



ST. MARK *youth*  
**ENRICHMENT**  
*Learning today, leading tomorrow*

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**annual report**

**2012**



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To support the educational and social needs  
of school-aged youth and their families.

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**our mission:**

## From the Director/Board:

### Dear friends,

At St. Mark Youth Enrichment, we believe that every child deserves an opportunity to succeed in school and in life – enabling each to become a positive contributor to our community. This path to success is determined early in a child's education. Through academic support, mentoring and unique hands-on learning opportunities, we aim to empower students in grades K-5 so that they can learn today to lead tomorrow.

In 2013, St. Mark Youth Enrichment entered its 25th year of service to the Dubuque community. As part of this milestone, the board made the exciting decision to better represent our organization and mission with a name change and re-branding. Thanks to a generous grant that included the immeasurable time and talent of the American Advertising Federation of Dubuque, we will debut our new look in late 2013.

As we look back at the past two and a half decades, St. Mark Youth Enrichment is proud of the community partnerships we have cultivated. Our local allies help us be the premier provider of educational before, after and summer school programming to more than 350 students annually.

As we embark upon our next 25 years of service, St. Mark Youth Enrichment continues to reach out to community partners who help us to provide one-of-a-kind learning experiences and opportunities. We look forward to leading the way in extended school day learning programs with the support of you – our friends and partners.

Sincerely,

Tara Velez,  
*Executive Director* (pictured left)

Michelle Covey,  
*President, Board of Trustees* (pictured right)

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**Tara Velez**  
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*Administrative Assistant*

**Troy Rabbett**  
*Director of Development & Marketing*

**Ellen Goodmann Miller**  
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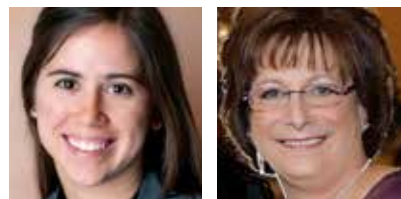
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*Event Coordinator*

