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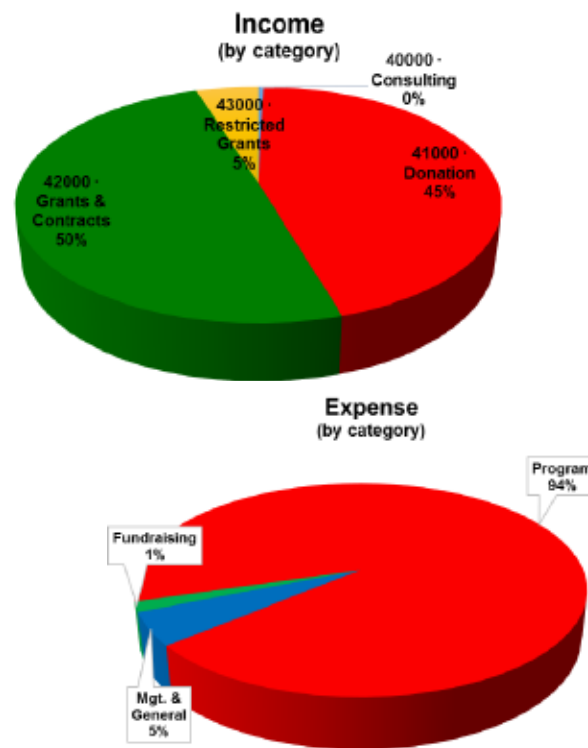
VOLUME 6

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# NEWSLETTER

rekindling a love of learning one page at a time

## ANNUAL REPORT FY 2012-2013



### Statement of Activities FYE 6/30/2012

#### Support & Revenue:

Grants	\$121,149
Donations	52,993
In-kind donations	40,000
Fundraising	6,606
Other Income	900
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>221,648</u></b>

#### Expenses:

Program	188,434
Mgt. & General	10,024
Fundraising	2,978
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>201,436</u></b>

Change in Net Assets	20,212
Net Assets, Beginning	<u>216,894</u>
Net Assets, Ending	<u><b>237,106</b></u>



### SAVE THE DATE!!!

Mark your calendars for **12.12.13** and join us as we come together for **Valley Gives Day**. We need YOU to join us. Our goal is to **DOUBLE** the number of donors and dollars raised! We need your **HELP** to meet these goals. By participating, YOU will also help Homework House become eligible for thousands of additional dollars in special prize monies. How? **It's easy! Like our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter (@HH\_01040) AND on Valley Gives Day make a donation online to Homework House at :**

<http://valleygives.razoo.com/story/Hh01040>



### HOMework HOUSE WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board of Directors of Homework House is pleased to announce that Virginia Dillon has been selected as Executive Director to lead our organization into its next chapter of service to Holyoke's children and their families. Virginia emerged as the clear choice during a three month executive search process. Virginia's passion for the mission of Homework House coupled with her skills and insights for nurturing all of the relationships that make Homework House effective emerged as the most compelling attributes in support of her selection to fill the role



that had been continually held by the founders, Sr. Jane Morrissey and Sr. Maureen Broughan, since the inception of Homework House in 2006.

Virginia is very familiar with the Holyoke community having served as Executive Director at Girls Incorporated of Holyoke for seven years. Under her leadership, Girls Inc. significantly expanded its educational and mentoring programs for low income girls. Virginia is already looking to the future with conversations and planning regarding measurable outcomes, enhanced tutor programs, strategic planning, and community involvement.

In this time of transition, we rejoice in the legacy and success of our founders and look ahead to the future. Please join the Homework House board, its founders, staff, children and families, as well as the broader community in congratulating Virginia on her selection for this important leadership role.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO SR. JANE WHO THIS YEAR CELEBRATES HER GOLDEN JUBILEE AS A SISTER OF ST. JOSEPH.**

### A FOND FAREWELL

Judy Ortiz has been a friend of Homework House since her husband Jessie started tutoring in our first school year. Judy herself became a tutor, then board member, then Vice-President, and for the past three years has led the board as its second President. She served as tutor and Board President until September, 2013. Judy did all that she did and continues to do for one reason. She loves the Homework House children. They're what it's all about, says she.



Staff, volunteers, and children remember her as their tutor, patient and kind. Board members know those qualities and also recognize how she facilitated deep and enduring board commitment and active involvement, steered our way through this year's transition in leadership, expanded and accelerated fund raising efforts, and oversaw program growth. She fostered harmony in all aspects of Homework House operations. Her work endures.

We are grateful for all Judy and Jessie have given us over these seven years and wish them well.



