



# The Voyage Continues ...



**A Celebration of  
Year Two of  
Our Sisters' School,  
an Independent  
Tuition-Free  
Middle School  
for the Girls of  
Greater New Bedford**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
July 1st 2009 to June 30th 2010**

## MISSION

The Mission of Our Sisters' School is to inspire and educate middle-school girls from the Greater New Bedford area to reach their full potential in a safe, supportive and challenging environment. Our Sisters' School provides a quality education and welcomes girls from diverse faiths, races and cultures.

## THE OSS VISION

Our Sisters' School is an independent, tuition-free day school for girls in Grades 5 – 8. Founded by a coalition of residents from the South Coast region who share a deep interest in education, OSS seeks to foster the academic competence, social confidence, cultural proficiency, intellectual curiosity, integrity and hope of its students, and to nurture in a small-school setting the full potential of their whole character. Our goal is to help girls of promise and ambition to become lifelong learners and productive contributors to the world they inherit. The school's faculty and staff work closely with students' families and other volunteers, building ties between school and community, and developing the kinds of personal and institutional support that will ensure the continuing success of OSS students in high school, college and later life.

## WHY "OUR SISTERS"?

During New Bedford's storied past, it was not uncommon for young wives to join husbands on extended whaling voyages. Known as "sister sailors," these brave young women were seeking in their day, on the far-flung oceans of the world, their own version of what the "sister students" of New Bedford are seeking today: To sail beyond narrow, familiar horizons into unknown oceans of adventure, learning and possibility.

Sisters sailors then. Sister students today. *Tomorrow?* Sister teachers? Sister doctors? Sister scientists? *Anything is possible.* And the entire community will benefit.



## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Last March, a group called Massachusetts Citizens for Children issued a report entitled "Child Poverty in Massachusetts: A Tale of Three Cities." The cities covered in the report -- Lawrence, Springfield and New Bedford -- are the towns with the highest percentages of children who are poor in the state.

What accounts for these alarmingly high levels of poverty? The report pointed to education, or rather to the lack of education, as a prime factor. For example, here are some of its findings specifically about New Bedford:

1. As of 2008, a mere 64 percent of New Bedford residents 25 years or older had a high-school degree (or higher);
2. Twenty percent of today's New Bedford residents have less than a 9th-grade degree; another 16 percent attended high school but did not attain a diploma;
3. Nearly half of New Bedford's children -- 48 percent -- live in households headed by a single female.

In sum, the Citizens for Children report confirms why all of us have been and remain so deeply committed to OSS. Each and every one of you is to be congratulated -- and thanked -- for contributing your passion, your experience and countless hours of hard work to the belief that education can and will make a difference in the lives of our girls, their families and our entire community.

Our Sisters' School recently completed its second year. We added a third class during the year, bringing our total number of girls enrolled to 40. We also added two new teachers. In the Fall of 2010, we have added a fourth and final class. And this Spring we will have our first graduation.

So a big year is with us, a year that will go a long way toward proving whether we have been successful in the momentous task we set out to accomplish four years ago. For now, all signs point toward stunning success. Our ship remains steady on her course. Our students are handling their voyage on the seas of knowledge with boundless enthusiasm and the courage to work hard and fearlessly explore, just as their sister sailors did so many years ago, on the far-flung seas of the maritime world. Again, all of this has been accomplished in no small degree thanks to the dedication of all of you.

*continued on pg. 3*



"I just got a chance to look through the OSS newsletter that arrived in my email box last week. I'm so pleased that things are going well with the school. It is an amazing accomplishment that you and the others have pulled off in the last few years. Kudos to all of you."

Anna Waring,  
OSS supporter

"I LOVED the art show and was overwhelmed by the variety of mediums that the kids produced. My two guides were fabulous."

Joan O'Brien, OSS  
Founding Board  
Member

**SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM YEAR TWO INCLUDE:****1**

The Curriculum Committee, under the leadership of Kate Dabney, rigorously defined the educational beliefs of the school;

**2**

Volunteers taught instrumental music lessons on the flute, clarinet, acoustic guitar and piano.

**3**

Added our first 7th-grade students and the core courses they required including world language, study skills and SSAT Prep.

**4**

Grew our volunteer base from 54 to over 100 people who logged in over 4,000 hours to support OSS!

**5**

The Finance Committee created and continues to oversee a new sustainability fund.

**6**

Then there is this: During 2009/2010, on one series of standardized tests (the GMADE and GRADE) all three grades increased their average math scores by almost three grade levels, and their average reading scores by just under two grade levels. *In one year!*

Two weeks ago, I brought a prospective donor to speak at an OSS morning meeting. This meeting wasn't led by Lisa Yates or by one of the teachers, as is usually the case. Instead, one of our 7th graders was in charge, and she led the school through the meeting's ritual with great confidence and extraordinary poise. Later that morning, I learned from one of the teachers that this same student, just two days earlier, had become homeless. Her mother had been evicted from the apartment they shared. Her father was lost in the world of drugs.

Given these facts, this child's performance at morning meeting was a stunning reminder of how courageous and resilient our students can be, and of how transient and unmoored their home lives sometimes are. And it helped me to visualize Our Sisters' School as a kind of safety net and protected harbor. As was the case with the student described above, the only thing our girls really need is a chance -- an opportunity to learn and work and explore in a safe, supportive environment -- and their lives will surely flourish.

Lisa Schmid Alvord  
*President, Board of Trustees*

## Student Profile 2009-2010

The OSS student population continues to reflect the demographics of the Greater New Bedford area. Over the 2009--2010 year, the school educated a diverse population of girls who identify as: Asian, African-American, Cape Verdean, Caucasian, Latina, Portuguese and Bi-Racial.



"Ms. Perry, I want to thank you for inviting me to speak briefly with the students this morning. I must tell you how impressed I am with your staff and student body-- everyone was so engaging and the girls are so mature. They are confident, attentive, well-spoken, and a pleasure to be with. Trinity and Kianna provided me with a great tour, answered my questions without hesitation, and seemed quite at ease in acting as tour guides. You are doing a wonderful job preparing these young women for the rigors of education and "the world" ...thank you, again."

-Dep. Chief Cathleen L. Moniz, Fall River Police Department & OSS Morning Meeting Speaker

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM YEAR TWO

The year began with a flash and a bang that never seemed to let up. The first few weeks included: Community service for the Buttonwood Park Zoo's rain garden, Presidential Fitness Testing, our first administration of the GRADE and GMADE exams, school picture day, back-to-school night and the presentation of syllabi for the year, a board & staff dinner, the Stanford 10 exams for the 6th graders to catch up from year one, the beginning of regular staff meetings (faculty, lead teachers, all staff, grade-level teams, subject-area teams), an EnviroLab boat trip for new students, morning speakers three days per week followed by current-events presentations by the students, and the launching of our "big sister-little-sister program" with the 5th and 7th graders.

As the leaves began to change color, we got the Rosetta Stone World Language program going and the typing software to work in the computer lab. Our 7th graders joined the Nativity Prep community for their secondary-school fair, and we hosted a presentation at OSS by Milton Academy on the many factors involved in choosing a secondary school. "Powers of 10 Day" brought math to life, and "Mix-It-Up Day" brought us all closer together. We continued our community-based learning experiences through Operation Clean Sweep, storytelling at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House, and once again joined Trips for Kids for bicycling trips and special Saturday programs. We also held our first Open House to bring friends of OSS into the school.

By the beginning of winter, our new family committees were hard at work making things happen for the school -- from potluck dinners to chocolate fundraisers to family fun nights to roller-skating. Our newly expanded music program had us all in top shape to participate in the Zeiterion's Downtown Holiday Stroll, the holiday concert at Quinn, and singing carols at Coastline. We volunteered with the whole city at "Gifts to Give" on MLK Jr. Day, and recorded videos about what social justice means to us with the Women's Fund.

By popular demand, we partnered again with Trips For Kids for a cooking program and great meals at Sid Wainer's and Café Balena. We also worked with the Ocean Explorium and the Women's Fund for the Women In Science and Engineering series. We started holding monthly grade-level assemblies and reading together as a school for Black History Month, Women's History Month, Read Across America Day, and National Poetry Month.