**Tina Schute**  
*Moving Up Program Coordinator*

**Brittney McElory**  
*Kids Connection Program Coordinator*

**Michael Jelinske**  
*AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Coordinator*

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### A Legacy of Service

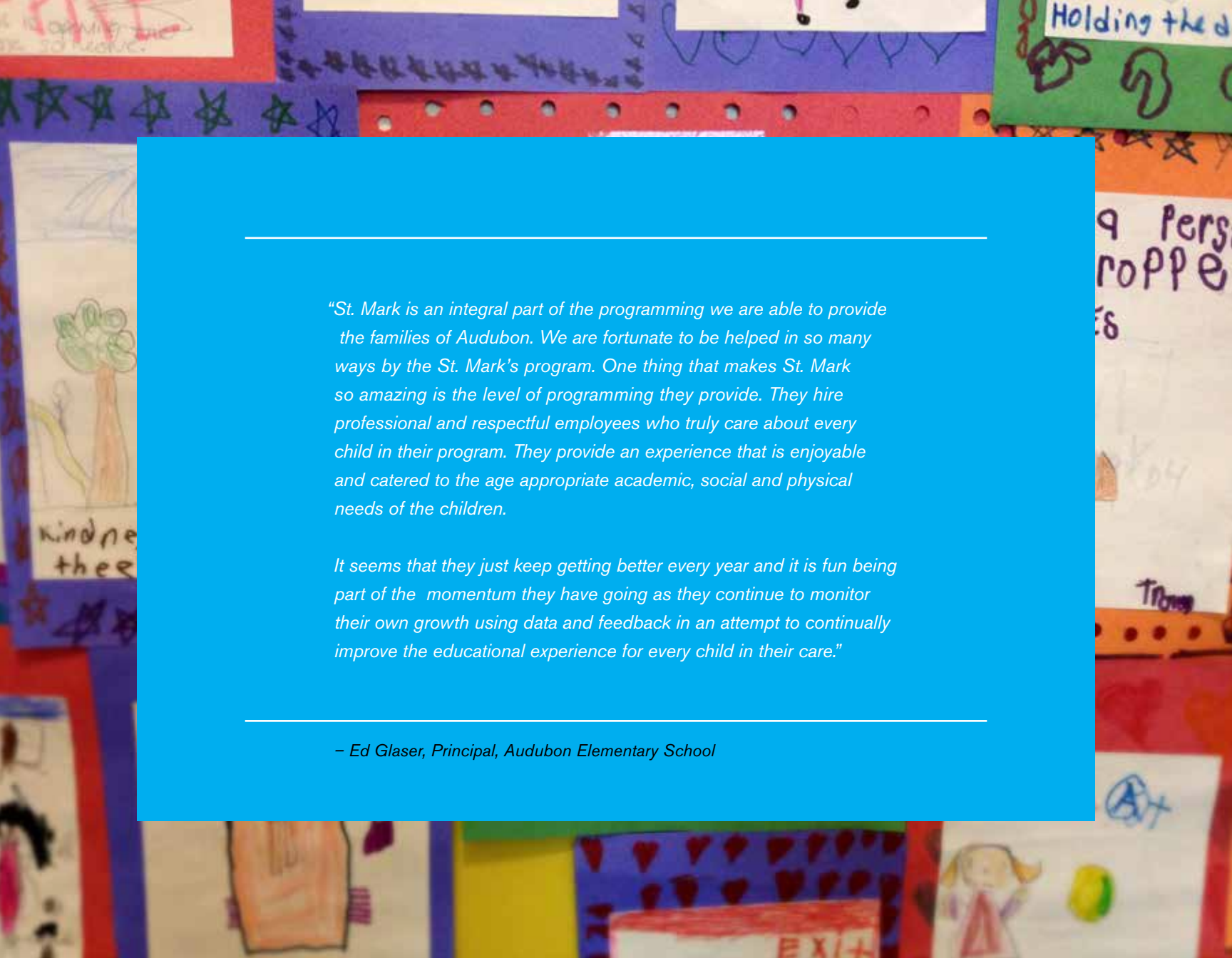
In December 2011, St. Mark Youth Enrichment said goodbye to former board member and long-time youth advocate Rev. Msgr. Joseph O'Brien. O'Brien died on Dec. 24, 2011. He was instrumental in the early direction and success of St. Mark. His passion for our mission and commitment to providing educational and social opportunities to at-risk youth was clear. Through his careful planning and financial generosity, Fr. O'Brien has played a key role in making St. Mark programs accessible to the students and families who need it most. Through his generosity, Fr. O'Brien's spirit lives on.

### Community Volunteers

St. Mark Youth Enrichment works with over 100 gifted volunteers who partner with us in our mission to serve local youth and families. These volunteers serve as mentors and tutors in our daily programming as well as during special events. In 2012, volunteers racked up 2100 hours of service –one of our strongest years on record!

"Prudential sees value in the important mission of St. Mark Youth Enrichment. It not only makes the community a better, stronger and more vibrant place to live, but also improves the lives of students enrolled in programming. Education is the key to success, and any awareness we can help draw toward the mission of St. Mark will have a positive outcome. Our staff enjoys getting involved and volunteering with St. Mark through the Jingle Bell Hop and the Annual Ice Golf Classic."

– Lisa Breen, *Prudential*



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*"St. Mark is an integral part of the programming we are able to provide the families of Audubon. We are fortunate to be helped in so many ways by the St. Mark's program. One thing that makes St. Mark so amazing is the level of programming they provide. They hire professional and respectful employees who truly care about every child in their program. They provide an experience that is enjoyable and catered to the age appropriate academic, social and physical needs of the children.*

*It seems that they just keep getting better every year and it is fun being part of the momentum they have going as they continue to monitor their own growth using data and feedback in an attempt to continually improve the educational experience for every child in their care."*

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*– Ed Glaser, Principal, Audubon Elementary School*

## empowering youth

St. Mark Youth Enrichment touches the lives of 350 deserving students every year through before, after, and summer school programming. Our certified teaching staff and volunteer mentors focus on providing academic support and homework help to students in grades K-5 from five local Title I elementary schools: Audubon, Fulton, Lincoln, Marshall, and Prescott.

**Before School Program** – provides academic assistance, silent reading time, and structure to help students start the school day off right.

