



ARBOR MONTESSORI

2005-2006

# Annual Report

*Celebrating 35 Years*

# Celebrating 35 Years of Commitment

Thirty five years: a benchmark time. There are many successes to celebrate in this anniversary year. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts, leadership and expertise of Arbor Montessori's parents, we benefited from the highest year of giving to our Annual Fund, enjoyed a "fun and wild" auction party, and pioneered a new tradition, the Phoenix Society. Parent leaders, willing to go above and beyond, stepped forth as generous benefactors as the founding members of the Phoenix Society. Arbor Montessori's parents are exemplars and trailblazers that volunteer their vast skills, give from their hearts, and make vital contributions to the future sustainability and organizational development of Arbor.

## *Our Accomplishments*

As Arbor Montessori nears the end of 35 successful years, we are favorably positioned to seize the opportunities that lie ahead. This year's achievements:

- We completed the planning and preparation phase of our Strategic Plan.
- We successfully completed our AMI Montessori re-accreditation process at both the primary and elementary levels.
- We received glowing reports from our AMI/USA consultants that confirmed our impeccable application of AMI Montessori principles at each developmental level. This standard of excellence was reflected in our recent parent satisfaction survey where 96% of Arbor parents were satisfied or very satisfied with their children's experience at Arbor.
- Our middle school continues as a leader in *Project 2012* to develop an AMI urban model adolescent program based on Maria Montessori's principles.
- Because we are a work place of choice, a school of distinction, and a visionary community that sponsors candidates for AMI Trainings, we have a wealth of exceptional in-house talent. This means we can proactively respond to personnel cycles by seamlessly filling positions with gifted professionals.

## *Our Common Ground*

Arbor Montessori's clearly defined purpose and compelling vision provide the internal architecture that unites our community with a strong sense of mission and common ground that guarantees our long term viability. The parent satisfaction survey in March revealed that 95% of our parents understand our vision and purpose as an AMI Montessori school. Arbor Montessori has not only staff committed to AMI Montessori principles but also an overwhelming number of families with the same commitment.



# *Celebrating 35 Years of Commitment*

## *Our Organizational Potential*

Where the school stands now is a testament to the quality of our Montessori education and to 35 years of commitment, hard work and dedication. And yet, we are just beginning to tap our organizational potential. The parents on our Board of Trustees, Board Committees, our Parent Involvement Coordinators and parent volunteers have worked tirelessly in partnership with us to build a solid foundation that offers a spring board to take us to the next developmental level. Their vision, commitment and expertise have proven invaluable.

## *Our Kick-Off Celebration*

Next fall, Arbor Montessori will formally kick off its strategic planning process with a community celebration and an invitation to all parents to participate in this community-building process. Understanding Arbor Montessori's history, where we are today and exploring future possibilities is an inspirational and exhilarating task. The past has gifted us with a legacy of responding to challenges and opportunities with determination, ingenuity and courage. Arbor remains in the vanguard because of our relentless pursuit of excellence, knowledge and personal, professional and organizational growth. It is with great optimism that I view Arbor's next step in organizational maturity and the evolutionary strategic planning process that will make this possible. This "living" strategic plan will move us purposefully forward with our vision clear, commitment and energy renewed, and a way to more efficiently and effectively achieve our goals. It will provide a compass for Arbor Montessori's important future and continued leadership in the Montessori community.

## *Our Task for the Future*

As Montessorians, ours is the task—the mission—to advocate for the needs of all children and to lead others to change the world. Montessori education provides children with the environment that allows for their holistic development, evoking and nurturing what is best in human beings. This is their birthright and humanity's hope. Together we carry on this great task. As we end this celebratory year, I want to again thank parents and staff for their investments of money, time and heart. Your commitment to community values, your love and selfless service create the synergy that unlocks Arbor's potential and guarantees our future success. As I reflect on our good times working together, I am overwhelmed with fond memories and a deep sense of gratitude. I am honored to be a part of this community.

