



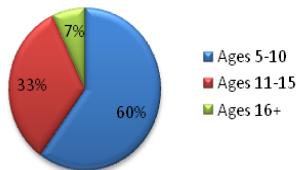
**school on wheels inc.**  
Tutoring Homeless Children Since 1993

April 2011

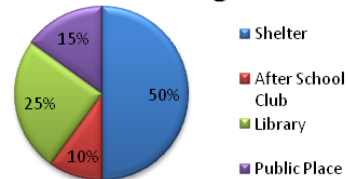
## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



### Age of Students



### Tutoring Locations



What is more important for a child than learning? Our mission at School on Wheels is to help children learn. Not just any children; children without a home. Can you imagine how hard it is to learn when you don't have a home? The statistics stacked against homeless students are staggering: they are nine times more likely to repeat a grade; four times more likely to drop out of school entirely; and 20% do not attend school. I forget sometimes how unaware people are not simply about the existence of homeless children, but the enormity of the issue - 1.6 million homeless children annually in the United States; 292,624 children in California without a home; 56,000 in the school districts that School on Wheels serves from Santa Barbara to Orange Counties - and those are only the ones identified as homeless when enrolling in school each year.

These are troubling times, especially for children. The economic crisis has permeated every aspect of what we do as an organization. Education budgets are being slashed, affordable housing – the number one reason for family homelessness in California – is almost non-existent, and the number of homeless families increases daily. More and more children are falling through the cracks and facing hunger, homelessness and abuse. Like most organizations, 2010 was a challenging year for School on Wheels. But we not only met the challenge, we embraced it and surpassed our own goals - we served more students than ever before, raised more money, recruited more volunteers and increased the number of donors. Our team worked hard to achieve these results and we know that we succeeded only because of you, our supporters, our friends, our community. We are deeply, truly grateful.

This report outlines the specific financial and program results we achieved in 2010. At a time when everything can seem overwhelming and hopeless, School on Wheels continues to provide hope to our most vulnerable and forgotten children. These students need our help, they need your help. Together, we can help give them what every child wants and needs: an opportunity to learn.

As always, I welcome any ideas and suggestions you may have that will assist our students and our organization achieve our mission of enhancing educational opportunities and shrinking the gaps in the education of homeless children from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

With deep appreciation,

Catherine Meek  
Executive Director

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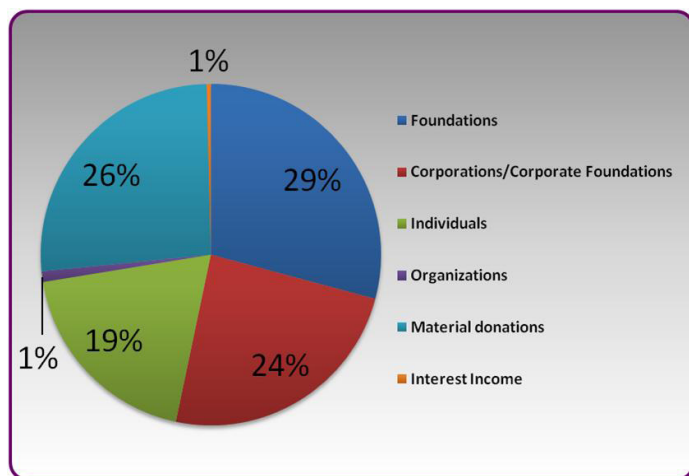
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## 2010 FINANCIAL RESULTS

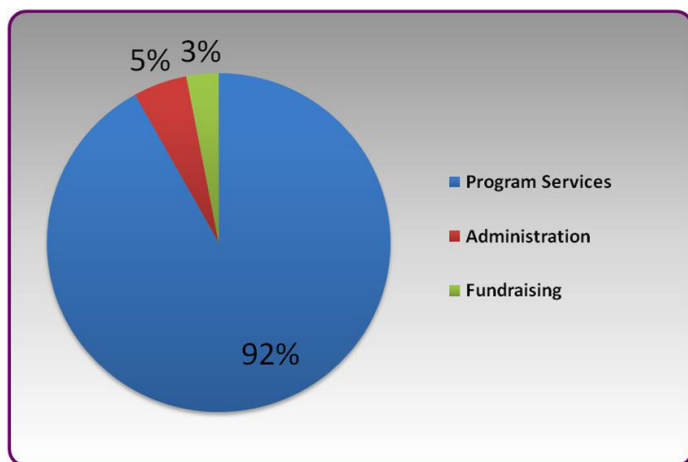
With your help and generosity, we increased our support by 7.2% in 2010 and continue to develop a diversified funding plan. Our expenses increased by 6.6%, with all of that increase resulting from improvements to our program services.

