

OUR PROGRAM

WE REALIZE THE TEENAGE YEARS ARE CRITICAL ONES FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON. That is why our program is designed to serve each student for six years—from middle school through high school. The program is comprised of these components: School-based Workshops, Theater Experiences, One-on-One Assistance, College Tours and Special Programming. All components work within the Project SUCCESS philosophy, which is to provide a non-judgmental, supportive setting where students can speak out and be heard, and where they learn to assess themselves and their options regarding their future. All program components are designed to help students gain confidence in creative thinking, decision making, goal setting and resourcefulness while developing the skills to plan their future.

SCHOOL-BASED WORKSHOPS

Our staff of professional facilitators lead workshops based on specifically-designed curricula developed for each grade level. Last year, we delivered 1,679 workshops to more than 7,000 young people in nine Minneapolis/St. Paul middle and high schools. Working together with teachers and school administrators, our curriculum has become an integral part of English/Language Arts classes, ensuring that our program reaches each child in every school. Students participate in a workshop once a month for a total of eight workshop experiences per student, per year. The curriculum guides young people through a variety of unique exercises, experiences and discussions to help them look at their interests, their strengths and desires for the future. We then work with them to set specific goals and take particular steps towards those goals. We call this process “dreaming with your eyes open,” and 90% of participating students report taking a positive step toward achieving their goals.

THEATER EXPERIENCES

We believe in the power of theater to illuminate the world. We use professional theater as a springboard to inspire students and to help them look at the real issues they face. With the help of our professional theater partners, we offer students and their families the opportunity to attend between six and twelve theater experiences a year. These are not school field trips, but tickets to evening and weekend performances. We work with the schools and theaters to choose the appropriate plays, we coordinate every element of the experience including providing transportation and childcare, and we often facilitate post-play discussions with the performers and directors.

ONE-ON-ONE ASSISTANCE, COLLEGE TOURS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

High school students need attention and assistance planning for their future. So we offer a one-on-one counseling program in after-school sessions. Our facilitators help students with reviewing and filling out applications for college or financial aid, finding job opportunities and seeking the resources necessary to make life after high school a positive, productive experience. State and national college tours are an important part of this one-on-one assistance. In the 2006-07 school year, Project SUCCESS staff took 321 high school students on college tours in Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin. Other specialized programming we offer for middle school students includes: 1) annual musicals and performances; 2) summer trips to the BWCA; and 3) all-school field trips to the theater.

Over the course of a year students are afforded the following services:

- 6-12 free professional theater performances – including free transportation to and from the performances and free child care
- 8 goal-setting, in-class workshops with a Project SUCCESS facilitator
- 8 after-school counseling and support sessions
 - 1 or more college or community tour
 - 8 phone calls or other communication from Project SUCCESS staff
 - 2-3 other experiences, such as participating in an all-school play production or a trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area

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In Kind
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Alchemy Theatre
Anne Sullivan Communication Center
Anawit Middle School
Buca Inc.
Cambria
Centerplate Catering
Department 56
Fitzgerald Theater
Great American History Theatre
Guthrie Theater (Founding Partner)
Hardcover Theater
Hennepin Theatre Trust
(State, Orpheum and Pantages)
Humboldt Junior High
Illusion Theatre
In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre
Interact Center - Performing Arts Program
Lifetouch Inc. (Founding Partner)
Manhattan Toy
Metro Transit
Minneapolis Floral
Minnesota Dance Theatre
Minnesota Opera
Emily Anne and Gedney Tuttle
Mixed Blood Theatre
Mu Performing Arts
North Community High School (Founding Partner)
Northeast Middle School
Pangea World Theater
Park Square Theatre
Penumbra Theatre
Pinnacle Signs and Graphics
Saint Paul Hotel
South High School
Southwest High School
Stages Theatre Company
SteppingStone Theatre
Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater
Target
The Jungle Theater
The Southern Theater
The University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance
Theater Latte Da
Theatre de la Jeune Lune
Toro
Washington Technology Magnet Middle School
Young Dance

MISSION

Project SUCCESS is
a youth-development
organization

that works with students over a
six-year period, from middle school through high
school, to help them develop life skills and inspire
them to act on their dreams. Through in-school
goal-setting workshops, an innovative theater
program, and after-school individual services,
students learn to make informed choices and plan
for meaningful futures.

Project SUCCESS



Annual Report

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007



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LETTER TO OUR PARTNERS

In looking back at this past year, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity to serve such amazing young people, and to work with so many passionate partners. In a world that is increasingly hectic and high tech, we savor the day to day humanness of connecting with kids and families and spreading a message of inspiration and hope for positive, bright futures. From our theater partners, to our school partners, our funding partners, and the community at large, we are grateful for their support that allows us, together, to passionately strive toward achieving our mission of inspiring kids every day.

In one of our standard Project SUCCESS classroom workshops, we facilitate an activity called the 'Values Auction.' We think it's important for people of all ages to assess what is important to them and factor those values in to their decision making. We as an organization are committed to this practice, and base all of our decisions around our core values. They are simple. Number one is *Kids First*. What would most benefit the young people we serve? This is the key question we ask ourselves when considering any decision. We also strongly believe in coming at our work in a *Non-judgmental* way. We can't assume anything. Young people are complex and extraordinary and need us to believe in them and their future at all costs. A third key value of ours is *Relationships*. Many folks in the youth development field use the phrase 'it's all about relationships,' and we couldn't agree more. That is why we are committed to serving our young people in a long term way. More than half of our students are with us for six to seven years!

