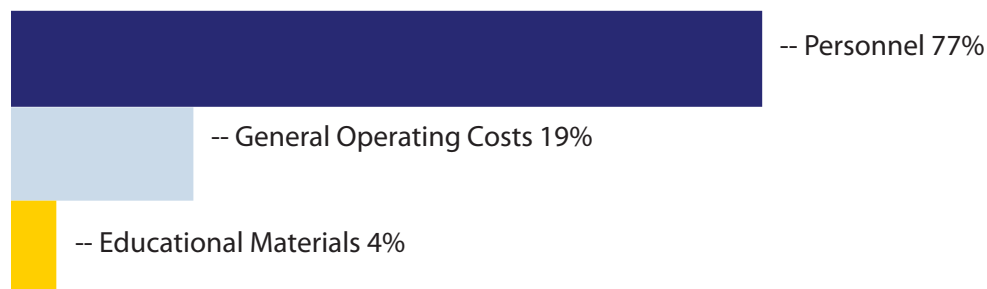
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The Foundation Schools 2006-2007 Financial Statement

REVENUE



EXPENSES



A Letter from Our Chairman

We should all be inspired by the continued success of our schools and special events which feature dedicated staff members interacting one on one with the students. Our folks come from all professional disciplines – special education, psychology, social work, and the core content areas of English, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science – and are from all walks of life. Not only do they bring a richness of qualifications and life experiences, but more importantly they bring a commitment and deep devotion to help the young people we serve get on the path to success.

Our success is moving others into action. We added four new Board Members this year, all of whom readily accepted after touring the schools and meeting the students and terrific staff. They are all community leaders highly successful in their fields and passionately committed to The Foundation Schools' mission of educating students with emotional disturbance and preparing them to be successful in their future academic and career paths. These are men and women who can help in important ways. All of them readily accept the responsibility for raising funds for the crucial programs that are either unsupported or incompletely supported by the tuition funding, such as Foundation Links, the school lunch program, the remedial reading program and the superior technology component. They will also be invaluable resources in helping to strengthen and broaden the efforts of the Career Connections vocational education and preparation program.

These exciting new additions to the Board will help The Foundation Schools accomplish much in the coming years. We also acknowledge and honor the dedicated service of Etna Carr, Martin Gaynes, John Martin and Richard Schmidt. Marty served as Counsel and Secretary and remained committed to The Foundation Schools even as his health declined in recent years. Unfortunately, he lost his battle earlier this year and is greatly missed by all. Etna, John and Richard retired from the Board at the end of their terms this year after many years of service. Richard was a firm proponent of advancing the technology capacity of The Foundation Schools, and most recently served as Treasurer for the Board. Again, we are very grateful for the contributions all four made during their tenure.

Like the new members of the Board, as well as all of those who have served in years passed, I am very proud of my affiliation with The Foundation Schools. I thank all of you who are supporting us in our goal to positively impact the lives of some of the most fragile and deserving young people in our community, and I welcome and encourage your continued involvement.



Andre J. Gingles, Esq.
Chairman of the Board

Reaching Out to Our Community

Panda Express from the Boulevard Visits The Foundation School

In early February, the yearbook club members went with middle school teacher Barbara Jennai to the Capital Center on the boulevard to see if they could get some stores or restaurants to donate money for the yearbook in exchange for an advertisement in the book. They spoke to Ms. Rose Anna at Panda Express who was extremely friendly and supportive. She took their letter of explanation about the project and the next day she came to the school with a generous donation and expressed the desire to come visit the students and share with them some food and information about the Chinese culture.



Managers from Panda Express give a presentation on Chinese culture.

The school graciously accepted her offer and several weeks later Ms. Rose Anna and another Panda Express Manager met with the 40 students who were on Levels II, III, and IV. They brought a lot of veggie spring rolls, fried rice, and orange chicken for the students and staff. The two managers spoke to the kids about the Chinese New Year and handed out book markers and small informative posters. The students learned that each year represents a different animal on the Chinese zodiac calendar. They then found their year of birth, which animal represented their year, and read the zodiac descriptions of their personality. The managers quizzed the students on what they had told them, and gave prizes of little panda bears to the winners. The students really enjoyed learning about Chinese culture and sampling the cuisine.

Designate The Foundation Schools!

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The Foundation Schools is very grateful to Panda Express and all of the local businesses who embrace our mission and provide much needed support. We are very pleased that we were accepted as a member agency of the United Way of the National Capital Area Federation. We are also continuing our participation in the Combined Federal Campaign. We know our community will respond generously. Thank you.

THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OFFERS SPECIAL THANKS

The Development Office is very grateful to all of the Board Members, Development Committee Members, Staff and special friends of The Foundation Schools who helped contribute to the success of the Development efforts this year.

Special thanks to Dr. Sheila Cahill, Mr. Kweku Carr, Ms. Terry Darr, Mr. Mark Deegan, Mr. Hank Gromada, Ms. Gina James, Dr. Addys Karunaratne, Ms. Kelli Kunert, Mr. Aubrey McCoy, Mr. Anthony Miles, Ms. Ruth Nolan, Ms. Lore Percival, Ms. Siobhan Roddy, Ms. Carol Ryan, Ms. Carol Schmidt, Ms. Dana Seifert and Mr. Ed Tamulevich for their contributions to the preparation and procurement of grants.

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The Foundation Schools

...providing a window of
opportunity for our youth

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