HEART’s mission is to foster compassion and respect for other human beings, animals and the environment by educating youth and teachers in humane education.
We are very pleased to share with you our progress and accomplishments in 2008. HEART has grown in just a few years from an organization with one instructor serving grades 4-6 to a full-service humane education provider with six instructors, each with varying areas of expertise, serving all grade levels from K-12 with four distinct age-appropriate curricula. Our instructors deliver flexible programming that not only includes creative ways of informing students about social justice, animal welfare and environmental protection issues, but also gives them the tools to conduct service-based projects that enable them to make a difference as individuals and become compassionate, responsible members of society.

We see humane education as the missing link in our educational system and our goal is to bring it into the mainstream where it should have been all along. This effort is a formidable challenge and will require the collaboration of our supporters, teachers and administrators, elected officials and, of course, our dedicated staff and board of directors. Last year we made solid strides toward our ultimate goals. We are so appreciative of your support and hope you will continue to partner with us in the future.

The benefits of teaching humane education are far-reaching. Our programs:

- Create more compassionate citizens and contributors to the greater community;
- Foster a sense of responsibility for children to act upon their personal beliefs;
- Cultivate empathy for animals and decrease animal abuse in our society;
- Encourage students to strive for a sustainable society while protecting natural resources and the environment; and
- Help reduce and prevent violence in school and at home.

About HEART

HEART’s services are specially designed to provide a combined focus on social justice, animal welfare and environmental ethics. Our direct services to educators and students, as well as our city and state level advocacy efforts, enable us to significantly impact the way young people think about their responsibility to one another, animals and the natural world. By linking our age-appropriate instructional program to our service-based learning program, we give students the tools to make positive changes. We are the only full-service provider of humane education in the New York City area and we reach thousands of students each year with our programs.
Strengthened the Humane Living Program

The Humane Living Program (HLP) was designed three years ago as a unique youth development initiative focused on engaging students of all ages in humane and character education. The HLP’s growth in 2008 has launched it into a highly effective, practical initiative capable of influencing youth to be agents of lasting social change. Building on its unique instructional program, HEART incorporated an equally strong service learning component to empower students to put what they have learned into practice. This greater focus on active civic participation, along with HEART’s other HLP accomplishments described below, strengthen the organization as a model in creating and delivering comprehensive and unique humane and character education to youth in NYC and beyond.

- Increased Service Population: HEART’s humane education instructional staff of six continued to enhance the HLP curriculum to provide more issue-specific instructional lessons to incorporate in the classroom. As a result, HEART doubled its youth served from last year to approximately 2,300 students from over 15 elementary, middle and high schools around New York City. A new population of P.S. 36X is fortunate to be part of the HEART Program…

P.S. 36X is fortunate to be part of the HEART Program…

The HEART curriculum is designed to develop research, independent learning and collaborative learning skills. Our students are learning facts and vocabulary that is part of the Science and Social Studies Curriculum. It is uplifting to see our elementary school students brainstorming, making presentations and using visual material to communicate the information with confidence because of the solid background knowledge that the HEART Program facilitators have provided to them...

Two of our Fourth Grade Teachers shared the following thoughts:

“HEART exposes them [students] to parts of the world they most likely would not have given much consideration to. HEART helps them to live in other’s shoes. It is always eye opening for them and me.”

- Mr. William Devanny, 4th Grade Teacher

“The HEART Program has made an impact on my students’ lives. As a result, the children are more aware of important issues that are happening outside of their homes. They are more aware that their actions not only affect them, but also their community and their world. Also, I’ve noticed they are becoming more careful about not being wasteful and recycling as evidenced by our School Recycling Team comprised solely of students.”

- Mrs. Migdalia Spratley, 4th Grade Teacher

This program not only makes a difference in our students, but it also makes an impact in our community. Our students get very excited and are proud to share their knowledge with community leaders such as Councilwoman Annabel Palma, the HEART community, parents, other students, and teachers during our Celebration of Learning.

Thank you for the gift of the HEART Program in our school. We are looking forward to having the program in all the grades. Together we are making a difference and making the world a better place!

Nilda J. Rivera
Principal
P.S. 36 in the Bronx
students also received HLP instruction. Over the summer, HEART partnered with the Boys Town Alternative School in Brooklyn and served at-risk adolescent youth at the Boys Town Intervention and Assessment Center and Treatment Homes.

- **Created Experiential Learning Curriculum:**
  To reinforce the concepts presented in the HLP instructional curriculum and to encourage students to engage in service-based projects, HEART created a service learning curriculum for students of all ages. This new, intensive 14-week program teaches students an array of practical skills and character building traits, culminating in a finished project and formal presentation. It is youth driven, guided by HEART’s instructors. Students work as a team to devise and develop a project that will help people, animals and/or the environment. This curriculum will be incorporated into HEART’s classroom instruction, summer camps and after-school programming.

- **Developed After-School Program Model:**
  HEART piloted its Humane Living After-School Leadership Club at the Mamaroneck Avenue Elementary School with a focus on child labor, companion animal overpopulation, and pollution. This after-school club was developed with the intent to expand this model to an array of after-school programs guided by HEART’s instructors and mentor students and teachers in the formation of such clubs. This model has a strong civic action component and incorporates the same issues taught in the HLP in-class programs.