—Irene Purser



# *Celebrating with a Flourish*

*By Liza Davis*

On November 22, 2005, Arbor celebrated Grandparents and Special Friends Day with a special flourish, drawing a record crowd to a celebration of those offering their nurturing presence “behind the scenes.” According to host Alison Harris, whose daughter Emma is in the LaVista II primary class, every child there averaged three adults in attendance, and, with the efforts of coordinators Martha Addison and Diane Sherrill, as well as a bevy of volunteer parents, the event was a resounding success. The day opened with a gathering in the Middle School classroom. Grandparents and special friends were treated with hors d’oeuvres, coffee, and juice as they listened to an a capella performance by the Arbor girls’ chorus and a brief concert by an Arbor band, complete with guitar and amplifiers. A highlight of the morning was the reunion of charter teachers Betty Litsey and Arabelle Luckhardt, who spoke briefly about the principles on which Arbor was founded in commemoration of the school’s thirty-fifth anniversary. After this event, the guests retired to individual classrooms to observe, first-hand, how their Arbor students used materials and engaged in hands-on learning. Since each student had been given a specific responsibility in preparing for the day, and each parent had been assigned an Arbor child, the classroom tours went flawlessly. Tasty food was a-plenty in these venues, too, thanks to generous parents from all quarters. When noon arrived, many children departed for the afternoon with their grandparents or special friends, and everyone left with a greater sense of the special community that is Arbor.



# Fundraising Dollars at Work

*Through faculty education funds, each year Arbor's annual fundraising dollars provide faculty and staff the opportunity to attend conferences and workshops. We are pleased to share a few expressions of excitement and gratitude derived from several of this year's experiences.*

Thanks to the generosity of Arbor parents, I was able to participate in two Montessori Conferences recently. In January, I heard Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder", and in February I went to the language refresher course. Both of these conferences were extremely helpful and invigorating. Thank you for letting me participate in these continuing education opportunities.

—Deedee Murphy

This year all four Middle School teachers attended the Annual NAMTA professional Development Meeting for Montessori Teachers of Adolescents in April.

The conference was an opportunity to network with other Montessori practitioners working in adolescent education. These opportunities to share experiences and structures are key to the development of a common set of practices for the Montessori middle school. How exciting to be a part of such a great endeavor. It was neat to recognize Arbor's role as a pacesetter in the field. We have so much to offer other schools who are striving to do what we have already done!

—Annie Frazer

I had a great time in Chicago. It was an opportunity for the 4 of us to share a common experience and hear the latest from the Montessori adolescent community. I was also struck by how far we've come as a group. I attended an adolescent conference at the same location 10 years ago and it's clear that we have a shared vision of what this work needs to be that we didn't have then. Also, for me, it was a chance to speak a little about our program and its strengths – offer some insights about how to carry out the essential parts of what Dr. Montessori believed was important for adolescents. David also does a good job of connecting our work to what's out there in the larger education community – where Montessori fits. There is lots of excitement about the next step – Montessori high schools and what they should look like. This is logical because the 12 -15 level is the fastest growing part of Montessori in the US – over 350 programs! Chicago was a chance to be a part of all that collective energy.

—Jan Deason



# Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!

## Arbor Montessori School 2005-2006 Board of Trustees

Katherine Brokaw  
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## 2005 – 2006 Committee Chairs

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**Printing**  
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# *Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!*

## **2005 – 2006 Class Coordinators**

### **Shiela's Class**

Kristen Indermark  
Jackie Hornbeck-Wall  
Mandy Sandifer  
Lori Solomon

### **Deedee's Class**

Carolyn Benne  
Denise Bomberger  
Beth Huffman  
Michelle Jordan

### **Leslie's Class**

Jay Brownstein  
Joye Hopkins  
Ellen McManus  
Tai-Yi Su

### **Becca's Class**

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Yuko Mizuno and  
Peter Chen  
Kathleen Clark and  
David Dean