We saw Shakespeare, and other professional theater, singing, dancing and symphonic events in public theaters with “real” audiences. We also began introducing the next group of potential students to OSS at open houses and at the Boys & Girls Club. The highlight of our winter was winning the MaBaCh (Math, Basketball & Chess) Spirit Award at the Nativity Network tournament.

**Who has spirit? We do! We do!**

As Winter turned to Spring, the pace quickened. OSS families who have navigated the high-school transition process at Nativity Prep spoke to the rest of our families about their experiences. Our families learned about cyber safety and went bowling and washed cars together to raise money for the school. Our weekends were busy with Trips for Kids and Cuttyhunk Trips, the New Bedford Half Marathon, and the New Bedford Ballet performance of Cinderella. We held a collection drive for the Harbour House homeless shelter, and volunteered for Operation Clean Sweep, the Jewish Convalescent Home and the Humane Society.

Our fourth round of Presidential Fitness Testing found us watching our scores go up, up, up over the course of the year, thanks to our great volunteer coaches and to a school-wide commitment to physical fitness. We continued to teach the community about OSS, attended a Paw Sox game and put on another amazing art show. Our students wrote, directed and performed in their final plays for the year. We hosted candidates for teaching and staff positions on many days and tried to show them what OSS is made of. Jill Howard agreed to return next year to help lead our secondary-school program, and Laurie Barrett joined our Board.

Our families again took the lead for our final picnic and gave our departing AmeriCorps members special gifts as a way of saying goodbye to teachers they will never forget. Each of the departing teachers received an individual binder in which students had created a page containing: a picture they had drawn, their favorite memory of that teacher, “the” special gift they thank that teacher for, and their best wishes for their teacher in the future.

Our soon-to-be 8th-grade class led the way, as always, in turning our gaze toward the future as they took our very first SSAT’s on the last weekend of the school year.

What kind of transformations have you seen in your daughter (positive or negative) this year?

**“She takes the lead and she’s not afraid to speak her mind.”**

**“The staff has been more than willing to help with her to build her self-esteem.”**



**“I have seen a great improvement in my daughter’s self-esteem, self-confidence, and also setting goals for her future/self.”**

**“Friendship. Positive self-esteem. Confidence boost.”**

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There is only one appropriate way to begin this annual report, and that is by offering heartfelt thanks to our entire crew -- to our friends, supporters, community partners, volunteers, staff, families and students -- for the tremendous voyage of growth and discovery that took place during their fearless watch over our second school year. We have all learned so much as we have grown our school programs. We have accomplished so much in such a short period of time, and we will take these lessons with us as we chart our course for a new school year -- our first as a full middle school comprising grades five through eight -- and as we prepare our first graduating class for the transition to their next voyage come June.

We began the year by trimming sails and focusing on key areas of our academic program and on organizing for growth during the 2010-2011 school year. We added our first 7th-grade students and the core courses they required, world language and music classes, and additional enrichment courses such as study skills, remediation/enrichment and SSAT preparation in our efforts to fulfill the newly published OSS Educational Beliefs.

We also expanded our crew by bringing in two new AmeriCorps Volunteer Classroom Teachers for our new grade level, a new music educator, new Board members, new volunteers, and many new morning speakers to enrich the daily lives of our students and to expand our diversity of offerings and support for our program. Staying the course -- providing excellent instruction in our core academic program -- yielded a magnificent result: Between September 2009 and June 2010, our OSS students made average gains in reading of almost two grade levels, and almost three grade levels in mathematics. It doesn't get more satisfying than that!

Reflecting on aspects of our program that assist us in our voyages to new destinations, we also refined many elements of our work to keep OSS going and growing. Starting with the foundation of our operations, we added policy and procedure publications such as the personnel manual, crisis manual, financial policies manual, and faculty handbook. We also continued to refine our academic program, focusing on the alignment of our curriculum standards and materials, as well as additions



to the professional-development activities provided for our teachers. Staff met as task forces to plan new efforts around school culture and climate, diversity, and program evaluation. Family committees worked throughout the year to support the school with fundraising, community outreach, and building the ties that hold our community together. Finally, our volunteer program truly set sail under the leadership of our new coordinator.

As with any successful voyage, one must always keep an eye on the horizon to plot a proper course for the future. As we move toward year three, a number of new initiatives are being planned. We will once again expand our crew with the addition of a new team of AmeriCorps Volunteer Classroom Teachers. We are also adding new ports of call for our students, including the first year of our 8th-grade curriculum, a first-time community-service mandate for all four grades, and new enrichment classes in financial literacy and health through community partnerships. Preparing for the future will be a core theme throughout our work in the coming year, as we focus on program planning and evaluation, institutional expansion and growth, and how best to support the comprehensive needs of our students – and our graduates – as they move through their adolescent years toward the exciting educational settings that await them beyond the safe harbor of OSS.

Team OSS is a community working together to make learning for middle-school girls joyful and important. From the classroom to the computer lab to the dinner table to the art room to the basketball court to the Board room, our students are surrounded by peers and adults who share a common vision of their futures, and a common sense of adventure in building this new school together. We thank you all for what you have done to keep OSS going and growing in year two, and we look forward to the glowing future that awaits us over the horizon.

With special thanks to departing AmeriCorps Volunteers Joseph Accardi, Mallory Cohn, Jill Howard and Margaret McSweeney, and to departing Board members Joan O'Brien and Joel Alvord. You helped launch us on our exciting voyage and we will never forget you. Thanks also to the entire OSS staff and to all the Board members who will rejoin us next year to crew our ship and "make waves" together. You are truly the wind in our sails!

With many thanks,  
Lisa Yates  
*Executive Director*





What kind of transformations have you seen in your daughter (positive or negative) this year?

**“Her intelligence has grown even broader and she is reading even more than before.”**

**“She is more vocal and understanding. It is as though I am speaking to a young adult.”**

**“She has grown and matured. She carries herself with more confidence.”**

**“My daughter has had a positive transformation; she has become well versed, well spoken and well-mannered.”**

## OUR SISTERS' SCHOOL'S ADMISSION PROCESS

In order to fulfill the mission of Our Sisters' School, admissions committee members seek to recruit and admit young women from the Greater New Bedford area who show academic and personal potential, and who seem most likely to benefit from the OSS model of education. Our admissions priorities include geographic location and family income, with priority status granted to girls whose family income falls below the state fuel-assistance guidelines.

Families complete an application form, available in English, Spanish and Portuguese, with basic contact information, as well as signed releases for academic and medical records. The school also requests recommendation forms from each child's current and previous classroom teachers. Families have the option of submitting a recommendation form completed by an adult community member, such as a coach or instructor, who can provide additional insight into each child. The final step in the admissions process is the student/family interview at OSS.

## ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

The academic standards at Our Sisters' School have been established based on accepted methods of measuring and recognizing students' achievement. These standards are designed to promote our primary objective of academic excellence, and to reward those who achieve it.

## ACADEMIC DAY

During a normal school day, students attend Morning Meeting followed by six or seven class periods, with a break for lunch and then recess. Students must prepare all assignments before the class period for which they have been assigned. The full schedule for a regular academic day is as follows:

- 7:15 a.m. Arrival
- 7:45 a.m. Morning Meeting
- 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Academic and Enrichment Classes
- 3:30 p.m. Extracurricular Programs (i.e. sports, dance, etc.)
- 5:00 p.m. Evening Study
- 6:30 p.m. Dismissal

## **COURSES OF STUDY**

All students are required to take the following courses:

English/Language Arts      Mathematics  
 Science                              Social Studies  
 Visual & Performing Arts      Advisory

Enrichments (Includes World Language, Study Skills, SSAT Prep and Remediation/Enrichment, Health, Financial Literacy, Technology, Media Literacy, and Latin)

Students receive letter grades for each academic subject, as well as numerical scores for personal work habits. The Physical Education requirement of the curriculum is met by participation in the afternoon sports program.

## **ATHLETICS PROGRAM & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The goal of the OSS athletics program & extracurricular activities is to provide each student with a range of experiences that provide physical fitness and develop interests and passions for a healthy lifestyle. Each quarter of the school year, these extracurricular activities change. The OSS Afternoon Program runs Monday through Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; all students are required to participate.