- **Expanded HLP to Chicago:**
  Since the fall 2008, our instructor Bob Schwalb (photo at right) has been creating school partnerships in Chicago in order to begin offering the HLP. Partnerships have been formalized and the HLP will begin reaching students in 2009. Chicago will be the first of what we hope will be a series of geographic expansions in the coming years.

**Initiated National Teacher Training Project in Collaboration with the ABA**

HEART collaborated with the Animal Law and Law in Public Service Committees of the American Bar Association (ABA) on a public interest project to provide humane education instruction to elementary school students. With HEART’s assistance, the ABA is using the HLP curriculum on animal welfare issues designed for 4th-5th grade students to train ABA volunteers to become teachers in humane education. HEART co-authored an extensive humane education training manual with the ABA that is being distributed to volunteers as part of HEART’s training workshops to teach these lessons. This joint public service project is being piloted in DC and NYC and will expand geographically over time.

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I believe there is a critical need for humane education in the New York school system. HEART teaches children about important issues, such as the many forms of animal abuse, environmental degradation and human exploitation. You address these subjects in a creative program that captures students’ attention and, most importantly, motivates and empowers them to act in ways that will make a positive difference in the world. Children in New York, and in our nation, need to be exposed to this vital education.

Congressman Eliot L. Engel
House of Representatives
17th District, New York
Continued to Advocate for Humane Education in Schools

HEART was very active in securing sponsors for, and testifying to support passage of, two New York City Council humane education resolutions (Nos. 1541 and 497) to improve enforcement of Section 809 of the NYS Education Law, which requires all publicly funded elementary schools to provide instruction in the humane treatment of animals. We are pleased that in December of 2008 the Education Committee passed Resolution 1541, which calls on the NYC Department of Education to survey schools for non-compliance with curricular mandates in the state education law, including the humane treatment of animals, and assist schools that are not in compliance to fully comply.

At the state level, we also made significant progress to amend and strengthen the humane education law. As a result of our advocacy efforts: 1) Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh introduced A. 427, which includes a 2-hour humane education teacher training certification requirement, a notification provision from the State Department of Education about Section 809, and a provision authorizing grants to teachers for costs incurred with humane education training; and 2) Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal agreed to sponsor legislation (recently introduced as A. 6126) that would expand the humane education mandate to middle schools and high schools, instead of just elementary schools, supporting mandatory humane education instruction at all grade levels.

P.S. 15 has been fortunate to receive the HEART program. Our HEART teachers were not only professional and always prepared, but the students loved them and their lessons. As fourth grade teacher Livia Pantuliano reports, “The program served as a tool for helping my students open up their own hearts to the needs and sorrows of others. Their capacity for compassion grew and became an integral part of their lives. The lessons presented in HEART were ‘life lessons’, which stretched way beyond the confines of traditional curriculum. Hopefully the students will carry the values they have learned with them throughout their lives, in the service of others.”

There should be a place in every child’s school day for humane curriculum and education; what greater imperative do we have as educators than to prepare our students to be thoughtful citizens of the world? The HEART program instills the importance of living in service to others and I can think of no school community that would not benefit from this program. Every school should have access to humane education programming; we are so thankful to have worked with HEART this year and look forward to continuing our partnership in the future.

Julie Cavanagh
Fifth Grade Teacher and Coordinator
P.S. 15 in Red Hook, Brooklyn
In 2009, HEART aims to significantly increase our impact on youth and influence in our greater community by expanding our programs and making service learning a cornerstone of our organization.

HEART will enhance the Humane Living Program and broaden the integration of the service learning component. Focus will be placed on adapting the service learning curriculum to all grade levels in various educational settings, growing the after-school programming through Humane Living Clubs, partnering with other organizations, and significantly expanding our summer programming.

We will extend our reach to more teachers regionally and nationally through various collaborations. HEART has been working with the United Federation of Teachers and the ASPCA to offer a 30-hour credit-bearing course for NYC schoolteachers in humane education. In addition, HEART will collaborate with NYC schoolteachers to develop a comprehensive teacher training manual in humane education. Efforts will also focus on expanding the geographical reach of the ABA training program so more attorney volunteers can teach humane education to students nationwide.

HEART will continue to build on its advocacy efforts. The groundwork has been developed for two major state initiatives to require teacher training in humane education and mandatory humane education instruction at all grade levels. HEART will garner support for these two important state humane education bills in 2009. We will also seek a sponsor for proposed federal legislation promoting the teaching of humane education in our nation’s schools.
HEART | Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2008

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<th>2008</th>
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<td>Expenses</td>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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Net Assets

Net Assets

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Cash and Cash Equivalents

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Expense Allocation by Function

- Program Services: 82%
- Fundraising: 7%
- Management and General: 11%
HEART Board
Brad Goldberg, Chair
Judy Hamilton
Rosemary Lee
Lydia A. Maldonado, Esq.
Sheryl Pipe
Zoe Weil

Executive Director
Meena Alagappan, Esq.

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website | www.TeachHumane.org

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