### **Emilie's Class**

Oni Borchers  
Julie Moxley  
Sherry Stahler

### **Cindy's Class**

Lisa Bridges  
Suzanne Folger  
Maya Yodh

### **Alison's Class**

Carolyn Benne  
Jules Guedry  
Beth Huffman  
Leanne Murdoch

### **Betty's Class**

MaryAnn Mitchell-Hynes  
Richard Robison  
Lynn Vines

### **Kate's Class**

Lisa Bridges  
Tina Naegle  
Sherree Wallace

### **The Middle School**

Kai Chang  
Jill Flournory  
Mary Ann Saylor

## **2005 – 2006**

### **Special Committee Chairs and Developers**

#### **Annual Fund Co-Chairs**

Rich Escoffery and Larry Gramlich

#### **Shopping Spree Co-Chairs**

Vivian Cook  
Lynn Davis  
Jenny Dobbs  
Karen Horace  
Beth Huffman  
Michelle Jordan

#### **Auction Co-Chairs**

Chris Gramlich and  
Liane Schleifer

#### **Pike's Receipts Chair**

Lisa Shortell

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Julie Moxley

#### **Hardware & Software**

**Tech Support**  
Richard Robison

#### **Photographers Support**

Tim Moxley  
Duane Stork



# Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!

By Larry Gramlich

As Arbor celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> year, it also celebrated the birth of a new fundraising tradition - the Phoenix Society! In its inaugural year, the 41 families and friends of Arbor who each contributed at least \$1,000 each to the Annual Fund donated a total of \$48,400. Thanks to the leadership shown by the inaugural members of the Phoenix Society, and thanks to the generous contributions made by so many to the Annual Fund, the Auction, and our other fundraising efforts, we were able to raise a record-breaking \$155,000. These fundraising efforts support our teacher education programs, financial aid, and other programs which help Arbor provide such a wonderful learning experience for our kids! On behalf of the administration, teachers, staff and, most importantly all of the children of Arbor, the Fundraising Committee thanks all of you for your generous gifts.

- The Board of Trustees gave a combined total of \$11,225 to the Annual Fund
- Gifts of \$500 and greater were given by 72 current Arbor families
- Phoenix Society members contributed \$48,400
- Grandparents, Alumni Families, and Friends generously donated \$10,955

## Donors to the 2005 Annual Fund

### Current Arbor Families



*Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!*

**Donors to the 2005 Annual Fund**



*Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!*

**Donors to the 2005 Annual Fund**



**Grandparents and Family**



*Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!*

**Donors to the 2005 Annual Fund**

**Alumni Parents and Students**



**Teachers and Staff**



**Friends of Arbor**



*Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!*

**Donors to the 2005 Annual Fund**



**Matching Corporate Gifts**



**In Memory Of:**



**In Honor Of:**



*Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!*

### **Businesses Donating to Arbor's 2006 Auction**

*Arbor is proud to celebrate 20 years of community business support to our school through the annual auction. To businesses both near and far, we are indebted to your support.*



*Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!*

**Businesses Donating to Arbor's 2006 Auction**



*Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!*

### Businesses Donating to Arbor's 2006 Auction



### Donors to The Founders Fund 2006

*The Founders Fund, Arbor's first and only endowment, reaches \$75,000. It was established in Spring 2001 to create an endowment fund that will provide the financial resources for faculty and staff enrichment and continued education, sponsor new teachers for Montessori training, and support community education programs.*

#### Current Arbor Families



#### Grandparents and Family



*Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!*

**Donors to The Founders Fund 2006**

**Friends of Arbor**



**Alumni Parents and Students**



**Teachers and Staff**



**In Honor Of:**



**In Memory Of:**



# *Celebrating 35 Years through Fundraising!*

## **In Kind Donations**

Every day, we are given the opportunity to celebrate the Arbor families who fulfill the wishes and needs of their child's classroom. Our community benefits from these generous in-kind donations. To the donors of these gifts, too numerous to mention, Arbor is indebted.

## **In Closing**

It is only through community support received in response to the campaigns listed in these pages that we experience fundraising success. The Annual Fund and Auction gifts benefit financial aid, faculty education, and operating expense priorities. During the 2005 – 2006 school year, Arbor's fundraising dollars were used to help support:

- Financial assistance for 16 children
- New signage for both campuses
- Principal bond payment
- Faculty education funds
- Technology enhancements
- Security at our Emory campus
- HVAC replacement

We gratefully celebrate and acknowledge a 35-year giving history that continues to make Arbor a great place to live and grow. Thank you for your efforts to create a community of care and trust.

