



# HEART *Matters*

Fall 2008  
Newsletter

*Developing a more compassionate world through education*

## OUR MISSION

To foster compassion and respect toward other people, animals and the environment by educating youth and teachers in Humane Education.



## Making our Mark on Humane Education

Message from HEART's Executive Director and Chair

Dear Friends,

Welcome to HEART Matters! Working to create a paradigm shift that will lead to humane education being considered an integral part of our educational process requires that we invest in the best talent we can find. Our recently expanded staff of instructors is our greatest asset and is highlighted on page two.

The focus of our classroom services continues to be our Humane Living Program. The program's combined concentration on social justice, animal welfare and environmental ethics encourages students to think about how their individual actions can make a measurable difference in the world. Our curriculum now covers the entire spectrum from K-12 in four different age-appropriate categories. In addition, we are introducing a Humane Living After-School Leadership Club Program, which has a strong civic action component. We will also continue to expand our summer programming. This past summer, we conducted classes for at-risk youth at Boys Town New York's Alternative School in Brooklyn, which serves adolescents in its Intervention and Assessment Center and Treatment Homes. We expect to reach a few thousand students with our innovative lessons in the upcoming year.

Collaboration with other organizations enables us to significantly expand the reach of our services. HEART is working with the American Bar Association's Animal Law Committee and Law in Public Service Committee to train attorneys to deliver our lessons in schools in their communities, starting with Washington, DC and NYC. We are also working with the ASPCA and the United Federation of Teachers' Humane Education Committee on developing an extensive credit-bearing course in humane education for schoolteachers.

As you can see, we need to adopt a multi-faceted approach to maximize our impact. That continues to include advocating for strengthening compliance with the NYS humane education law. Also, we are very excited to announce HEART's first geographic expansion to Chicago, an initiative that will be led by Bob Schwalb, our first instructor.

Without you, none of this activity would be possible. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for enabling us to help create a more humane world.

Meena Alagappan, Esq.  
Executive Director

Brad Goldberg  
Chair

## HEART's Team of Instructors

Sharing a passion for humane education, our team of six instructors has the experience, skill and commitment needed to create a lasting impact on students and educators. They are the backbone of our organization and are using their unique talents to implement our Humane Living Program.



"When you look at today's schools, you often see an environment of ever increasing violence, cynicism, and apathy. Humane education is a remedy for these ills. It exposes students to the problems of the world, encourages them to open their hearts with compassion, and seeks to discover positive solutions to the problems," says HEART's first instructor **Bob Schwalb**, who helped pilot the Humane Living Program. Prior to HEART, Bob founded the Chicago Humane Education Group, a project of social and environmental entrepreneurs dedicated to teaching students to be critical and creative thinkers, as well as inspiring them to make a positive difference in the world. Bob is spearheading HEART's first expansion effort in Chicago where he will introduce the

Humane Living Program in public schools. Bob received his M.Ed. with a focus in Humane Education from Cambridge College.

"I have seen shy students become impassioned when speaking about poverty, jaded students filled with emotion during presentations on animal welfare, and students who can barely keep their eyes open filled with excitement when discussing their relationship with nature," says **Casey Sullivan** about the impact of humane education. Casey was most recently an English teacher at De Witt Clinton High School in the Bronx and faculty advisor to the school's animal rights club. He received his M.S.Ed in English Secondary Education from CUNY Lehman College and his B.A. from New York University where he was the recipient of the College of Arts and Science Faculty Scholarship. Casey was also the President of NYU's Earth Matters through which he helped organize an environmental consciousness lecture series.



"Through humane education, I have witnessed incredible transformations in people's lifestyles and attitudes after learning about violence and harm being caused to people, animals and the planet. That is why I think it is one of the most powerful ways to create a more peaceful world for all," says **Kimberly Korona**. Kimberly came to HEART as an experienced humane education instructor for the Michigan Humane Society where she taught about 9,000 students. Her many accomplishments include initiating a program for middle and high school students on animal homelessness and global warming. Kim graduated from the Institute for Humane Education's M.Ed. program with Cambridge College.

"I have been incorporating humane education into my teaching for a long time as an arts educator, using the arts as a means to help kids learn more about themselves, others and the world around them. I am really excited to work for HEART-its mission and pedagogy really match mine," says **Karina Naumer** who has been responsible for developing and teaching our K-3 curriculum for over a year. Karina is a drama education specialist and is the founder of Creative Arts Team's Early Learning Through the Arts/NYC Wolf Trap Program, a drama education program in residence within CUNY. For 10 years, Karina was also an instructor within New York University's Paul A. Kaplan Center for Educational Drama. She received her M.F.A. in Child Drama from Arizona State University.