Examples of 2009/10 Programs include: Areobics, Basketball, Cross Country, Drama Club, Hip-Hop, Knitting, Lacrosse, Power Walking, Solar Sprint and Yoga

## **COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

In order to fulfill the basic OSS Vision, the school includes special programs designed to increase the students' knowledge of the world around them, both near and far, and their awareness of the effects of their actions on that world. Community-based learning activities include our Morning Meeting and Speaker's Bureau, plus school field trips, community service, and many other evening and weekend activities throughout the community.

## **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

For adolescents in middle school, academic success is hard to achieve without close family involvement. For this reason, Our Sisters' School views families as critical partners in ensuring progress and achievement for our students, and creates numerous opportunities for school/family collaboration. For example:

Teacher lunches – *rotating with other families to provide a lunch meal for OSS teachers each school day*

Monthly Family Meetings

Weekly evaluations of student progress

Program Fees - \$10.00 contribution from every family each month of the school year

Family Fun Night

Carpooling

Volunteering

“Thanks for an enjoyable evening! The young ladies were wonderful. They did you proud.”

Carlene Ventura,  
Art Show attendee

### OSS TEACHERS

At Our Sisters' School, six hardworking AmeriCorps classroom teachers are overseen and assisted by three lead teachers, each with over 35 years' experience as a professional educator. We have instituted a team-teaching model, so every grade has two teachers working with the girls throughout the course of the day. In addition, we are fortunate to have many experienced educators from the surrounding community who work as volunteer mentors and tutors to both the girl students and the teachers. A part-time visual arts teacher, drama, music and an arts coordinator (all of whom receive a small stipend) work closely with the classroom teachers to integrate the daily curriculum into the visual- and performance-arts programs. Guest artists further enhance the experience of the students.

### OSS STAFF

The staff at Our Sisters' School is comprised of two full-time staff members – an Executive Director and Assistant Director – as well as part time staff including a Secondary School Program Coordinator, Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator and a Director of Development.



## Three Cheers for the Academic Advisory Committee

We would like to recognize our Academic Advisory Committee. This group has met for the past three years to develop curricula and to identify study materials that would enable Our Sisters' School to fulfill its educational mission.

It quickly became clear to committee members that before they could develop specific curricula they needed to further delineate the specifics of the OSS philosophy and what we hoped to create for our students. The committee spent many hours brainstorming ideas that individuals believed were essential to the education of our girls. After filling three wall-sized "white boards" with a broad selection of guiding principles,

committee members realized that many of the ideas fell into the categories of "beliefs" or "methods for achieving beliefs." After many more meetings and much additional discussion, the committee produced a document called "The Educational Beliefs of Our Sisters' School," supplemented by an additional document explaining how we intended to achieve each of the ten points made in the belief statement. That statement was then unanimously approved by the Academic Advisory Committee, and presented to the Board of Trustees in October 2009.

### OSS EDUCATIONAL BELIEFS

- The students of OSS maximize their potential in a physically and emotionally safe environment.
- The culture of OSS embraces diversity.
- All members of the OSS community are held to high standards.
- The curriculum of OSS allows students to develop:
  - ~ Broad knowledge across and between traditional and emerging disciplines;
  - ~ Communication and interpersonal skills that are effective in both independent and collaborative situations;
  - ~ Self-confidence;
  - ~ Intellectual curiosity and skills to benefit from learning opportunities throughout life;
  - ~ An understanding of others, respect for differences and consciousness of the interdependence of humankind.
- The teachers of OSS are provided with resources, support and continued professional development.
- The adults and students of OSS build positive relationships that lead to the success of each student.
- The families of OSS are partners with the school in the work that we do with our students.
- The students of OSS will grow to become active members of their community and responsible citizens.
- The students of OSS will become lifelong learners.
- The students of OSS all have the ability to achieve excellence.

## Teaching and Learning Math at OSS

OSS students have made great progress in year two, especially in math class. The students have changed their attitude in general about math; they are no longer as scared of mathematical concepts as they once were, and grow more confident with every small “win” or success that they experience. The girls work in a climate where failure is not an option, but mistakes are okay. Questions are encouraged and always welcome. The staff and students work together as a team to ensure that every student learns. The girls take their learning in their own hands; they push themselves and their peers to work hard. Everyone succeeds before anyone moves on.

The girls routinely claim that math is more fun than it was before and that they are working harder at it than they did in the past. These positive changes stem from the way math is being taught at OSS: lots of group work, hands-on investigations, games, computer work, and connections to real-life examples. They are not only given formulas or explanations on how to solve a problem, but also are guided to work together to find and/or create solutions on their own. There may be more than one way to solve a problem and whichever way works best for the student is fine with the teacher.

This atmosphere is welcoming to all learning styles. The important thing is that each student shows full understanding of the concept being used. For the teachers, creating this open atmosphere is done right from the first day in class. The girls know they will be pushed hard, but they also know that their teachers believe in them. Every girl is held accountable; they are expected to know, use and explain math vocabulary on a daily basis. Their basic math skills are used and challenged every day. With small class sizes, teachers immediately know who understands and who needs a little extra help. With grade-level meetings, subject-level meetings, and lead-teacher support, no child is allowed to slip under the radar. Every child is fully supported. Many of the girls enter OSS at low skill levels in math and must work very hard to catch up and keep up. The select few who achieve above and beyond in math need to be pushed even harder. With the addition of an advanced math class, these students can now reach their full potential.

Success for our girls in math is a very important goal. Math is a universal language and will be used in all aspects of their lives for many years to come. Our girls have set high expectations and express career aspirations aligned with strong math preparation. We want them to feel confident and ready for these future math classes so they do not give up on these goals. We will continue to support and challenge them in the hope that by the time of graduation from 8th grade many will be ready to test out of Algebra I in high school. OSS students will go on to high school fearless of math challenges, able to ask pertinent questions, or for help when needed, and to succeed in any environment they are put into.



## The Arts Continue to Thrive at OSS

**The Visual and Performing Arts Program at Our Sisters' School continues to grow and flourish with dynamic instruction, dedicated staff and volunteers, and thoughtful planning and execution. During the current school year, the program is built around four major components: visual arts, drama, dance and music.**

### OSS Visual Arts:

Our visual arts teacher, Mary Wayss, has been with us since our doors opened. She has developed a curriculum aligned with the state frameworks that has been the foundation of our arts programming. Using various methods and materials, each grade moves forward to master new skills with careful presentation and hands-on tasks, critiques, self evaluation, vocabulary tests and quizzes ... and meaningful two and three dimensional art. The girls are learning that visual art can be narrative and have depth and mood. They have written about artists, art history and about themselves. Best of all, they are discovering that each new method brings them closer to the next, more complicated application.

### OSS Drama:

The fifth, sixth and seventh grades have been learning about drama and its purpose as a means of communicating about social issues, morality and life itself. They have learned some of the basic history of drama, and studied elements of the theatrical experience. They have memorized monologues, interpreted them as dialogues, have worked on improvisation and the basics of stepping into character and the suspension of disbelief in assuming a role. In-school productions for each grade highlighted the end of the calendar year. For all of this, special thanks to Deb Baker for her time, teaching and dedication to making drama educational and fun.

### OSS Dance:

Dance workshops have been run by parents, volunteers and professional dancers. We recently finished an African Dance workshop with the 7th graders after which they were invited to perform with UMass Dartmouth's royal hartigan (yes, he does prefer his name in lower case). Our workshop instructor and dancer was Abbie Chambers. Our guest dancer was Lauren Falabella. To date, we have had workshops in African Dance and Hip-Hop. All grades also studied multicultural dance thanks to a grant written with us in mind by The New Bedford Ballet Foundation with funding from the New Bedford Cultural Council. This workshop series was followed by a special treat: the girls attended (with complimentary tickets) the NBB's summer performance of "Cinderella."

What kind of transformations have you seen in your daughter (positive or negative) this year?