**Kids Connection** – provides after-school homework help and fun, academic-themed "stations" focused on reading and math for children in grades K-3 at Audubon, Lincoln and Marshall elementary schools. Students in this program participate in creative play, unique enrichment activities, character development, and social/behavioral modification. The program emphasizes daily physical activity and incorporates service learning opportunities.

**Moving Up** – is an after school enrichment program for fourth and fifth grade students at Audubon, Lincoln, and Marshall elementary schools. Students work closely with certified teachers, para-educators, tutors, and mentors to improve academic performance and prepare for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in middle school. During program, students receive homework assistance and participate in activities that build academic and social skills. These students learn about a variety of community resources while participating in service learning projects.



# 2012 program highlights

In response to a growing need, St. Mark Youth Enrichment hosted a pilot program at Marshall Elementary School for younger students in grades Pre-K and Kindergarten. Twelve students participated in the before and after-school programs. Learning centered on creative play and included many activities. In addition to academic support, students in St. Mark programming participate in wellness activities, character development, and unique enrichment opportunities.

**Service Learning** – Community service learning opportunities develop well-rounded, compassionate students who contribute positively to the community. In 2012, a grant from DRA empowered 45 St. Mark students to engage in community service and actively engage in neighborhood development and beautification. Students focused on sustainability, animal care, and community gardens.

“We got started right away by going to the programs in the schools, we used literature to get the students prepared for the service they were about to encounter, they learned vocabulary and why environmental conservation is important. When they arrived, they worked hard, and rose to the challenge.”

—Jenny Ammon, *Dubuque County Conservation Board*

**First Lego League®** – Fulton Elementary School offered a new Wednesday early out program in 2012 and invited St. Mark to be an enrichment program provider. In partnership with the North End Neighborhood Association, with grant funding from the City of Dubuque, a Lego League team was created. Students worked throughout the fall to build and program a robot that would compete in a city-wide competition. Eight Fulton students joined St. Mark staff in December for a culminating competition against hundreds of area teams.



**Read Across America** – St. Mark students, parents, mentors and staff celebrated literacy during the annual Dr. Seuss “Read Across America Day”. They participated in literacy-themed enrichment activities and games based on those Dr. Seuss books. Each St. Mark student received a Dr. Seuss book to take home to build their own home libraries and to promote a love of reading.

**Prescott Partnership** – St. Mark Youth Enrichment joined Prescott Elementary School’s morning Rise and Shine program in 2012. With funding from the Women’s Giving Circle, St. Mark staff offered an early morning program followed by a St. Mark-facilitated computer lab enrichment session.

**Summer Learning** – As a lead partner in Dubuque’s Campaign for Grade Level Reading, St. Mark Youth Enrichment continues to strengthen our summer learning programming. Studies indicate that the effects of summer learning programs endure for at least two years after participation. The Afterschool Alliance reports that regular attendance in high-quality afterschool and summer programs is associated with a range of positive academic and social developmental outcomes, including improved literacy skills, self-esteem growth, and leadership development.

In 2012, 84 first through fifth grade students participated in St. Mark’s annual summer learning program on-site. This was a new enrollment record and a wait list was even started. The five-week program provided hands-on educational activities focused on math and reading. The program continues to grow to include vibrant community partnerships, exciting field trips, and unique enrichment activities.

“The Bell Tower Theater is proud to partner with St. Mark Youth Enrichment to bring cultural enrichment to the many kids they serve. Giving kids the opportunity to attend a play, especially one that features kids just like them, is something we cherish. By partnering on this project both the Bell Tower Theater and St. Mark Youth Enrichment help to build the performing arts audiences of tomorrow.”

– Miki Robinson, *Marketing Manager*

## You can help!

*A Summer Program Scholarship Fund has been established to help students in need. Donations are accepted year-round to help fund this one-of-a-kind summer experience. In fact in 2012, 41 students attended on a full scholarship and six students attended on a partial scholarship.*



# building community



St. Mark Youth Enrichment is a community leader, driving a variety of service initiatives, community outreach activities, and volunteer engagement opportunities.

