

ST. SIMON'S SAYS

Spring 2008



St. Simon's provides free after school care for low-income children and their families. We serve kindergarten through third grade kids who qualify for assisted lunch, whose parents work, and who have no one at home to care for them after school. Saving these children from a latchkey existence and helping them get a good start with their education is a worthy goal for each of us.

President's Message

St. Simon's After-School celebrated a real milestone in 2007—it's 50th anniversary! It speaks to the effectiveness and great value of this program that it has not only endured the test of time but is thriving and growing as it begins its next 50 years.

All but one of the current programs is in the Dallas Independent School District. Our bonds with this district have only grown closer through the years. It is not only the principals, teachers and parents in each of our schools who sing the praises of St. Simon's. We are well known and appreciated in the Administrative Offices of DISD, and they even see St. Simon's as a model for other after school programs which may be implemented in the future.

We can be proud of the impact we have had on the children of the Dallas area. We look forward to expanding our sphere of influence to any place we are needed (we already have one program in Richardson ISD) as we seek grants and increased funding from all available sources. We also hope to further enrich our programs as we did this past year in our partnership with First Book. The Board of Trustees of St. Simon's is a talented mix of educators and business folk who have great ideas for a future which holds no bounds.

Robert C. Lea
President
St. Simon's Afterschool Program

St. Simon's Thanks its
Partners, Contributors and
Volunteers

Organizations Partner with St. Simon's to Deliver Enhanced Services to the Children and Families we Service

It is a great opportunity for organizations who share goals and ideals to form partnerships where they share resources, ideas, and help in achieving those shared goals. Several Dallas organizations have formalized partnerships with St. Simon's in the last few months. These respected organizations bring fresh capabilities to St. Simon's and help us to better serve our children and their families.



Episcopal School of Dallas

The Episcopal School of Dallas has long been a supporter of ours but our new partnership really steps up the relationship. Two outstanding juniors have joined our Board of Trustees while ESD continues their supplies drive, have added a winter coats drive, have ideas for tutoring, and good ideas for more funding for St. Simon's.

Led by the Rev. Stephen B. Swann, Founding Rector and Headmaster, ESD is recognized as one of the premier schools in our region. One of the school's founding tenets is Service to Others. Built on this tenant, ESD's Community Service Program prepares students for a lifetime of service to others. The goals of the program include providing help where needed in society, increasing students' understanding of their lives in relation to others while developing a sense of responsibility toward the greater community, broadening students' horizons through exposure to a wide range of experiences, fostering the relationship between ESD and the Dallas community, and helping students recognize that they are serving God by serving others. Students not only complete service hours in individual and group efforts but write a reflection paper or make a presentation in Chapel. Father Swann, of ESD, says "This partnership is a great opportunity for our students to learn leadership in a non-profit while contributing to the on-going success of a long admired organization." He added, "This is the first relationship with a service organization that includes the students as actual board members which gives our students a valuable opportunity to understand and participate in all aspects of a real world non-profit service organization."



Father Swann with Episcopal School of Dallas with Board of Trustee Members, John Cook, Laura Coomes, Lacy Cowden and Parker Antigan

First Book's mission is to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first books. In pursuing this mission First Book has distributed more than 50 million books. First Book provides us with four books a year for each child – books they own and can put their names in. Karen Blumenthal of First Book praises the relationship with St. Simon's. Karen says "St. Simon's offers an excellent environment for the kids to get their books and help reading them". See the article written by Nancy van Breda for more information about all this partnership contributes to our students.



DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE MAGIC
OF YOUR
FIRST BOOK?



Under the inspired leadership of Larry James, Central Dallas Ministries has become a major force working on the core issues related to poverty, including hunger, health, housing, legal representation, education and employment in Dallas. Their mission is to share the love of God by building genuine community in the neighborhoods where they live and work.

They touch the lives of over 50,000 people each year in a wide variety of ways. They distribute over 1.2 million pounds of food through three food pantries and provide 250,000 meals to at-risk youth in afterschool and summer programs, operate two health clinics that host over 20,000 patient visits each year, and handle over 225 cases per year through their public interest law firm. CDM operated three apartment buildings for low-income people at risk of homelessness, and provide basic job skills, technology education and workforce development programs to low-income workers.

CDM helps St. Simon's by supplying snacks for some of our programs and funding for those items like milk which we buy. We are excited to be partnered with such a successful organization that shares our values of aiding low-income children with an educational boost, good nutrition, and a caring environment. In addition, the focus on helping families who are working to improve their lives by being able to concentrate on their work and education for their children fits closely with our mission.