**"Grades and self-confidence improved 100%."**

**"She had a positive transformation this year in how she interacts with others."**

**"She has become even more interested in reading and is choosing books that challenge her. She is more physically active. I love the sports part of it. She is more confident."**





### OSS Music:

Our Sisters' School has been building a unique music curriculum over the last year combining instruction in musical notations, sight reading, singing and theory with strands of singing together, classical performance and folk music. We have been developing lessons based on the Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Frameworks for 5th, 6th and 7th grade. Working with equipment issued to us by a grant from the Ernie Boch Jr. Foundation "Music Drives Us," we have been able to play melodic and percussive instruments while sight reading melodies in preparation for our spring performance. Our fifth graders are learning to sight read with recorders. We are also currently looking for volunteers who can commit an hour a week for the entire school year to provide beginner instrument lessons for small groups of seventh and eighth graders on flute, clarinet, acoustic guitar, piano and other instruments.

### Community Programs make Arts at OSS possible:

We are very fortunate to live in a community with a strong commitment to keeping the performing arts alive and making sure that the arts, and especially performance and music, continue to be accessible to young people. In every part of OSS's arts curriculum, we look to bring in professionals as visiting artists or performers and to take our students out into the various halls and theatres of the area. The Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, the New Bedford Symphony, the New Bedford Ballet Foundation and the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth's Visual and Performing Arts School -- all these and other groups have made it possible for us to afford such enrichment.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community Partnerships and collaboration have had a significant impact on our students. The girls have participated as contributors as well as benefited from community outreach programs. We thank all of these wonderful organizations for their interest, commitment and support for the OSS Students and community. Thank you for embracing Our Sisters' School and taking the girls under your wings to expose them to the many exciting activities your programs offer.

Baker Books	Mass in Motion	Peter Pan Bus Lines
Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford	Nativity Preparatory School of New Bedford	Rotch-Jones Duff House and Garden Museum
Buttonwood Park Zoological Society	New Bedford Ballet	Salvation Army New Bedford
Café Balena	New Bedford Half Marathon	Sid Wainer & Son
Child & Family Services, Inc.	New Bedford Historical Society	South Coast Serves
Coastline Elderly Services, Inc.	New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home, Inc.	Steamship Authority
Cuttyhunk Ferry Company	New Bedford Police Department	Summerbridge Breakthrough Collaborative at Wheeler
Dartmouth Grange 162 Inc.	New Bedford Public Schools	Tifereth Israel Synagogue
Dartmouth Public Schools	New Bedford Symphony Orchestra	Trinity Reparatory Company
The Five Growers	New Bedford Whaling Museum	Trips for Kids
Friends Academy	New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park	UMass Dartmouth
Gifts To Give, Inc.	Ocean Explorium at New Bedford Seaport	UMass Dartmouth Women's Resource Center
Global Learning Charter Public School	Office of Bristol County District Attorney	United Way of Greater New Bedford
HarbOur House	Operation Clean Sweep	Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern MA
Highlander Dunn Institute & Bradford Dunn Institute	Our Lady of Assumption Church	The Working Waterfront Festival
Humane Society and Shelter-SouthCoast	Peace Works!	YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts
Immigrants Assistance Center, Inc.		Zeiterion Performing Arts Center
Lloyd Center for the Environment		

"Dear Susan, I've spoken to hundreds of business professionals from all over the country, but the experience I had Wednesday morning was by far the most rewarding. It was an honor to speak to the students and faculty of Our Sisters' School. I was immensely impressed with the independent environment and the happy, positive, responsible character it seemingly encouraged in the girls. Thank you for supporting our most important purpose as adults—to nurture and inspire the health and well being of all children—and for the opportunity to share in this effort."

Kerrin Adrian,  
Executive Director,  
BER Inc.

## Thank You to All Who Make the Arts at OSS Possible!

### ORGANIZATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND PARTNERS

ArtWorks	New Bedford Ballet Foundation
Big Yellow School Bus Grant	New Bedford Cultural Council
Daddy's Junky Music	New Bedford Symphony Orchestra
Dartmouth School Administration	Quinn School Music Department
Doyle Sail Makers	Symphony Music Shop
Ernie Boch Jr. and The Music Drives Us Foundation	UMass Dartmouth's Visual- and Performing-Arts School
Friends Music	Top Music
Hunt Alternatives Fund	Tri- County Marching Band
Jordan Torch Foundation	Zeiterion Theatre Center for Performing Arts

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS OF GOODS AND SERVICES, GUEST ARTISTS, PERFORMANCE, GUIDANCE & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Gaelen Adam	Myrna Hall	Silvia Oliveira
Leslie Antonelli	Bonnie Harlow	David M. Prentiss
Chris Ash	royal hartigan	Kerri-Anne Quinlan- Zhou
Deb Baker	Donald T. Hood	Matt Richard
Talbot Baker, Jr.	Tucker Hood	Bob Sanderson
Maria Barlow	Nancy Howland	Leslie Stroud
Teri Bernert	Lois Horowitz	Nancy Sullivan
Abbie Chambers	Nancy Kubik	Joney Swift
Stephen Connors	Justin LaCroix	Angie Tavares
Sheila P. Converse	Edie Lauderdale	David Thomas
Debbie Coolidge	Matthew Lizotte	Joan Underwood
Molly Cutler	Dr. David MacKenzie	Jon Vecchiarelli
Dr. Gail Davidson	Rebecca Waskiel- Marchesseault	Priscilla L. Wade
Jenn Denker	Merrillan Melberg	Judith Wayss
Lauren Falabella	Marcus Monteiro	Karl Wayss
David and Kate Fentress	Hannah Moore	Anne White
Nicholas Fernandes	Janina Dumont O' Brian	Terry Wolkowicz
Brian Gilpatric	Marianne Oien	
Harvey Goldman		



## VOLUNTEERS

**Creating and running a school like OSS would not be possible were it not for the many dedicated volunteers who interact with the school on a daily basis.**

The belief that OSS can make a difference in the lives of the girls of Greater New Bedford is something we all share. Last spring, as our volunteer network grew ever-larger, it became clear that we needed a Volunteer Coordinator to manage the network and to ensure that the school's needs and the many talented people eager to help were appropriately partnered. OSS hired Hillary Parker in August 2009 to oversee the recruiting and scheduling of volunteers in the following areas: front-desk coverage; administra-

tive support; evening study tutors; library volunteers; world language teachers; athletic coaches/teachers, etc. She works with the administrative staff to ascertain where specific needs exist, then presents those needs to the community by maintaining close communication with various outside organizations (ie., The United Way, SouthCoast Serves, UMass Dartmouth, and many others). We are always seeking volunteers in the following areas: administrative support, evening study tutors, athletic coaches, musical instrument instructors and the OSS library. Anyone interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at OSS should contact Hillary at: [HParker@oursistersschool.org](mailto:HParker@oursistersschool.org) or visit [www.oursistersschool.org/html/volunteer.html](http://www.oursistersschool.org/html/volunteer.html)

The support and input from the many individuals is making a huge – indeed, all but immeasurable – difference in the lives of our girls and their school. We thank you all for your generous support and look forward to your participation in the many areas of growth and advancement of the school in the years to come.