**Apples for Students** – Since 1996, St. Mark Youth Enrichment has led this critical community program. The “Apples” initiative annually supplies more than 1,300 students in need with all necessary school supplies. We are only able to provide this service with the support and generosity of local individuals and community business partnerships. Thanks to this support, St. Mark has distributed nearly 21,000 bags of supplies since the program started.

**Jingle Bell Hop** – The Jingle Bell Hop is an annual holiday tradition for St. Mark Youth Enrichment and hundreds of children and families. The event features games, arts and crafts, live music, huge holiday prizes and a visit from Santa Claus. Generous community partnerships make the festivities possible. We have enjoyed years of holiday festivities at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds, but we are looking forward to celebrating at the Five Flags Center in 2013 – closer to the students, families, and schools we serve.

**Sponsor Angels** – Each December, St. Mark facilitates the Sponsor Angels program that provides winter clothing to students enrolled in our programs. Local individuals, organizations, and businesses partner with St. Mark to become holiday “angels” to needy students.

**Downtown Neighborhood Association/ Music In Jackson Park** – Building upon a strong partnership with the Downtown Neighborhood Association, St. Mark provided a Reading Tent during all three Music in Jackson Park celebrations in summer 2012. Staff and volunteers read to children in the park and assisted them in selecting a perfect book to build their home libraries.

“The Downtown Neighborhood Association was founded in 1995 to improve the quality of life for residents and businesses in downtown Dubuque. We see St. Mark as one of the keystones for programs that nourish

young people and their families to reach goals in life that they never thought possible. The staff are all partners actively involved in our programs. St. Mark Youth Enrichment is our home!”

– Joe Noll, *President, Downtown Neighborhood Association*

**Dubuque’s Campaign for Grade-Level Reading** – St. Mark served on a community coalition that submitted a community action plan to achieve grade level reading to the National League of Cities. In July 2012, Dubuque was selected as one the recipients of the All-America City Award for the plan. The Summer Learning Committee will launch a summer learning pilot program called the Summer Academy in 2013. We will serve as the lead organization for this program which will serve 45 students in grades 1-3.

“St. Mark has been a wonderful partner in our community initiative to improve third-grade reading. They are always wholly committed to the students of Dubuque – and it’s a commitment that makes our community better every day.”