Using these and other values as our guide, we have made an exciting decision to expand our programming to more schools in the next couple of years. With our plan approved and funding in place, we are poised for a growth spurt that will allow us to serve more students and families than ever before. We are now in the process of moving forward with selected schools in both the Minneapolis and Saint Paul school districts. We are so pleased to be part of these districts who are working diligently on behalf of their students and families—to serve them in the best way possible. We strongly believe that our program perfectly compliments the efforts of both districts, and look forward to continued partnership.

Project SUCCESS is a growing force of individuals who truly believe that anything is possible, and our goal is to inspire students to know this for themselves. In this, our fifteenth year of operation, we are as committed as ever to this mission and looking forward to a remarkable year ahead.

In the spirit of dreams coming true,

Adrienne Diercks, *Executive Director*
Julie Zelle, *Board President*



Selected Evaluation Highlights

Future planning: More than **85%** of Minneapolis middle school students in Project SUCCESS indicated the program "helped me think about my future" and nearly three-fourths of high school students said Project SUCCESS "helped me to create a plan for after graduation." **82%** said they "were inspired and motivated to pursue my dreams."

Understanding of self and others: Nearly **80%** of the students indicated that Project SUCCESS "helped me understand classmates who have different perspectives and experiences" and **74%** of the students said the program "helped me understand myself better."

Impact on school life: In the first year of Project SUCCESS programs in St. Paul, **70%** of the middle school students indicated they made a special effort to attend school for Project SUCCESS activities.

Theater Experience: Project SUCCESS students are introduced to live theater, often for the first time. Nearly **98%** of Minneapolis high school students called this a valuable experience as did **100%** of teachers and **99%** of parents.

Conducted by the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement of the University of Minnesota.

Thank you for being a critical part of this important work.

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School Partners

Minneapolis: Anne Sullivan Middle School, Anwatin Middle School, Afrocentric Educational Academy, Emerson SILC, Jefferson Middle School, Northeast Middle School, North Community High School (Founding Partner), South High School and Southwest High School. **St. Paul:** Humboldt Junior High and Washington Technology Magnet Middle School.

Theater Partners

Actors Theater of Minnesota, Cedar Cultural Center, History Theatre, Guthrie Theater (Founding Partner), MPR's Fitzgerald Theater, Hardcover Theater, Hennepin Theatre Trust (State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres), Interact Center Performing Arts Program, Illusion Theater, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, The Jungle Theater, Minnesota Dance Theatre, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera, Mixed Blood Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Penumbra Theatre, Southern Theater, Stages Theatre Company, SteppingStone Theatre, Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater, Theater Latte Da, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts & Dance, Vocalessence, Xelias, and Young Dance.

Founding Partners

North Community High School, Lifetouch Inc., Guthrie Theater

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Year 2006-2007 Accomplishments

7,000 middle and high school students attended workshops in their schools facilitated by Project SUCCESS facilitators.

1,679 workshops were conducted by **5** Project SUCCESS professional facilitators in **8** Twin Cities schools, to encourage and inspire students to imagine their futures and make conscious decisions based on their discoveries.

2,384 students went on **22** daytime field trips to area theaters.

16,298 students and family members attended **142** evening and weekend performances at professional Twin Cities theaters.

27 theaters provided tickets for Project SUCCESS students and their families.

In **90** after-school workshops, **585** students worked one-on-one with Project SUCCESS staff making plans and decisions about their future direction after high school.

321 students were assisted in their college selection process by participating in **25** college tours led by Project SUCCESS staff.

In total, the following colleges and universities were visited during our tours (some tours offered visits to multiple campuses):

Minnesota

Augsburg College

Carleton College

Dunwoody College of Technology

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Minneapolis Community & Technical College

St. Olaf College

University of Minnesota, Duluth

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

University of St. Thomas

Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Chicago

Columbia College

DePaul University

Elmhurst College

Illinois Institute of Technology

Lake Forest College

Loyola University

Northwestern University

Robert Morris College

University of Chicago

University of Illinois, Chicago

FINANCIAL REPORT

	6/30/07	6/30/06
FINANCIAL POSITION		
ASSETS	\$148,320	\$120,784
LIABILITIES	\$71,621	\$26,467
FUND BALANCE	\$76,699	\$94,317
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$148,320	\$120,784

REVENUES

Corporate	\$348,500	\$327,000
Foundation	\$188,315	\$205,286
Individuals	\$114,227	\$112,653
Schools	\$21,950	\$12,800
Government	\$-	\$26,459
Special Events	\$63,839	\$134,512
Program Service Fees	\$31,086	\$12,491
In-Kind Contributions	\$652,562	\$678,622
Total Revenue	\$1,420,479	\$1,509,823

EXPENSES

General Operations	\$171,357	\$168,426
Program Services	\$1,129,615	\$1,225,392
Fundraising	\$102,232	\$87,417
Total Expenses	\$1,403,204	\$1,481,235

Fund Balance: Beginning of Period	\$94,317	\$65,729
Fund Balance: End of Period	\$76,699	\$94,317
Change in Fund Balance	\$(17,618)	\$28,588