Abella-Bowen, Meghan  
Adamcewicz, Samantha  
Adams, Susan  
Admiral Richard Gurnon  
Adrian, Kerrin  
Africano, Carolina  
Albert, Meg  
Alvord, Joel  
Alvord, Lisa Schmid  
Anderson, Charis  
Anderson, Christine  
Andrade, Patricia  
Arruda, Beverly  
Ash, Chris  
Baker Jr., Talbot  
Baker, Charlie  
Baker, Deborah  
Baker, Deb & Will  
Baldwin, Christine  
Baptist, Jan  
Barlow, Maria & Whit  
Baron, Dianne  
Barrett, Laurie  
Barrett, Nancy  
Bascom, Christina  
Bauer, Wendy  
Bedell, Barbara  
Belli, Judy  
Bernert, Teri  
Bernardo, Cassandra  
Briggs, Amanda  
Canning, Gaelen & Peter  
Carter, Kristen  
Chambers, Abbie  
Chan, Angela  
Chapman, Meredith  
Ciaburri, Meredith  
Condon, Myrna  
Converse, Anne  
Coolidge, Alison  
Coolidge, Ally  
Coolidge, Deborah  
Correia, Shelly  
Costa, Mandy  
Couto, Liunetty  
Crocker, Cindy  
Crocket, Catherine  
Cronin, Carol

Cruz, Chad  
Curcuro, Brittany  
Cutler, Molly & Chris  
Dabney, Kate & Fred  
Darby, Meredith  
Dauplaise, Lianne  
Denker, Jennifer  
Denny, Joe  
Dillies, Lyn  
Dupuis, Renee  
Ehrens, David & Deborah  
Erickson, Stephanie  
Eubanks, Jaime  
Fernandes, Nicholas  
Ferreira, Temistocles  
Finn, Betty  
Flefeh-Vincent, Yasmin  
Follen, Eck  
Fortes, Gail  
Fortes-William, Nicole  
Fox, Jean  
Francis, Kim  
Frantz, Megan  
Freedman, Janet  
Garth, Kathy  
Gebelein Jones, Louisa  
Gleason, Noreen  
Goldberg, Blake  
Goldberg, Edward  
Goldman, Harvey  
Gomes, Aaron  
Goodman, Joyce  
Gormley, Beth  
Grantham, Jennifer  
Grenon, Doranne  
Hall, Myrna & Howard  
Halter, Joan  
Hatzisavas, Despina  
Heald, Lee  
Healy, Ann  
Hegarty, Colleen  
Hess, Elisabeth  
Hirschmann, Delores  
Hodgson, Mary & John  
Holt, Jena  
Hood, Cathleen & Tucker  
Hood, Joanna & Frederic  
Howard, Leslie & Jack

Howland, Nancy  
Hoyt, Felicity & Austin  
Huidekoper, Elizabeth  
Hunt, Genevieve  
Hunt, Madeline  
Isherwood, Elizabeth  
Joblon, Wendy  
Keating, Martha & Michael  
Kennedy, Priscilla & Bill  
Krause, Anya  
Krause, Irving  
Kristofik, Linda Mae  
Kurtz, Nancy  
Lambert, Edward  
Langbauer Jr., William  
LaStaiti, Elizabeth O'Neill  
Lauderdale, Edie  
Lim, Mali  
Linskey, Harriet  
Lopes, Doreen  
MacCormack, Jean  
Malpiede, Marj  
Marques, Helena  
Martin, Kellie  
McNamee, James  
McSweeney, Margaret  
Medeiros, Peggy  
Mojica, Maria  
Montour, Sandi  
Moore, Hannah & Michael  
Motta, Arthur  
Nersesian, Jennifer  
Nichols, Helga & Walter  
Oberkoetter, Barbara  
Oberkoetter, Tatiana  
O'Brien, Joan & Jon  
Oliver, Caroline  
Oliver, Tracey  
Partridge, Ann  
Penney, Celeste  
Pennoyer, Christine  
Pereira, Jessica  
Perry, Becca  
Perry, Matthew  
Perry, Sue & Dan  
Phipps-Ebeler, Christel  
Phyfe, Abby  
Phyfe, Winnie

Pimentel, Jovita  
Pina, June  
Porche, Denise  
Poyant, Susan & Richard  
Prentiss, David  
Prescott, William  
Pusateri, Beverly  
Raymond, Camille  
Reynolds, Shannon  
Robitaille, Steven  
Rodin, Andy  
Rogers, Halle  
Rogers, Kristen  
Rose, Candida  
Rose, Cynthia  
Roth, Barbara  
Roth, Eleanor & Bernard  
Sanderson, Robert  
Sapienza, Anthony  
Schofield, Hannah  
Schultz, Gale  
Sheehan, Ann & William  
Slade, Whitney  
Souza, Bernadette  
Sponberg, Sarah  
Stern, Shoshana  
Stone, Cathy  
Stroud, Leslie  
Swift, Joney  
Tarr, Marcia  
Taylor, Terrill  
Teachman, Ron  
Tierney, Rosemary & Judge John  
Tschaen, JoAnn  
Underwood, Joan  
Waite, Marge  
Watson, Susan & Keith  
Wells, Alison  
White, Anne  
White, Elizabeth  
White, Susan & Howard  
Wylde, Sally  
Xifaras, Margaret  
Yates, Jaime  
Zartman, Susan

## Reflections of an OSS Volunteer

*Elizabeth White, Lead Teacher, 2009/2010 academic year*

With time hanging heavy on my hands, finding a great volunteer opportunity has made retiring a little easier. As Our Sisters' School was beginning to set its sails, I volunteered to serve on the social studies curriculum committee, as my previous work had required my knowing the middle-school curriculum. This committee work, in itself, proved to be a learning experience both in language and content -- a new *lingua franca*, different perspectives and textbook politics.

As one thing led to another, mentoring and encouraging new teachers became part of the opportunity. Teaching middle schoolers can be challenging and anguishing, but it is never dull. Rather, it is always interesting and often entertaining. This is a wonderful age range to teach. The key question is how to pique a student's interest and fire up her curiosity - - to find the perfect point of entry. I remember, from my own past, a teacher named George Goethals slowly dimming the lights in a lecture hall, picking up a yardstick, then suddenly slamming it on the table. *Thwack!* Now that got my attention!

The new teachers jumped right in with a contagious energy and connected with their girls in a positive, humorous and personal way. There are always certain facts or concepts that students really must know and understand, and there are frequently certain places where students go awry. It is useful for a teacher to know this beforehand.



**Lead teachers: Gale Schultz, June Pina, Poo White (back), Priscilla Kennedy**

There are resources that have been helpful to me as a teacher, and it is my hope that they have been useful to the teachers at Our Sisters' School. It has taken me a year to learn how to be most helpful, how direct to be without being intrusive. It is easy to assume the teachers know exactly what they need to know.

Being a lead teacher has also included working with small groups of girls outside of the classroom. This is really the best part of all possible worlds. Everyone learns something new; time flies; the girls interact, teach and encourage each other in a safe place.

Our Sisters' School is a community of learners. The collaborative approach, the energy, hard work and enthusiasm from all quarters are synergistic. Like the girls, I have learned much. Like the girls, I am eager to get to work in the morning.



Students were surveyed about how their attitudes or feelings about school have changed since they began OSS, and their responses (below) illustrate the range of shifts we see in our students over time:

**Carissa, Grade 7** – I think that I've been more focused. I've also been taking my time more, and trying to pay attention.

**Aaliyah, Grade 7** – I have become more focused. I have become more mature. I have become more aware.

**Irene, Grade 7** – I feel more confident in how I can perform in school. I see that there is more order in the school, more control. I also feel that there is a bigger connection between the students and teachers.

**Arianna, Grade 7** – I feel more confident in certain subjects, like Drama and Art. I am having more fun in after school programs. I am friends with everyone and I feel comfortable in our school environment.

**Nepherterrie, Grade 7** – I feel excited to come to school because I feel that we become a family the more time we spend together. My attitude has changed by actually wanting to do the work. I enjoy having the community around to help and support our school.

**Jarynette, Grade 7** – I started to trust more people within the school, so it was/is easier to make friends and much easier to do things. It was easier to talk to people because I got to know them better. I also feel that we help each other more and try to help each other succeed.

**Vanessa, Grade 7** – Before I came here I used to think that school was a waste of my useful time, but now I feel that I actually need school to survive in life.

**Tampson, Grade 6** – The teachers are all nice and comfortable around us. The teachers pay attention to our problems. We always have fun and learn.

**Ronni, Grade 6** – We got to know the new teachers more. It has become more fun. We got more activities.

**Carolann, Grade 6** – I became less shy. I've learned so much about others. I have more friends than I would have in public school.

**Lily, Grade 6** – I feel more comfortable with the teachers. I've learned so much. I've learned a lot of things I didn't know. I didn't know everyone, now I know and am comfortable with everybody.

**Stanna, Grade 6** – I like the longer days. My attitude feels better. I like it even more.

**Khyleigh, Grade 6** – I have new friends. I am learning new and interesting things. My attitude is better.

**Melissa, Grade 6** – I feel better here at OSS than at public school. My attitude is a little better. I think it's safer here so I feel even better.