– Shirley Horstman, *Dubuque Community School District*

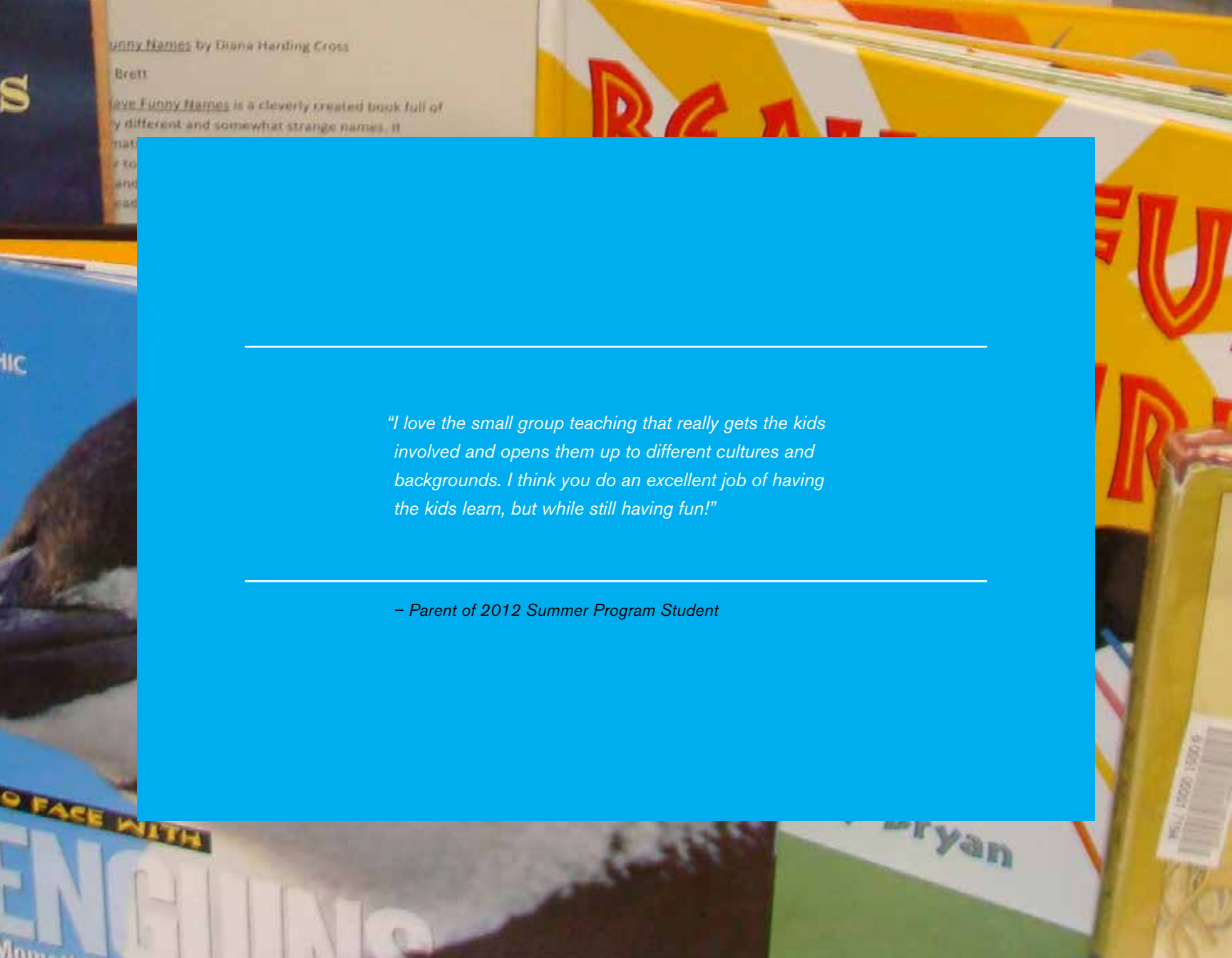
**Dubuque Mentoring Partnership** – The Dubuque Mentoring Partnership is a coalition of organizations who strive to improve lives, strengthen the community and foster civic engagement by supporting quality mentoring programs. In 2012, Tara Velez became the chair of the DMP. The partnership continues to recruit, train, and retain excellent mentors under their campaign: “Become a Hero. Become a Mentor.” The group hopes to pair 250 additional mentors with students in 2013.

## Community Partner Spotlight –

A long-standing partnership with Loras College provides St. Mark Youth Enrichment with invaluable program support. In 2012, more than 75 Loras College students volunteered in our programming, as well as four Loras College professors who built program mentoring and tutoring into their curriculums.

“The partnership Loras College and St. Mark has been a rich, rewarding experience for our students. Students have been able to provide instruction in fitness literacy and health education in multiple schools. As a result of these experiences, emerging teachers have learned the value of collaborative partnerships and their impact on the academic and physical growth of elementary-aged children outside of a traditional school day.”

– Heather L. Riley, *Loras College, Assistant Professor of Physical Education and Sports Studies*



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*"I love the small group teaching that really gets the kids involved and opens them up to different cultures and backgrounds. I think you do an excellent job of having the kids learn, but while still having fun!"*

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*– Parent of 2012 Summer Program Student*

# family programs

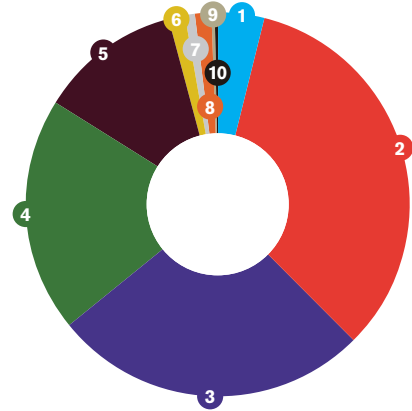
St. Mark Youth Enrichment understands the importance of engaging parents in their children's exciting progress. We believe that learning is best achieved with additional support outside our programs, specifically, when parents take an active role in the home. We strive to engage parents in a variety of exciting family learning opportunities annually.