"The kids I've had the privilege to teach through the HEART program are so receptive to embracing aspects of the human and animal world. This is a curriculum that speaks to what the kids hope -- that we are not separate or alone in this journey. Our programs offer the validation to these feelings of connectedness," says **Jeannie Russell**, who joined HEART with over 25 years experience working with children and families in a variety of educational and social service settings. Most recently Jeannie worked for the Bronx Ethical Culture Society where she created an "Ethics For Kids" curriculum that places an emphasis on action over beliefs and incorporates community

service projects. Jeannie received her M.Ed. from Bank Street College.

"Watching my students think critically and compassionately about the many issues we face in the world today gives me hope that the next generation will grow up with the tools they need to help create a better world," says **Alyson Berman**, our instructor for the Humane Living After-School Leadership Club Program. In addition, Ali provides as needed in-class humane education instruction. She also works for Animal Welfare Trust where she is grant administrator and project director for Club SAGA, an on-line resource for high school animal welfare clubs. She is working on her graduate degree in writing at Sarah Lawrence College.



## New York Invests in HEART

We are pleased to share that HEART has been awarded \$36,000 for Fiscal Year 2009 from five New York City Council Members to support implementation of our Humane Living Program at public schools in their districts. These grants include:

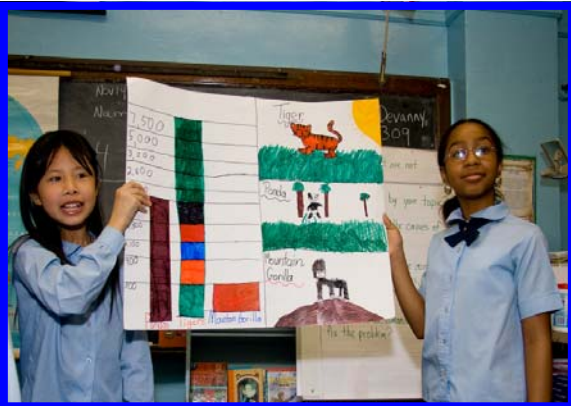
\$15,000 from Annabel Palma (Bronx-18)  
\$7,500 from Maria del Carmen Arroyo (Bronx-17)  
\$5,000 from Sara Gonzalez (Brooklyn-38)  
\$5,000 from Melissa Mark-Viverito (Manhattan-8)  
\$3,500 from Rosie Mendez (Manhattan-2)

New York State Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh (Manhattan-74) also awarded us a \$2,000 grant to bring our humane education programs to students in his district.

## Survey Shows Broad Support for Humane Education

In early 2008, the Humane Research Council and Knowledge Networks conducted a national online survey, asking the question: **How important is it that schools and teachers (Kindergarten–12 and college level) incorporate humane education, including animal welfare topics, into their lessons?** A total national adult sample of 1,554 responded as follows:

Very important	38%
Somewhat important	40%
Not very important	11%
Not at all important	5%
Do not know	5%



## Legislative Update

HEART is grateful to NYC Council Member Avella, NYS Assembly Members Kavanagh and Rosenthal, and NYS Senator Padavan for their commitment to strengthening the state humane education law.

- NYC Council Member Tony Avella's Resolution 497 calls on the NYC Department of Education to increase compliance with the humane education statute by issuing a memorandum to all city public schools notifying them of the mandate and instructing all elementary school principals to direct their teachers to act in accordance with this requirement. HEART was instrumental in drafting this legislation and in securing the support of over 40 Council Members. A hearing was held in the Education Committee in December 2007, but Res. 497 is still awaiting a vote.
- At HEART's request, NYS Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh recently introduced A. 10344, a bill amending Sections 809 and 3004 of the NYS Education Law to include: a teacher training certification requirement in humane education; a notification requirement to all school districts about the humane education law; and a funding provision to assist educators in complying with this mandate. Senator Padavan is the Senate co-sponsor of this bill (S. 7848).
- We are pleased to report that NYS Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal has agreed to sponsor legislation that would expand the humane education law to middle schools and high schools. Currently, Section 809 only requires publicly-funded elementary schools to teach humane education, but Assembly Member Rosenthal is supporting mandatory humane education instruction at all grade levels in city public schools.



## Meena Alagappan is Elected Chair of the Animal Law Committee of the ABA

Meena, HEART's executive director, is now serving as the fourth Chair of the American Bar Association's Animal Law Committee, which is in the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (ABA-TIPS). The ABA-TIPS Animal Law Committee, comprised of a diverse group of 290 attorneys nationally and internationally, examines animal-related problems and issues today, and thinks about new ways to define, manage, and solve them. Through publications, legislative reports, continuing legal education conferences, and public service projects, the Committee addresses humane concerns and promotes the protection of animals.



# Humane Living Program

HEART created brochures to generate awareness about the Humane Living Program (HLP) and to display the program's lessons so that educators can choose specific subjects for their classroom instruction. Below is a description of our HLP for 4th-6th grade students. Brochures for all grade levels are available on HEART's website-[www.teachhumane.org](http://www.teachhumane.org).

