

# ST. SIMON'S SAYS

Newsletter - Spring 2009



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

The 2008-2009 school year was another extraordinary year for St. Simon's. This year St. Simon's supported 15 free after-school programs serving 375 economically disadvantaged children in the Dallas Independent School District, and despite these challenging economic times, St. Simon's will be able to expand to serve 425 students in the 2009-2010 school year. The ability of St. Simon's to continue to grow and thrive in this environment is a testament to the importance and effectiveness of our programs, and we can be proud of the impact that these programs have had on those children who are most in need of a safe and caring place to go when the school day ends.

In addition to our continued growth, this has been an exciting year for St. Simon's in our ability to enrich the lives of the families we support. This year St. Simon's strengthened its bonds with its current partners, such as First Books and Episcopal School of Dallas, to bring tutors, books, winter coats, readers, snacks, and other activities and needed goods to our students. As we look to the future, we are developing relationships with new potential partners, such as the Cooper Institute and Big Thought, who share the goal of expanding after-school opportunities for DISD students and view St. Simon's as a partner for programs that may be implemented in the future. These groups recognize – as we all do – that the need for programs like St. Simon's continues to be great. With the continued dedication and great ideas of our Board, partners, and donors, we look forward to expanding the breadth and scope of our programs to meet those needs.

Brian Lambert  
President, St. Simon's After-School

## Two St. Simon students awarded St. Simon's McAuley Scholarship with Episcopal School of Dallas.

The Michael McAuley Memorial Fund was founded in 2006. Due to the wonderful donations in honor of Mike, St. Simon's has partnered with Episcopal School of Dallas and established a scholarship from the St. Simon's program to ESD.

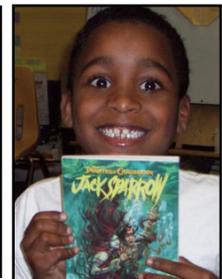
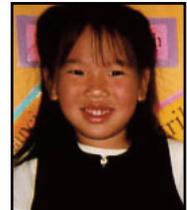
Six students from the Dallas Independent School District who participate in the St. Simon's program were selected to be tested. Ultimately TWO students were chosen to attend ESD for the 2009-2010 school year.

Jiaying is from Maple Lawn Elementary School and will be attending ESD as a First Grader. This scholarship has enabled her family to stay in the United States. Lizbeth is from Charles Rice Elementary School and will be entering into the 5th Grade at ESD. This is a priceless gift we are pleased to give these students.



Episcopal School of Dallas

With your continued generous gifts to McAuley Memorial Fund, many more children from the St. Simon's Program will follow in the steps of Jiaying and Lisbeth.



## Visit our website Donate Online

Contact us:  
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## 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.

## St. Simon's Trustees

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

## Highlights of this Past Year

St. Simon's has had another successful year serving children of very low-income families in Dallas County. Fifteen programs in the Dallas County Independent School District schools provided after-school care for nearly 400 children. Although our primary mission is to provide care for children in the after-school hours before working parents can pick them up, we have been able, with the help of great partners, to enhance the basic program:

**Episcopal School of Dallas (ESD)** joined us as a partner last year by naming 2 students to participate on our Board of Trustees. These energetic students provided leadership among other ESD students to collect gently used coats and over 100 new games, and sponsor parties for St. Simon's schools. ESD students have been a great support to the Board of Trustees and outstanding role models for our young students.



**Men at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church** have made and assembled over 600 puzzles for use in our after-school programs.

We have begun a dialogue with the **Cooper Institute** to enhance physical activities for our students.

**Dallas Independent School District** We continue to "partner" with **Dallas Independent School District** by paying them for the teacher services and they then pay the teachers for their St. Simon's work. This system eliminates the need for St. Simon's to use a payroll service (saving us money) and adds a greater dollar amount to the teachers' retirement programs. Officials at DISD are very supportive of St. Simon's and of expanding the program in additional schools.

## In the Classroom



Students celebrate receiving books through St. Simons and First Books

During their time in the program, students receive help with their homework, reading, playing games, crafts and more.



Students enjoy puzzles provided by the Men of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church



Students from ESD partner visit Steven Foster Elementary



Students get help with homework

## First Books provides new books to St. Simon's Program

First Book-Dallas provides brand new books to children in the St. Simon's program. To help First Book-Dallas and St. Simons continue giving books to these children please consider making an online donation.



Because of First Book's publishing partnerships, the average cost per book through this program is only \$2.50. Please consider donating by going to <http://www.firstbook.org/dallas> and clicking 'donate' in the blue toolbar. Please do not choose the option to donate to the national organization. Earmark donation for St. Simon's, Dallas, TX.



## St. Simon's Double Up Program

The 15 after school programs that St. Simon's funded in the 2008-09 school year helped serve a great need in the Dallas Independent School District. But the need is much greater. Principles in elementary schools across DISD are in need of more programs if the funds were available to support them. This year we adopted the "Double Up" Program with a goal of doubling the number of programs we sponsor in the next 3 years.

This is an ambitious goal, especially in the current economic environment. However, we believe that if we aim high, we will achieve more. We solicit your prayers and your contributions in support of our ambitious goal to meet this critical need in our community.

We thank all who help with our funding.



## Wayne Family Foundation



## Stemmons Foundation



## W.P. & Bulah Luse Foundation



## Cabin Foundation



## G. Bendell Moore Foundation

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

### Be a Part of St. Simon's

- Sponsor one student for a year for \$350
- Organize drives for coats or supplies at your parish.
- Volunteer (5-10 hours per month)
- Link your Tom Thumb Reward card to St. Simon's.  
Sign up at the service desk in any Tom Thumb store. Our number is 3555. The Safeway contribution based on your purchases supports St. Simon's.