**Family Reading Nights and Game Nights** – Offered on-site at St. Mark, these events are designed to showcase the fun of learning. With a focus on math and literacy, these nights are open to all parents and siblings of current St. Mark students. The events include a potluck style dinner and hands-on learning activities. Families leave with a book for each child and tools to repeat the activities at home. .

**Program Participation** – Parents and guardians are invited to join us for field trips, special program events, or just to witness student participation in program. We know that parents play an invaluable role in the leadership of their children's education and we encourage them to actively partner with us.

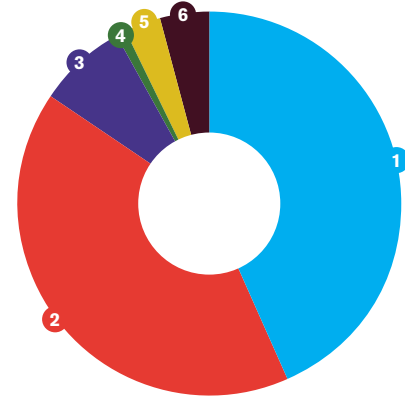


# Financials:



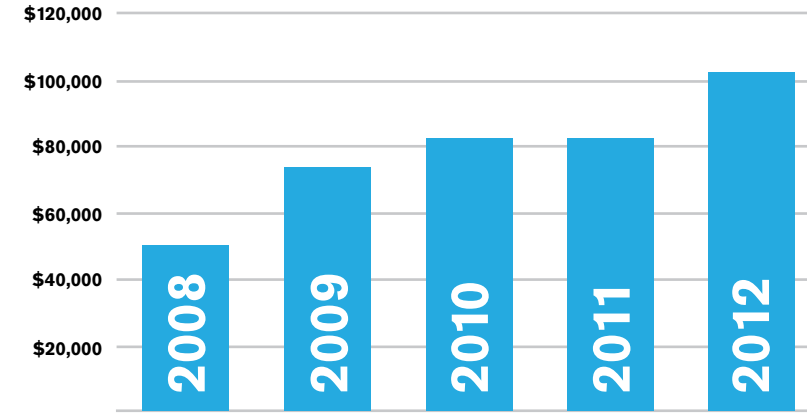
**Income - \$491,965.32**

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1 Programs                        | 4%   |
| 2 21st Century Grant              | 34%  |
| 3 Donations                       | 27%  |
| 4 Fundraising                     | 20%  |
| 5 Grants                          | 12%  |
| 6 Rental Income                   | 1.5% |
| 7 Net Assets Released Restriction | .8%  |
| 8 Bank                            | 1.5% |
| 9 Tax Refunds                     | .18% |
| 10 Miscellaneous                  | .15% |



**Expenses - \$528,198.81**

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 Programs                            | 43.5% |
| 2 Salaries                            | 41%   |
| 3 Utility Supplies and Building Needs | 7.5%  |
| 4 Staff Training and Development      | 1%    |
| 5 Apples                              | 3%    |
| 6 Development and Marketing           | 4%    |



## St. Mark Youth Enrichment Community Foundation Endowment

St. Mark Youth Enrichment's endowment through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque proves a great resource for us in our pursuit of suitability. Contributions to our endowment are invested over time and annual earnings are then paid out to our organization. In recent years, the annual endowment payout has been 5% of the fund's average value. Endowments—and future earnings from endowments—are a contributing source of income for St. Mark Youth Enrichment and are a great resource for us in planning for the future. Donors who give to endowments also benefit from the 25% Endow Iowa state tax credit in addition to federal charitable income tax deductions.

## Home-Base in Downtown Dubuque

St. Mark Youth Enrichment is located at 1201 Locust Street. The building, formally St. Mark Lutheran Church, was built in 1910, and served as a Lutheran church until it closed its doors in 1988. The parish members continued their commitment to downtown ministry by creating St. Mark Youth Enrichment and beginning a youth mentoring program.