**Tashianna, Grade 6** – I was scared at first because I didn't know anyone. Now I've made so many friends and we're so comfortable with each other. The teachers are very comfortable with each other, and we're very comfortable with them. We can tell each other anything.

**Krystal, Grade 6** – I've noticed how important friends and education are and how being nice and staying respectful will help you do well. I'm more respectful to my teachers and I pay more attention. I've made more friends and my speaking and feeling nervous had disappeared.

**Shaelyn, Grade 5** – I do my best. I don't get too many detention slips. I take more responsibility.

**Jewel, Grade 5** – I think school is more fun than it used to be. I'm more interested in what I learn.

**Erica, Grade 5** – On the first day I was nervous, then I felt comfortable and happy. Now I feel the same.

**Melanie, Grade 5** – I love school much more. I feel that school is awesome. I feel that you have to sleep more at night.

**Bre'Anna, Grade 5** – I wasn't scared and I am less shy. I am louder and not quiet. I do better in all my classes because I raise my hand more.

**Jonea, Grade 5** – I was shy, and then I broke out of my shell. I am louder and not quiet. I was scared to make new friends.

**Ny-Jah, Grade 5** – I felt that school was long but now I'm used to it. Happy because I made a lot of new friends.

**Katie, Grade 5** – At first I was shy, now I'm not shy.

**Kianna, Grade 5** – I have more confidence. I feel happier now. I trust more people and get along better.

**Destiny, Grade 5** – I became more mature. I feel that I learned more.

**Trinity, Grade 5** – I feel more comfortable talking about feelings in our school. I feel more challenged in our school (in a good way). I feel as if I am experiencing responsibility more.



Jonea  
5th Grade

**FAMILY**  
**Forever**  
**Awesome**  
**Memories**  
**Incredible**  
**Lovable**  
**Yours**



## Reflection From A Second Year AmeriCorps Teacher – Joe Accardi

It's hard to believe that two years have gone by already. I feel like I just walked in the door yesterday for my first day of school, nervous, unconfident, and really having no idea what I was doing. The decision to work here was a risk for me, probably the biggest one I have taken in my life and at the same time probably the best decision I have made so far. It has been very difficult for me to process the fact that these are my last days at OSS. The notion of not returning to the faces of the most beautiful 40 young girls I have ever known just hasn't settled in. I know it will one day, probably very soon, and I am trying to prepare for that day.

This school has given me a lot. It has given me much more than experience teaching. I have learned more about adolescent girls than I thought I would ever learn in a lifetime. I have learned so much about how children operate, why they think what they think, why they think the way they think, how their home life and backgrounds shape who they are and how they act. I feel I have probably learned more from my students than they have learned from me. Before I worked here children were very basic. They were silly, messy, unreasonable, often fun and amusing little people. Now I view them as far more. Somehow I guess I had forgotten what it was really like being a kid. Children are fascinating. They are incredibly deep in their thoughts and actions. Everything they do seems to be for a reason or purpose and it wasn't until I had interacted with them for months on end that I began to realize that. They love, they care, they are thoughtful, and they feel and display all emotions. They act out of kindness, anger, sadness, and joy. What they say and do is very rarely without a distinct purpose. They are full of imagination, far more than any grown person I have ever encountered. They know what loyalty is and they will stand by you until the end-even if they happened to have had a bad experience with you five minutes earlier. They can tell what you are feeling, as if by a hidden sixth sense, and they know when you are sad, angry, aggravated or just having a bad day -- even when you do your best to hide it. And they are always there to bring you out of it. They have taught me all of these things and I am forever grateful for what they have given me. I worry that they don't know or understand what they truly mean to me or what they have added to my life, and I hope they won't forget me because I certainly won't forget them. I don't tend to be very emotional; usually I try to tuck things away. But tucking things away sure is difficult just now.

My sixth-grade class seemed to be on a rollercoaster ride this year. They were very emotional, dramatic and passionate. Unfortunately, these situations were not always good and at times they weren't as happy as I would like to see them. Deep down, I believe that they had a great time this year and this just tends to be the grade where they transition between petty fifth-grade issues and the unity that we witnessed with the seventh grade this year. Math class was a

challenge for me this year. Juggling two completely separate groups on a day-to-day basis made it difficult for lessons to run smoothly and I also think broke up the “team feel” of the class at times. When I look back and reflect, I feel better about it though because I know my attempt at an advanced math group was for good purpose. I hope next year advanced math will be more successful and fun for the girls. I was a better teacher this year, that much is for sure. I was far more organized, I completed more of the curriculum than last year and I feel my strategy, assessment and feedback were improved. In the future I hope to continue working on differentiating lessons from day-to-day and eliminating repetition while still presenting routines. I also want to continue working on being more consistent with disciplinary action because even if I feel bad about it and my students hate me for it, they do need it.

My final thoughts are for my colleagues and the school. I will miss everyone here. I will miss the building, as a structure as well as the environment within it and the feel that I have when I walk around inside it. As Mallory Cohn stated perfectly on the balcony of the Whaling Museum the night of the last cocktail party, “This has been the defining experience of my life.” I have loved every minute of it, even the bad ones. I know that I love to teach and I want to pursue education as a career. I don’t know that I will do it forever, but I do know that I want to be involved with children forever. I know it’s strange to say, but I feel like I will be a good father because of this experience (especially if I happen to have girls). Though I am in a transitional period once again and am very nervous and stressed about finding a job and solidifying my finances, I find myself bitter about the economy and the work-force and not in the slightest about my time spent at OSS. I wish my fellow teachers luck and I know they will all find what they are looking for. We have done a great job. I love this place and only hope it continues to grow and to change young girls’ lives. Mr. A will be back, that is for sure. But for now ... PEACE!

### **Lily - 6th grade IMAGINATION**

**In your imagination  
Be crazy  
Reach for the impossible  
Don't let anyone stop you  
Do whatever you want  
And go wild**

**Scream out what you believe  
Dance and sing like you never  
have before  
Don't listen to others  
But of course  
In your imagination**

### **Ronni - 6th grade I AM**

**I am an 11 year old girl who loves dogs  
I wonder why dogs are furry  
I hear dogs barking in the distance  
I see my furry brown companion by my side  
I want to grow up and help animals  
I am an 11 year old girl who loves dogs  
I pretend to run a business with animals  
I feel happy when the sun hits my face  
I touch the smooth sensation of its fur  
I worry about the earth  
I cry when they pass away  
I am an 11 year old girl who loves dogs  
I understand what they try to tell me  
I say to them....and  
I dream there'll be no abuse  
I'll try to help the world  
I hope I'll succeed  
I am an 11 year old girl who loves dogs**

"Dear Ron: Please accept this donation to Our Sisters' School in memory of my late husband, Harry D. Ainsworth, MD, and in thanksgiving by Sally Ainsworth. New Bedford is blessed to be a part of this beautiful dream and challenge for the young girls of our city. I am very excited about the dedication and efforts of the young teachers who wholeheartedly believe in this opportunity for these children and who give so unselfishly of their talents and time. I have closely followed the school's progress and pray for its continued growth. I am delighted and honored to be part of it.

For are not our children of today in fact the future of our city tomorrow?

May God continue to bless your efforts."

~ Sally Ainsworth

### OSS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

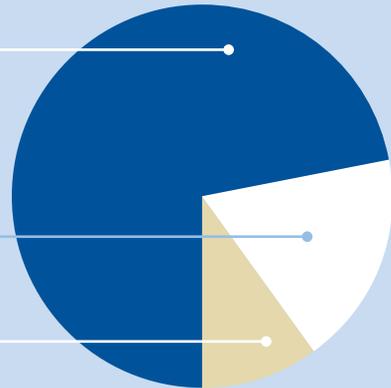
Our Sisters' School Operating Budget for FY10 reflects direct program expenses, indirect program expenses and general and administrative expenses. Operational costs are supported by individuals, grants, restricted donations, foundations and student fees and through the incredible generosity of an anonymous donor who matched every dollar raised by 50%. The financial support received in FY10 beyond what was earmarked for our operating budget has allowed us to start a "sustainability fund" that we hope to build as a contingency for leaner years, and as a way to ensure that every girl who launches her educational voyage with OSS will be financially protected for her entire four-year tenure.