St. Simon's has joined the Dallas Independent School District as a Partner in Education. DISD carries the ball as the primary educational influence in our young students' lives.

DISD praises St. Simon's long service to the children of our community noting that we have now served about 12,500 students since our inception.

One of DISD's core beliefs is that every student must be educated in a safe, welcoming, effective, and innovative environment which is exactly what we believe. They also believe that a supportive community is fundamental to achieving and sustaining success and therefore support partnerships with community, business, civic, and faith-based organizations to help them achieve excellence. Our partnership enhances both of our abilities to meet our goals.

We value our long partnerships with the following parishes and organizations that are major sponsors of St. Simon's programs. St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, The Women of St. Michael and All Angels, St. Matthias Anglican Church, The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, The Episcopal Church of the Ascension, The Church of the Epiphany-Richardson, and Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. These partnerships have served both St. Simon's and the organizations well as we all strive to serve the less fortunate in our community.

Partners With First Book



Linda Williamson, master storyteller with First Books reads *Mommy* to the children at Herbert Marcus Elementary School.

First Book has made an enormous impact on the children in the St. Simon's Program. First Book is a national nonprofit organization that provides children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. The books are provided free to the children and to St. Simon's. The books are selected by a member of our Board of Trustees with information from our volunteers and teachers to help match the reading and interest level of our children.



Students at Herbert Marcus Elementary received their very own new book titled *Mommy*, from First Book.

First Book has been extremely generous to us. We have received grants of \$3,300.00 for each of the last three years. The publishers give 50% off on most of the books we order so that doubles the amount of books we can order with our grant. In addition, First Book granted us 145 Hooked on Phonics Kits to help parents work with their children at home to build reading skills. One of the best parts about this partnership is the Storyteller, Linda Williamson, who visits each program every year to read to the children. Her enthusiasm and love of books is contagious.



We are grateful for the books which we can see build the joy of reading in our students.

McCauley Memorial Fund Continues to Grow

Of all the dedicated staff and the directors of the St Simon's After School Program, none is more revered than the recently departed Michael F. McCauley. Mike's passion for children exceeded the ordinary motivation for support of public service. Mike saw St Simon's as a means of giving back to society from the bounty that God had so richly bestowed on him.

Mike's passion for these children was the inspiration for the Mike McCauley Memorial Fund. Through so many generous donors, the fund now has over \$18,000. It is the desire of the Board of Trustees that this fund continue to grow and provide a perpetual source of funds to be used to help the children coming from the St. Simon's program with continuation of their education and to promote higher learning for the underprivileged.

Your donations, both monetarily or by volunteering help make a difference in the lives of these children. For more information, or to make a donation, please email: info@stsimonsafterschool.com

St. Simon's Mission Statement

To support elementary school children and their families who are challenged by economic and family situations by providing

- *a safe, familiar, nurturing place for children to be after school*
- *a nutritional snack*
- *encouragement and assistance with academic and social development.*

Episcopal School of Dallas Students join St. Simon's Board of Trustees



Lacy Cowden and Parker Anigian join the St. Simon's Board of Trustees

We have been blessed in so many ways, especially since we have had a great education since pre-school and had a safe place to go after school and homework help. Education and a safe place to go after school are things never to be taken for granted. We are so excited that our school, The Episcopal School of Dallas, and St. Simon's have joined hands and efforts to help those children who need help with their homework, a good book to read, a snack, and a safe place to go. We are so honored in being chosen to participate in St. Simon's Board of Trustees, and being the first youth on the board. We are just excited to learn about a non-profit organization, as we are to help St. Simon's to become the best it can be. We look forward to contributing our ideas and resources to such a wonderful non-profit organization and are eager to see children's lives change before our faces.

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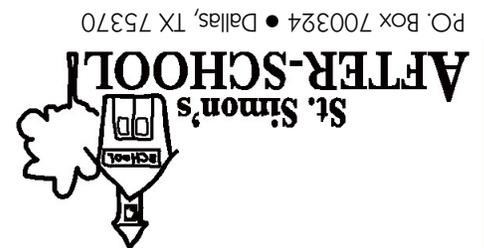
Special thanks to Episcopal School of Dallas, Father Swann and Christi Morrow

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Be a Part of St. Simon's

- Sponsor one student for a year – only \$350
- Organize drives for coats or supplies at your parish.
- Be a volunteer coordinator – 5- 10 hours per month.
- Link your Tom Thumb Reward card to St. Simon's.
Do this at the service desk in any Tom Thumb store.
Our number is 3555.



The Safeway contribution based on your purchases supports St. Simon's.

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