As a pillar of service in the downtown Dubuque community, St. Mark continues to support local groups by providing space for gatherings and community building. Some of the partners and programs that use our space include:

- Art Gumbo
- CAPABLE Volunteer Co.
- Downtown Neighborhood Association
- Dubuque Friends Worship Group
- Headstart
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Private receptions and celebrations
- Tuesday Women's/Men's Bible Study
- Yoga Group



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 Donald and Wilma Sanders  
 Enrique and Lana Santamaria  
 Jayne Schambow  
 Ralph and Ruth Scharnau  
 Gene and Sheila Schaul  
 Mary Schloz  
 Mary Lou Schmit  
 David and Jean Schmitt  
 Joan Schmitt  
 Paul and Suzanne Schramm  
 Gary and Barbara Schreiber  
 John and Mary Ann Schreiber  
 James and Jane Schroeder  
 Debra Schroeder  
 Dennis Schroeder  
 Julie Schulte  
 Marvin and Marjorie Schultz  
 Jerry and Fran Simon  
 Michael and Sheila Sisler  
 Tom and Judy Skye  
 Carol Smart  
 Courtney D. Smith

Margaret Smith  
 Cindy Smith  
 Donald and Barbara Smith  
 Richard and Joyce Smith  
 Marcia Sola  
 Rev. John and Mona Sorenson  
 Matthew and April Southwood  
 Gil and Becky Spence  
 William and Gaynell Spitznas  
 Letha Splinter  
 Clem and Jane Steele  
 Joan M. Steve  
 Todd and Lisa Stevenson  
 Michael and Norma Stoll  
 Harriet Stork  
 Douglas and Karen Storlie  
 Kurt and Leeann Strand  
 Henry and Patricia Strathman  
 Harold and Imogene Styer  
 James and Ranae Sunny  
 Kathy Sutton  
 M. Ramona Sweeney  
 Gregory Swift  
 Rita Theisen  
 Galen and Debra Thomas  
 Jolyn Thomas  
 Scott and Latanji Threadgill  
 Thomas Tierney  
 Marilyn C. Tommaro

+ Bertram and Jean Tower  
 Bert and Ceci Tower  
 Carole A. Tracy  
 Thomas and Lois Trilk  
 Clifford Trilk  
 David and Deborah Tschiggfrie  
 Donald and Lucelle Usher  
 Jeff and Amy Vaassen  
 Cortney Vance  
 Ron and Shirley Vaughn  
 Diego and Tara Velez  
 Roger and Lynn Vogt  
 Larry and Julie Vogt  
 Kyle and Bobbi Jo Volkens  
 Richard and Ana Vormelker  
 Thomas and Kari Voss  
 Judith Voss  
 Richard and Carole Vyverberg  
 Heather K. Wagner  
 Mark and Mary Wagner  
 Howard and Nancy Wallace  
 Gerald and Margie Walsh  
 Patrick and Carol Walsh  
 Galen Wanderscheid  
 Carla Waterman  
 Milo and Rosemary Weber  
 Bernard and Betty Weber  
 David Weber  
 James and Mary Weiland

Richard and Mary Jo Weitz  
 Gordon and Coletta Wells  
 Justine and Kelly Wenzelman  
 Matthew Westberry  
 Joyce Whelan  
 Mark and Michelle Whitaker  
 Joyce White  
 Richard and Susan Whitty  
 Wauneta Wiederaenders  
 Arthur and Sally Wiegand  
 Susan Wiegman  
 Andrew and Katrina Wilberding  
 David and Jody Willging  
 Dr. Thomas and Susan Williams  
 Valerie Willis  
 Ronald Woerdehoff  
 Thomas and Valorie Woerdehoff  
 Wendy L. Woodhouse  
 Richard and Jane Worm  
 Samuel Yamoah  
 Neil and Judy Yeager  
 Richard & Marcia Young  
 Larry J. Zettel  
 Samuel Yamoah  
 Neil and Judy Yeager  
 Richard & Marcia Young  
 Larry J. Zettel

## Business Supporters:

### \$5,000+

Dupaco Community Credit Union  
New Melleray Abbey

### \$2,500-4,999

American Trust & Savings Bank  
Cottingham & Butler  
McGraw-Hill Companies  
Pauline Stolteben Foundation UW  
Prudential Financial  
Sisters Of The Presentation