### Revenue and Support – Where the Money Comes From



Foundations	\$305,900
Corporations/Corporate Foundations	\$252,810
Individuals	\$207,975
Organizations	\$15,393
Material Donations	\$278,506
Interest Income	\$4,574
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,065,158</b>

### Expenses - Where the Money Goes



Program Services	\$931,975
Administration	\$55,619
Fundraising	\$31,245
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,018,839</b>

We are fortunate indeed to have donors who care deeply about homeless children. In 2010, foundations like The Ahmanson Foundation helped fund our new Learning Center in Skid Row; Amgen Foundation generously supported us, both with substantial funding and wonderful employee volunteers; The Mark Hughes Foundation has funded us generously and unfailingly for the last six years; NBC Universal Foundation funded not only our Believe, Understand, Succeed program developed for homeless high school youth, but also our Learning Center in Skid Row. We are honored to be supported by many family foundations such as the Sawchuk Family Foundation, the Shrontz Family Foundation, and our friends at the Looker Foundation.

Bob Morris and his amazing family and staff at the Paradise Cove Beach Café hosted the best holiday party for over 200 of our students, with the help of Steve Dahlberg and the California Highway Patrol. Henry and Andrea Burroughs provided healthy snacks for our students in Skid Row every single month; and, the great band My Morning Jacket gave us proceeds from one of their concerts at the Greek Theater.

A complete listing of our generous donors can be viewed on our web site at [www.schoolonwheels.org/pages/friends](http://www.schoolonwheels.org/pages/friends).

## 2010 PROGRAM RESULTS

Since 1993, School on Wheels has been helping reduce the gap in educational opportunities for homeless children from kindergarten through grade 12. In 2010, through our programs, we served over 6,000 homeless children. We are committed to helping more this year.



In 2010, 1,501 volunteers tutored 1,400 children. These tutors went every week to a shelter, or a library or a book store to help their students solve math problems, learn to read, complete their homework. They showed them how to use a computer, how to apply to college, and took them on campus tours.

*"It's a privilege to serve with School on Wheels. I feel very blessed to be able to spend time with my student Jordan each week. The bond we're developing is very special. It is an amazing vehicle for giving many kids hope, who may not have had it before."* -Chris Sutherland, Volunteer Tutor, Los Angeles

Other volunteers taught art classes, fixed computers, provided legal services, performed music and poetry recitals, built databases – in total, we had the privilege of almost 90,000 volunteer hours last year.

In July, we opened a beautiful new Learning Center in Skid Row that allows us to serve over 250 students a year from nearby shelters and missions and provides a quiet haven for them to access computers and work with tutors. We expanded our operating hours to include Saturdays so that we can offer classes such as nutrition education, career counseling, and writing workshops. The new Center also provides space for program staff and allows us to train and offer additional workshops to more volunteers.

In 2010, School on Wheels distributed 6,270 brand-new backpacks filled with school supplies. The potential of clean paper and colored pencils is a powerful talisman for a child with so little else in her life.

We facilitated 157 re-enrollments into public schools by helping parents gather needed records such as birth certificates and immunization records, and completed the paperwork needed to get their kids reenrolled in school – all in one day versus the two weeks it can take them on their own.



We funded 454 school uniforms that many children need in order to be allowed into school or to stay out of detention.

We provided 3,600 bus tokens so that children can get to school and so that their parents have the opportunity to be there with them on their first days.

We awarded three scholarships in 2010 – to a former student at UCLA; to a current student to purchase school books and supplies; and to members of a family to attend a junior lifeguard school.

*"School on Wheels is an amazing organization. Thank you for working hard to make volunteering meaningful. Working with the kids has given me the opportunity to grow a lot as a person. Meeting other volunteers makes me feel that people do care. Cheers to making the world a better place!"* -Chiaw Yong Pang, Tutor, South LA Learning Center



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### A WORD FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, JON TOMLIN, PH. D

Although I am a professional economist, you certainly don't need to be one to recognize that our current economic environment has made it very difficult for non-profits to raise funds and continue to serve their populations. Despite tremendous challenges, School on Wheels has not only been able to maintain its donations, it actually increased them in 2010 – exceeding \$1 million for the first time ever! This fundraising success has been due to a lot of hard work and the critical support shown by our donors and supporters. In combination with an amazing volunteer force exceeding 1,500, School on Wheels was able to provide tutoring and other program services to over 6,000 homeless students. This is quite an accomplishment. Now our work continues. With the support of volunteers and donors, School on Wheels can build on the success of 2010 and help provide a brighter future to as many of the homeless children of Southern California as possible.

### A WORD FROM FOUNDER, AGNES STEVENS

Officially my journey around the country ended at the end of January, 2011. My arrival in Los Angeles with my high school friend, Rosie, was in mid-October leaving me three and a half months to journey around Paradise Cove and Southern California. I mostly stayed in Paradise and am happy to say I am now in excellent health, stronger than ever physically, mentally and spiritually. As to how I will spend the next twenty five years — no specific plans as I want to continue the rest of my life living in the spirit of how I lived my journey. I do have music left inside of me and I do trust each day will be an opportunity to play and discover where I belong by being open to the moment. How exciting is that and how lucky I am!

Everyone was with me on this journey if you read my blog or not. All the experiences with people and places I met along the way will always be a part of me as I take the first step into the next twenty five years. If anyone needs to contact me, please do so at: [abstevens@aol.com](mailto:abstevens@aol.com) and/or call 310-381-9828.