We have made every effort to compile and correctly list the information in this 2005 – 2006 Annual Report. Please accept our sincere apologies if your name has been omitted or listed improperly. We ask that you notify us by September 1, 2006 of any error so that we may publish corrections in a timely manner. If you would like more information regarding giving opportunities to Arbor or have any questions, please contact Martha Addison in the Development Office at 404-321-9304 or by e-mail at [marthaa@arbormontessori.org](mailto:marthaa@arbormontessori.org).

## **Alumni News**

**Lara Ramsey** (Kate's daughter) is receiving her PhD in Education from Harvard University.

**Amy Lester** is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Jacqueline Larsen** is a sophomore at Emory University and is a Latin American studies and Spanish major.

**Samantha deCamp** is a sophomore at University of Georgia and is a pre-med biology major.

**Paul Noonan** will be a freshman at Vassar this fall.

**Tyler Gleason** received a John Emory Merit Scholarship to Emory University for the fall.



# The Right School

*By Cheryl Novak*

Finding the right school for our child was a primary focus for my husband and me in 1993. During our search, a friend mentioned Arbor Montessori School and its philosophy of educating the whole child. Intrigued, we went to the fall open house at Arbor and knew within the first half hour that this school was definitely where we wanted our daughter to be educated. Words and phrases such as independence, critical thinking skills, self-discipline, creative expression, diversity and respect all spoke to the educational experience we had hoped for, plus the idea of having multi age children in one room helping and challenging each other seemed natural and logical. After applying and interviewing, we were delighted to receive an acceptance letter for our daughter and she was on her way!

In the primary years, polishing, pouring, sewing, tracing sand paper letters, building a pink tower, plus many other amazing activities all prepared her for the next phase of her education. Her sense of self was also emerging as well as strong socialization skills. In lower elementary, Alison and Becky continued the learning process by building on learned primary skills and by the use of familiar manipulatives from the primary years. Self-esteem was being nurtured continuously and a feeling of passion for learning and peaceful co-existence could be felt by simply entering the classroom.

In upper elementary, Betty and Lisa picked up the thread with more academic knowledge and character-building, thus continuing to add on to the beautiful Montessori tapestry. Now, here we are, after two amazing middle school years, facing the sad reality that Quinn's Arbor experience is coming to an end. Jan, Jacqui, Camille, Barbara, and Annie have not only given academic excellence and strength to their students but something else, which is as important, if not, in our opinion, more important: They have given our children understanding and love. They have nurtured, advised, listened, respected and sympathized through two of the most challenging and difficult years for adolescents. They have cheered for, cried with, encouraged and given our children what they will need to carry them through not only their school years but also through life!

It is with sincere gratitude and love that Bill and I say thank you. Having been a part of this caring, supportive Arbor community for the past 11 years has been an experience that my family will treasure. We are confident that Quinn's high school years at Westminster will be successful, thanks to the solid foundation, respect, and love that she received at Arbor.



# Statement of Activities

ARBOR MONTESSORI SCHOOL, INC.  
Statement of Activities  
Year Ended July 31, 2005

	2005			Total
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	
<u>Revenues</u>				
Tuitions and fees	\$ 2,312,584	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,312,584
Enrichment	103,733	-	-	103,733
Investment income	147,327	-	-	147,327
Rents received (net)	4,765	-	-	4,765
Gifts received (Note 6)	161,283	2,990	7,835	172,108
Total revenues	2,729,692	2,990	7,835	2,740,517
<u>Expenses</u>				
Instruction	1,338,487	-	-	1,338,487
Enrichment	103,431	-	-	103,431
Financial aid	54,636	-	-	54,636
Tuition remission	45,265	-	-	45,265
Fundraising (Note 6)	64,146	-	625	64,771
Administrative and general	669,423	-	-	669,423
Plant operations and maintenance	117,207	-	-	117,207
Depreciation and amortization	120,007	-	-	120,007
Interest expense	61,105	-	-	61,105
Total expenses	2,573,707	-	625	2,574,332
Change in net assets	\$ 155,985	\$ 2,990	\$ 7,210	\$ 166,185





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