#### EXPENSES

Program Expenses: **72%**

General Administration: **18%**

Fundraising: **10%**



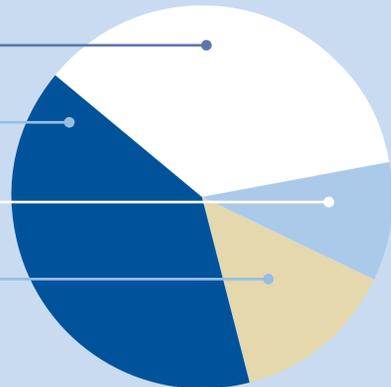
#### MONIES RAISED

Individuals: **44%**

Match: **40%**

Foundations/Grants: **11%**

Restricted: **15%**



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS WHO BELIEVE  
IN THE MISSION AND VISION OF OSS!**

*July 1st 2009 to June 30th 2010*

Ackerman, Abby & Jeff	Burnes, Nonni & Rick	Dorman, Jan & Lawrence
Ackerman, Margaret Dealy & Robert	Burns, Cynthia B.	Drayton, Yvonne
Ainsworth, Sally	Burr, Gertrude	Duarte, Jackie
Aldrich, Sally	Busnengo, Frank	Duquette, Anne
Aleardi, Marguerite R.	Cabral, Sandra M.	Duquette, Carole & Ray
Alexander, Anne & Charlie	Carey, Cindy & Chris	Edwards, Nancy & Jim
Almy, Anne	Carrera, Magali & Alan	Egan, Janet
Alvord, Lisa Schmid & Joel	Cate, Mary Carol & John	Enable Hope Foundation
Ames, Elizabeth & Oliver	Cederholm, Tess & John	Fearing, Laurie & Russell
Anchor Capital Advisors	Charles A. Ansbacher Foundation	Feldman, Esther & Warren
Anderson, Mary J.	Chan, Po Kin & Po Yam	Fentress, Kate & David
Andrade, Deborah	CHT Foundation	Ferri, Barbara & Paul
Anonymous	Christianson, Kathleen & Derek	Fiber Optic Center, Inc.
Arcadia Charitable Trust	Clare Rose Foundation	Fink, Ellanor & Matthew
Armstrong, Kai	Clark, Stephanie & Elizabeth	Finn, Margaret & Thomas Getz
Arnold, Trish & Chris	Converse, Sheila Powers	First Citizens' Federal Credit Union
Ash, Christine	Community Foundation of	Fitzgerald, Charlotte & Francis
Baker Books	Southeastern Massachusetts -	Fitzgibbons, Janet & Jim
Baker, Barbara & Richard	Acushnet Foundation Fund	Forbes, Deedee & Stewart
Baker, Deborah & Ben	Community Foundation of	Forbes, Sarah & Charlie
Baker, Deborah & William	Southeastern Massachusetts - Rainy	Ford, Tina
Baker, Jr., Talbot	Day Fund	Fortes, Gail
Baker, Rosalie & Charlie	Community Foundation of	Fowler, Vicki & John Kelleher
Baldwin, Christine & Christopher	Southeastern Massachusetts -	Francis, Kim & Carlos Cardoso
Baldwin, Margie & Michael	SEEAL Fund	Frantz, Cherie & William
Baldwin, Rose W.	Community Foundation of	Freedman, Janet & Andrew Peppard
Barber-Morse, Ellen C.	Southeastern Massachusetts -	French, Francine & Robert
Barlow, Maria & Witt	Women's Fund Philanthropy Initiative	Frisbie, Lisa & Rick
Baron, Dianne	Congregational Church of South	Garfield, Tally & John
Barrett, Laurie & David	Dartmouth	Gerry Jordan Foundation
Barry, Mrs. & Mr. Joseph	Connolly, Barbara & William	Gilpatric, Brian
Bascom, Christina & Charles	Connors, Stephen	Goddard, Kim & Buzz
Bass, Sarah & Robert	Coolidge, Alison & Tom Boreiko	Goldberg, Edward
Bennett, Joanna & Robert	Coolidge, Jane	Gonsalves, Mege & Jeffrey
Bickford, Jewelle & Nathaniel	Coolidge, Mary	Goodhue, Lynn
Bird, Jeanne & David	Costa, Elaine & Dennis	Goodman, Joyce
Black, Christine M.	Crane, Loretto & Dwight	Gormley, Beatrice & Robert
Blake, Lee	Crocker, Cindy & Doug	Gormley, Cindy & Stephen
Blasdale, Mary Jean & William	Crocker, Evelyn	Graboyes, Lois & George
Bourassa, Catherine & Paul	Croke, Anne & Harry Shoemaker	Grace, Cindy & Nick
Bourassa, Diane - Auto Zone	Curtis, Julie & Paul Fay	Graham, KC & Ben
Braitmayer, Nancy & Jack	Cutler, Molly	Grantham, Hannelore & Jeremy
Brisson, Diane	Cutler, Phillip P.	Gray, Abby & David
Bristol County Savings Charitable	Cynthia and Jerry Pyle Fund	Gray, Elaine & Bob
Foundation	Dabney, Kate & Fred	Gray, Gerry & Sam
Brooke, Frederick	Dana, Rose	Greater New Bedford Community
Brooks, Laura & Tom	Danforth, Susannah & Don	Health Center
Brown, Carol & Blair	Davidson, Gail & Tom Gidwitz	Greenup, Susanna & John
Bullard, Laurie & John	DeFrias, Mary	Greville, Marjorie & Nicholas
Burgo, Barbara	DeGroot, Helen & Les	Hall, Mrs. & Dr. Howard
Burnes, Amy & Andy	DeWalt, Peter	Hamel, Paulina & Tobe Berkovitz

*Please accept our apologies! Every effort has been made to make this donor report complete and correct.  
Please bring to our attention any errors we missed by calling OSS at 508-994-1255. Thank you.*

What kind of transformations have you seen in your daughter (positive or negative) this year?

**“All positive: building self-esteem, growing emotionally, wants to be independent, willing to try new things instead of being afraid of trying.”**

