

FALL 2009



WORKING TO HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

PROJECT SUCCESS



A United Way Agency



# THANKS for GIVING

As we approach this holiday season, we would like to recognize the friends and supporters of Project Success. Without their generosity - of time, of treasure, and of talent - our efforts in local public elementary schools to help at risk children succeed would not be possible.

*Thanks to our donors!* We are fortunate to have the financial support of a growing number of businesses, organizations, and individuals who you will see listed inside. Their donations allow us to sustain our successful programs including after school tutoring, *Right Track* truancy prevention program, Homeless Initiative to enroll area homeless students in school, school based family liaisons, and activities to involve parents and families to support school success.

*Thanks to our volunteers!* To the Kiwaniannes who help with all of our mailings; to Golden "K" Kiwanis, the Boys and Girls Club, and ADM's Helping Hands and IT Dept. volunteers with our annual school supplies distribution; to (more) Golden "K" and St. Theresa student volunteers who pitched in at the Civic Center to help at **STICK WITH YOUR KIDS!**; to the seniors and retirees who volunteer weekly in school classrooms to help struggling students in our "Seniors for Success" volunteer program. None of these projects could happen without their support.

*Thanks to our Board of Directors and Local Advisory Board!* We count on each board to provide fiscal oversight, program input, and to advocate on Project Success' behalf to help us achieve our mission "to help children come to school every day ready to learn and succeed" ....and they do.

No organization, particularly in these challenging times, can sustain their programs without this critical community support. To all who have taken an interest in what we strive to do for children and responded with this support, we extend a sincere *THANKS for GIVING!*

Jane Shade  
Executive Director

## Rockin' 2009

*Rockin' King and Queen 2009*  
Caleb Jump (Soy Capital Bank) &  
Sherry Plain (Coldwell Banker)



*Rockin' Back to School Royal Homecoming Court (L to R)*  
Drs. Tom Fulbright & Angela Anderson, Sherry Plain & Caleb Jump, Ed Harjehausen & Emily Dobbins, Kellie Hazenfield & Ed Hazenfield, Ware Flora & Jennifer Walker

*Thanks to all!*  
**Total proceeds: \$55,000**

*First Runners Up*  
ADM's Ed Harjehausen and Emily Dobbins



## Goal #1: Increase Student Achievement

Training and UP WITH LEARNING tutoring sessions have begun in most elementary schools. Last year 60% of the 600 students in sessions improved in a minimum of one core subject.

30 "Seniors for Success" have been placed in 15 schools to volunteer each week to help struggling students.

In early August our annual school supplies distribution provided 1800 needy students with the basic supplies to start school ready to learn. The ADM Helping Hands and IT Department volunteers raised funds to buy and fill 300 backpacks. Boys and Girls Club and Golden K volunteers helped stuff 1500 additional bags!



**THANK YOU ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND COMPANY!**

Project Success will receive a generous donation from Archer Daniels Midland Company to support our after school "UP WITH LEARNING" tutoring sessions for students in all Decatur Public Elementary schools. "UP" supports the ADM mission to unlock the potential in students who need this extra academic assistance to help improve their performance in school. Sessions run from October 1st to April 15th for students referred by classroom teachers for academic assistance. Certified teachers and teacher assistants provide this tutoring - which is *free* to all students.

## Goal #2: Increase Parent Involvement

**STICK WITH YOUR KIDS!** - The 10th annual STICK WITH YOUR KIDS was held on August 29th and sponsored this year with support from District #61. The event attracted another big crowd of 4,500 children and adults, along with 60 schools and community agencies who gathered at the Decatur Civic Center to help promote increased parent involvement.

Family Liaisons are supported in all 16 public elementary schools by Project Success in cooperation with Decatur Public Schools. They work to increase the link between the schools, the home, and community resources to support families and school success.

60+ Family Activities in 15 elementary schools will be supported with \$8,500 in funding during the first semester.

*House Calls* Home Visits on August 13th sent 120 staff and administrators from 16 K-8 schools out into the community via yellow school bus to visit almost 600 homes to welcome families to a new school year!



10th Annual STICK WITH YOUR KIDS!



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## Goal #3: Increase Attendance/Decrease Truancy

Project Success has conducted Homeless Initiative trainings for District #61 and Macon/Piatt County school staff so that students in grades K-12 who are homeless can be identified and provided with necessary resources to get them - and keep them - in school as soon as possible after referral. To date this year 90 students from 45 families have been referred for help. "Homeless" status can range from families "doubled up" and living temporarily with friends or relatives, or staying at motels, to those living in cars or in parks, or to youth kicked out or locked out by their families.

Right Track truancy prevention programming is in place in all 16 Decatur public elementary schools. To date over 50 students have been referred for 5 or more unexcused absences from school. Last year 86% of students referred for follow up improved their attendance. Since Project Success began the program in 2002 with the Macon Piatt Regional Office of Education, in cooperation with local schools, law enforcement and agencies, we have seen an average of 86% of students referred for truancy intervention consistently improve their attendance.

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310A West William Street  
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