### \$1-2,499

A. Y. McDonald Manufacturing Co.  
Alliant Energy  
American Realty of Dubuque  
Bell Tower Theater  
Big Apple Bagel  
Birdies for Charity  
Brenda Charlson- Remax Realty  
Brown Bag Bible Study  
Church of the Resurrection  
Conlon Construction Company  
Dubuque Area Congregations United  
Dubuque Friends Worship Group  
Dubuque Rescue Mission

Entege Engineering Technical Group  
First Congregational U.C.C.  
First Evangelical Lutheran (Manchester)  
Fred Jackson Tuckpointing  
Giese Sheet Metal  
Goodmann Insurance  
Goodsearch  
Graham's Style Store for Men and Women  
Grandview UMC-We Care  
Grandview United Methodist Men  
Happy Joe's (J & P O'Hare)  
Heartland Financial (Dubuque Bank and Trust)  
Herrig Charitable Foundation  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Immanuel Congregational United Church  
of Christ  
Jim Runde Upholstery  
Kane Appraisal & Real Estate, Inc  
Klauer Manufacturing Company  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
Mathis Pfohl Foundation  
Mississippi Valley Running Assoc.  
Mi-T-M Corporation  
Morrison Bros  
O'Connor and English Insurance Agency  
PEO Sisterhood Chapter MP  
Premier Linen and Dry Cleaning, Inc.  
R D McDonald (Charitable Foundation)  
River Valley Nursery & Landscaping Inc.

Runde Chevrolet  
Secular Franciscan Holy Trinity Fraternity  
Sedbrook Auto Care Center LLC  
Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc  
Sheehan Auto Electric Corp.  
Sinsinawa Dominicans, Inc.  
Sisters of Charity BVM  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Sisters of the Visitation  
Spahn & Rose Charitable Foundation  
St. Anthony Catholic Church  
St. Columbkille Catholic Church  
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
St. Jude's Quilting Circle  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
St. Raphael Cathedral  
State Central Financial Services, Inc.  
The Judith A. Palm Revocable Living Trust  
Trappistine Nuns, Inc.  
Tri-State Antique and Classic Automobile Club  
University of Dubuque  
US Bank  
Westphal & Company Copper Fund  
Womens Group  
Yoga Group - Monday Night

## Grants

City of Dubuque  
Community Foundation Of Greater Dubuque  
Dubuque BPO Elks Lodge #297  
Mosaic Lodge No. 125 A.F and A.M  
Mystique  
Schoen Family Charitable Trust  
The Prudential Foundation  
Wahlert Foundation  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Women's Giving Circle  
Yappers Endowment Fund

## Business & Individual Supporters:

### In Kind Gifts

All Things Sweet Shoppe  
Anytime Music- Brandon Hudson  
Beecher's Ice Cream  
Betty Jane Candies  
Big Apple Bagel  
Candle Ready Cakes  
Caroline's Restaurant  
Catfish Charlie's  
Chocolaterie Stam  
Cookin' Something Up  
Cremer's Grocery  
Culver's Frozen Custard  
Dairy Queen - Rhomberg  
Dubuque Fighting Saints  
Dubuque Golf and Country Club  
Fareway  
Michael and Angela FitzPatrick  
Freddie's Popcorn  
Rommel and Donelle Fuerste  
Grand River Center  
Heidi's Home Baked Goods  
Houlihan's  
HyVee - Locust  
Matt Konrardy  
Sr. Bertha Kruse OSF  
Lowes  
Mario's Italian Restaurant

Trish McDonald  
Jeremy and Brenda McDowell  
Mindframe Theaters  
Monks Café  
Naughty Dog Coffee Bar & Deli  
New White Florists  
Panera Bread  
Project Concern  
Troy and Justine Rabbett  
River Lights Second Edition  
Stone Cliff Winery  
Sutter Bakery  
Texas Roadhouse  
Chris and Pam Theisen  
Timberline Golf Course  
Town Clock Inn  
Triple Tier Bakery  
Richard and Margaret Tyler  
Village Inn  
Fred and Julie White  
Wendy L. Woodhouse

*St. Mark appreciates all those who support our mission. If your name was not listed, by error, please accept our sincere apologies and contact our office at your convenience.*