**“She has continued hunger for education and exploring new territories.”**

**“She has gained more confidence and has come out of her shell more.”**



Hamlen, Deven H.  
 Hartnett, Helena & Ken  
 Havens, Emily  
 Haydock, Timothy & Barbara Moss  
 Heide, Susan  
 Henry H. Crapo Charitable Foundation  
 Henry, Julie & Bayard  
 Herlihy, Michael  
 Hickey, Ally  
 Hickey, Barbara & William  
 Hicks, Lucille & William  
 Higgins, Kevin  
 Hitch, Julie & Jordan  
 Hobbs, Cela & Matthew  
 Hobbs, Linda & Fritz  
 Hodgson, Mary M. & John G.  
 Hood, Donald T.  
 Hood, Joanna & Frederic  
 Horowitz, Lois  
 Howard, Leslie & Jack  
 Howe, Barbara  
 Howland, Nancy & Waldo  
 Hughes, Elizabeth & James  
 Hughes, Lori  
 Huguley III, Heidi & Arthur  
 Huidekoper, Collette & Henry  
 Huidekoper, Elizabeth  
 Hunt Alternatives Fund  
 Hunt, Swanee & Charles Ansbacher  
 Iafraite, Jayne M.  
 Island Foundation  
 James Arnold Fund, Inc.  
 Javaheri, David  
 Jeffrey, Hope & David  
 Joblon, Wendy & Ken  
 Johnson, Nancy & Alan Minard  
 Jones, Louisa & Jeremiah  
 JOR Family Charitable Annuity Trust  
 Jordan, Darlene & Gerry  
 Jordan Torch Foundation  
 Kanter, Raphael  
 Kavanaugh, Mary & Peter  
 Keating, Martha & Michael  
 Kellogg, Betsy & Rusty  
 Kennedy, Kevin  
 Kennedy, Priscilla & Bill  
 Keough, Mary & Jeffrey  
 Ketcham, Mona & Robert  
 Kristofik, Linda Mae  
 Kubik, Nancy  
 Kurtz, Nancy & Ted  
 Ladera Foundation  
 Lang, Kathleen & Robert  
 Lauderdale, Edith  
 Lauderdale, MJ & Randy  
 Lawrence, Elizabeth  
 Lawrence, Patricia & Bobby  
 Lees, Albert  
 Lees, Mary Ellen Hawes  
 Lemelin, Sarah & Michael  
 Lenrow, Rosemary  
 Leonard S. Kaplan & Hilda Kaplan Charitable Foundation  
 Leoni, Teá & David Duchovny  
 Levin, Fran & Clinton  
 Levine, Katherine & Melvin  
 Levy M.D., Allan  
 Lockwood, Marie & Charles  
 Lofberg, Mouse & Per  
 Long, Carol  
 Lopes, Doreen  
 Ludes, Doris & John  
 Lyell, Trish & Bob Gilston  
 MacDonald, Dora & Peter  
 Madaus, Christina  
 Mallen, Annette & Richard  
 Malpiede, Marj & John  
 Manley, Nancy & Allen  
 Marion Book Drive  
 Marques, Helena  
 Martignetti, Beth & Carmine  
 Mary C. Wheeler School  
 Mason, Leigh & Jean  
 Massachusetts Cultural Council  
 Mathias, Dale & Ed  
 Maurice and Anne Makepeace Family Foundation  
 McBratney, Betsy & Greer  
 McConnell, Katherine & William  
 McCue, Danielle Poyant  
 McDonough, Holly & Joe  
 McElroy, Anne C.  
 McFerran, Freddy & Alex  
 McGetrick, Margaret  
 McLaren, Susan & Phil Guymont  
 McNamee, Arlene & James  
 McSweeney, Kelli  
 Mead, Susan Eldridge  
 Mendoza, Rose G.  
 Merck, Kate & Al  
 Monte, Charlene  
 Moody, James  
 Morningstar, Faith & Dick  
 Morse, Susan & Richard  
 Music Drives Us Foundations  
 Nadler, Louise & Charlie  
 Nativity Preparatory School of New Bedford  
 Nau Family Charitable Fund  
 Nelson, Carol Ann  
 New Bedford Credit Union  
 New Bedford Cultural Council  
 New Bedford Day Nursery Fund  
 Nichols, Helga & Walter  
 Nicholson, Diana & Peter  
 Notman, Chip & Bill  
 Oberkoetter, Barbara  
 O'Brien, Joan & Jon  
 O'Brien, Megan  
 Oli, Nicole  
 Oliveira, Silvia

*Please accept our apologies! Every effort has been made to make this donor report complete and correct. Please bring to our attention any errors we missed by calling OSS at 508-994-1255. Thank you.*

Pantaleoni, Emily & Toto  
 Parson, Ann  
 Partners Village Store  
 Patrick Carney Foundation  
 Pattullo, Betsy & Greg Torres  
 Penney, Celeste & Jack  
 Perkins, Maura  
 Perrine, Mrs. & Mr. Frank  
 Perry, Margaret  
 Perry, Sue & Dan  
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program  
 Phyfe, Winnie & Jimmy  
 Pierce, Eve & Leo  
 Pina, June  
 Pinheiro, Emily & John  
 Platt, Renia & Charles  
 Powell, Mimi  
 Poyant, Susan & Richard  
 Pozzo, Alexandra & Bob  
 Pramer, Dorothy  
 Prentiss, David  
 Prescott, Suzie & Bill  
 Purdy, Nancy & Richard  
 Ramirez, Blanca & Angel Rivera  
 Rands Foundation  
 Reiff, Marianne & John  
 Ribar, Bill  
 Richard Jacobus Foundation  
 Ricketson, Francie  
 Righter, Anne R.  
 Robbins, Debby  
 Roberts, Cathy & Henry  
 Robertson-Lorant, Laurie  
 Rodin, Andrew  
 Rogerson, William  
 Roth, Judi & Bruce  
 Roth, Eleanor & Bernard  
 Rowley, Maria C.  
 Rubenstein, Carolyn & James  
 Runnells, Gale  
 Russell, Delia & James  
 Samuels, Barbara  
 Schmid, Margo & Mark  
 Schmid, Tina & Paul  
 Schultz, Gale  
 Scoville, Krista & Roger  
 Sears, Martha  
 Shachoy, MaryEllen & Norman  
 Shapiro, Timmy & Gil  
 Shattuck, Dedee & Bill  
 Sheehan, Ann & William  
 Siegal, Mrs. & Mr. Calvin  
 Silverstein, Louis  
 Simmons, Sloane & Wick  
 Smith, Sue  
 Sokoll, Rochelle  
 Sommaripa, Eva  
 Souza, Bernadette  
 Spaulding, CeCe  
 Spiegel, Genevieve & Steve  
 Spooner, Susan & John  
 St. Aidan's Chapel  
 Stabile, Randy  
 Staples Foundation  
 Stapleton, Bonnie & Bob  
 Stenberg, Katherine & Thomas  
 Stillwell, Trina & Newcomb  
 Stone, Catherine  
 Stone, Margot  
 Sullivan, Nancy  
 Sullivan, Sharon & Phillip Mello  
 Swan, Carol & Chris  
 Swift, Joney  
 Sylvester, Louise  
 Taipale, Michèle & Lloyd MacDonald  
 Taylor, Carol & John Deknatel  
 Taylor, Elizabeth  
 Taylor, M.E. & Steve  
 Taylor, Sally & Bill  
 Taylor, Terrill  
 Teachman, Ron  
 Thomas, David  
 Thomas, Megan  
 Toomey, Maryse & Charles  
 Tracey, Kathy & Chris  
 Tschaen, JoAnn  
 Underwood, Charlotte & Woody, Jr.  
 Underwood, Joan  
 Unhoch, Dagmar & George  
 Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven  
     Memorial Church  
 Upstream Foundation  
 Vasquez, Destinee  
 Vincent, Francis T.  
 Wade, Priscilla L.  
 Wainer, Marion & Henry  
 Waite, Marge & Neal Weiss  
 Walker, Jane & Robert  
 Walsh, Ellen & Larry  
 Warburg, Stephanie & Jonathan  
 Warden, Gail & Duncan  
 Waterman, Mallory & John  
 Watson, Susan & Keith  
 Wattles, Kathy & Gurdon  
 Weigel, Jane & Russell  
 Whelan, Mrs. & Mr. William  
 White, Annie  
 White, Elizabeth & Terry  
 Wilde, Sally & Peter  
 William C. Bullitt Foundation  
 Witt, Helaine  
 Wood, Carol  
 Wylde, Sally  
 Xifaras, Margaret  
 Yates, Jaime  
 Yates, Lisa  
 Yates, Suzanne & Thomas  
 Yoken, Cynthia  
 YWCA of Southeastern MA  
 Zane, Mary & Anthony  
 Ziobro, Ginia & Peter

“We really enjoyed our visit to Our Sisters’ School and were so impressed with the school you have built. Amazing. Thank you for all that you and your team do. Music Drives Us is honored to be a part of it.”

Carla Tatdif,  
 Music Drives Us  
 Foundation



Please accept our apologies! Every effort has been made to make this donor report complete and correct. Please bring to our attention any errors we missed by calling OSS at 508-994-1255. Thank you.



145 Brownell Ave.  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-994-1255  
info@oursistersschool.org  
www.oursistersschool.org

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### OFFICERS

Lisa Schmid Alvord  
*President*  
JoAnn Tschaen  
*Vice President*  
Bernadette Souza  
*Vice President*  
Elizabeth Huidekoper  
*Treasurer*  
William Prescott  
*Clerk*

### TRUSTEES

Joel Alvord  
Talbot Baker, Jr.  
Christina Bascom  
Kate Dabney  
Gail Fortes  
Doreen Lopes  
Helena Marques  
Joan O'Brien  
Susan Perry  
Andrew Rodin  
Ronald Teachman

## STAFF

Lisa Yates  
*Executive Director*  
Esperanza Alejandro-Berubé  
*Assistant Director*  
Barbara Hickey  
*Director of Development*  
Hillary Parker  
*Administrative Assistant*