# Spotlight on Volunteers

## HELP A CHILD SUCCEED!

Give 2 hours each week and YOU can make a difference!  
For more information on volunteering call Christy at 413-265-1017

### Through the Eyes of a Tutor

Seeing a child improve because of Homework House is both commonplace AND rewarding. Whether she or he is going from just learning the alphabet to spelling words; or from struggling with multiplication to being able to divide, each child who steps foot in Homework House becomes a better student.

Last year, I worked with two first graders. Mariangeliz and Alondra came to Homework House able to do simple addition. Subtraction had not yet been introduced, and when it was, Alondra would replace the minus signs with addition ones! Slowly but surely both girls began to add double digits and no longer hated subtraction- simply because they didn't understand it.

Mariangeliz and Alondra weren't alone in mastering new concepts. Each first grader I saw last year, together with their tutor, conquered a topic they were not comfortable with at the beginning.

Getting to see Mariangeliz and Alondra grow academically, along with the other children, was so inspiring. Even though they were only in first grade, watching them try hard to understand a concept made me that much more determined to do well in my own classes. This inspiration was instilled in me again this year when, on the first day, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grader I would be working with told me he, "really needed to work on reading," sat down, got a book, and worked through it. These kids are truly smart; they just need a bit of help getting started.

*By Emily Boerger*

*(Emily is a 2nd year Smith College student)*

### A Volunteer Extraordinaire

Believing in education and that kindness and generosity are gifts to be shared, Margaret Cavanaugh has returned to Homework House for her fourth year. Acting on the suggestion of a Westfield friend, this retired lawyer and Probate Court employee decided to fill up some newly acquired free time in her schedule and agreed to give tutoring a chance. Today Margaret provides both tutoring and mentoring to some of our youngest students and even walks with them from Lawrence School to Homework House.

Every Monday and Wednesday, she can be found at her desk with her three students who not only get help with their homework but have fun as well. Margaret always has a challenge for them to solve and a life lesson to be learned.



*Margaret doing what she does best!*

Our Ms. Cavanaugh does not come with empty hands. Early in October she brings a Halloween bag that always includes a bright red apple. In December, her bag of treats contains crayons and a coloring book for those indoor winter days. Her spring gift is a surprise and always appreciated by all of the children at Guadalupe. Given the responsibility of distributing the gifts, her students learn a valuable lesson of sharing with others.

After a short break, Margaret returns for the two week summer program. During this time, Margaret can be found at the desk inside the front door. From this station, she welcomes both parents and students. Margaret keeps track of the day's activities and pays careful attention to each of the young people. Knowing that little surprises make for a happy day, Margaret is known for providing pizza and snacks, bathing suits and towels. She just has the ability to respond to what ever needs might arise. How lucky are we that Margaret Cavanaugh has chosen to join the Homework House family. What a difference her presence has made.



### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOMEWORK HOUSE?

**L**OTS! We are now almost two months into our new program year. We've been busy getting to know our students; and tutors and kids are all working hard. We are so excited by the progress that many of our children are already making- children like Frankie and Jeremy, fourth graders who have said over and over again, how much they hate reading, and who have recently discovered the joys of Jules Vernes's 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea; or Angelicka, a fifth grader who is just now really learning her multiplication tables.

Our ArtsFriday program started in the beginning of November. We have 2 groups of students, K-3 and 4-6, meeting on different Fridays. Our first projects will include Print Making and Self Portraits!

We have many wonderful tutors from Smith College, Mount Holyoke, UMASS, Holyoke Catholic and Holyoke High School, as well as, many adults who fit us into their busy work/life schedules. We could not do the great work we do without those dedicated volunteers.



## WITH OUR THANKS

**D**uring this season of thanksgiving we would like to remember all of our volunteers, friends and benefactors. Your support takes many different forms and we are truly grateful for all.

**We thank** all of our individual and family donors whose generosity helps make our mission a reality.

**We thank** our foundation, corporate and public funders:

- Amelia Peabody Foundation
- Annual Catholic Appeal
- Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice
- John Bickford Foundation
- Chicopee Savings Bank
- City of Holyoke Community Development Block Grant
- Community Foundation of Western Mass
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange Fund
- Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation
- Hampden Bank
- Mt. Pleasant Fund
- PeoplesBank Charitable Foundation
- Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Foundation
- United Way of the Pioneer Valley
- Women's League for the Arts
- Westfield Bank
- Holyoke Cultural Council
- United Bank
- The Ronald McDonald House Charities

**We thank** the businesses of the South Hadley Village Commons and Ode Boutique in Northampton for their ongoing support of Homework House.

**We thank** Holyoke Community College, Holyoke Catholic High School, Blessed Sacrament School, St. Michael's Parish in East Longmeadow, St. Mary's Parish in Westfield and the Girls' and Women's Club in Glen Ridge New Jersey for helping to brighten this holiday season for the children and families we serve and for their donations of school supplies throughout the year.



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