## Our Mission



HEART's mission is to foster compassion and respect for all living beings and the environment by educating youth and teachers in humane education. Our goal is the infusion of humane education into all educational settings.

## What is Humane Education?



Humane education encompasses human rights issues, animal protection, and environmental ethics. Students learn about the many problems facing the earth and its inhabitants, while at the same time learning how to develop empathy and compassion for all living beings and to act in a way that reflects their beliefs. Through humane education, HEART seeks to break the cycle of violence by promoting the inherent value of all beings and the environment.

## Our Vision of Humane Education



By using the natural synergy that exists between character education and humane education, HEART provides a cohesive program that encourages students to include all living beings and the environment in their "circle of compassion."

## HEART's Grade 4-6 Program

### Circle of Compassion

This introductory lesson asks students to consider what it means to be humane. Students are introduced to the "Circle of Compassion." They are asked to consider who is part of their circle, who is excluded and why.

### How Much Did That Really Cost?

Students are given a historical framework for the exploitation of people. The lesson takes a historical, as well as contemporary, look at the problem of child labor in the world.

### Can't We All Just Get Along?

Students are taught how to recognize and respond if they see someone else being bullied or if they themselves are victims of bullying. They are asked to brainstorm ideas and solutions on what to do if confronted with this problem.

### Animals-It's Their World, Too

This lesson focuses on the value of all species and why each deserves respect from human beings. Students discuss the ways in which animals are similar to us, how they are different, their emotional capabilities, and ways we have replaced the need to utilize animals for human purposes (i.e. testing, clothing).

### Dogs, Cats & Cows, Oh My!

This lesson focuses on responsible companion animal guardianship and dog and cat overpopulation. It also takes a look at how farm animals are raised on modern factory farms.

### One Thing Leads To Another

Students look at the problem of dogfighting and the effect it has on both people and animals. They also explore the human/animal violence link - where abusing animals can often lead to abusing other human beings.

### Protecting Mother Earth and Wildlife

Students research issues related to global warming, endangered species, habitat destruction and pollution. After their research, they prepare and give group presentations on their topics.

### Living a Humane Life

This lesson looks at everyday choices we all make. The students take a close look at the consequences of these choices and explore alternatives that may do more good and less harm.

### Connecting the Issues

Students are presented with a moral dilemma that focuses on tying together issues relating to people, animals and the environment to encompass much of what they learned in the last eight weeks.

### Making a Difference

This culminating lesson reviews the concepts learned over the course of the program. Students write essays detailing specifically what they will do to make a positive difference in the world.

## Teachers are Saying...

"[HEART's program] makes students think about things they may not get exposure to otherwise."

"You taught the kids that it is 'cool to care' and that they can make a change in the community...Please come back next year!"

"The information given to the kids during the program was very important and should be part of their education and curriculum."



## Attention! Attention!

### "Have a HEART" 3rd Annual Online Auction November 18th—December 10th

Together with Charity Buzz, HEART will be holding a live online auction to benefit our programs. Visit [www.charitybuzz.com](http://www.charitybuzz.com) anytime between the auction dates to bid on exciting items such as hanging out backstage at Real Time with Bill Maher, meeting Bill Cosby after one of his shows, and weekend getaways to Acqualina Resort and Spa in Sunny Isles, FL and Loews Miami South Beach.

### Kim Korona to Facilitate Humane Education Workshops

Kim, HEART's instructor, will facilitate three weekend workshops this fall for the Institute for Humane Education, as well as others yet to be scheduled for 2009. The fall schedule includes a Sowing Seeds Workshop on October 24th in Vancouver, B.C. and two MOGO (The Most Good) workshops (October 11th at Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary and on November 8th in Orlando, Florida). More information on workshops can be found on the IHE web site at [www.humaneeducation.org](http://www.humaneeducation.org).

## A HEARTfelt Thank You from a Middle School in Kentucky

"Empowering Urban Youth," a new 30 lesson mandatory school-wide humane education class facilitated by Samantha Gentrup at Two Rivers Middle School in Covington, Kentucky, is grateful for HEART's assistance.

Ms. Gentrup comments about HEART's consulting and website resources:

**"HEART has helped this humane education course get up and running by sharing lesson ideas, information related to humane topics, and providing suggestions on various supplemental resources. HEART not only promotes compassionate and humane living, they also practice it each and every day. From one educator to another, thank you HEART!"**

HEART's services rely on the generosity of individuals like you who are dedicated to humane living.

Your contribution can be mailed to: HEART P.O. Box 738 Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Or your donation can be made through our website-[www.teachhumane.org](http://www.teachhumane.org). All gifts are enormously appreciated! For more information, please contact: Meena Alagappan, executive director, at 212.744.2504 and via email at [meena@teachhumane.org](mailto:meena@teachhumane.org).

