Welcome to another edition of HEART Matters. If we could pick one theme that best describes our activity in 2011, it would be firing on all cylinders!

We have many new initiatives in every phase of our programming, including our in-school and after-school programs, summer camp, teacher training workshops and professional development courses. We have also been busy forming new collaborations and partnerships with other community-based organizations that will allow us to reach more students. Our geographic expansion is going strong, with Chicago showing impressive growth and Indianapolis in its startup phase.

There has been a much larger demand for our services than we are able to fill. HEART stands as one of the few organizations capable of providing comprehensive instructional and service-based learning programs aimed at fostering compassion and respect toward other people, animals and the environment. We believe humane education should be incorporated into the curricula of all schools, and HEART’s longer term goal is to provide leadership toward fulfilling that vision.

Please help us promote a more compassionate world by supporting our critical youth development programs!

Humanely yours,

Meena Alagappan, Esq. Brad Goldberg
Executive Director Chair

What Students are Saying

“What I liked most about the HEART program is that it teaches you how to stand up for what is right. I learned about animal abuse. It taught me how badly animals could be treated behind closed doors...My feelings have changed...Because of this program I have set my mind to help others who are in need and to give back to my community. I will take a stand for what’s right.” - Claudette (8th grader)

“Thank you for teaching my class about things that are happening in the world. My favorite sections were everything! I liked learning about global warming, endangered animals, bullying, and other things. When I grow up I want to be a president. So then I could make the world a better place.” - Mehki (4th grader)

“Something that is going to stay with me is that you should never buy animals from the pet shop, but from an animal shelter. I feel like I will try my best to take care of the earth even when I am only one person.” - Nicole (8th grader)
We have significantly expanded our experiential learning programs in various venues. HEART not only deepens students’ awareness of human rights, animal protection and environmental preservation issues, but also motivates and empowers students by making them understand the power of individual action and providing them with the tools to make a positive change in the world.

HEART Takes Teacher Training and Professional Development to a Whole New Level!

- **NYC Department of Education (DOE) P-Course** - In conjunction with the United Federation of Teachers’ Humane Education Committee, we offered a credit-bearing 36-hour humane education professional development course for schoolteachers through the DOE that qualified them toward a salary differential.

- **Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE) Conference and PetSmart Charities Webinars** - We presented a workshop covering a range of human, animal and environmental issues at the APHE conference in Fort Meyers, FL. APHE later co-sponsored two 90-minute HEART webinars through PetSmart Charities.

- **WNET Celebration of Teaching and Learning Conference** - Humane education made a debut at the WNET conference, which attracts over 10,000 educators nationwide. We conducted a 75-minute breakout session for teachers to guide them on how to implement humane education programming.

- **Santana Network Learning Conference** - We presented two workshops for schoolteachers and administrators through the NYC DOE on one of their staff development days at the Santana Network Learning Conference.

- **Annapolis High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Training** - We partnered with Annapolis High School, an IB school, in Baltimore to train 130 teachers to deliver 12 of our lesson plans. We demonstrated the connections between humane education and the IB’s mission of creating a more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

- **Los Angeles Trainings for American Bar Association (ABA) and Activists** - We expanded our public service project with the ABA to the Los Angeles area, where we conducted a day-long workshop, hosted by Compassion Over Killing, to train volunteer attorneys and law students to teach a 4-lesson humane education program to local 4th and 5th grade students. We also offered on a separate day a similar workshop for activists.

**Article in Independent Teacher Magazine**

HEART Curriculum Consultant, Tim Donahue, had his article “A Case for Humane Education” published in the Spring 2011 issue of Independent Teacher Magazine. We are excited to have reached a vast new audience of independent teachers through this feature-length piece underscoring the practical value of humane education.
As part of our continuing partnership with the Hunts Point Alliance for Children, HEART ran a summer camp in July for 17 rising 7th and 8th grade girls at St. Ignatius School in the Bronx. Conducting our own humane education camp really “raised the bar” as to what can be accomplished in the summer.

During the program, we covered a wide range of issues, including child labor, bullying, companion animal overpopulation, dog fighting, factory farming, endangered species and pollution. In addition to teaching compassion, an important goal of the camp was to improve literacy skills through a daily one hour reading and writing workshop utilizing humane literature. We also took the girls on wonderful field trips related to the content of our different units, including sites such as the Museum of Tolerance, City Growers one-acre rooftop farm, Animal Haven Adoption Center, and Rocking the Boat in Hunts Point. The students were provided with healthful lunches every day from the chef and high school apprentices at JVL Wildcat Academy Charter School and participated in a nutritional education workshop offered by the New York Coalition for Healthy School Food.

This pilot was so successful that we plan to offer an expanded humane education summer camp in 2012. The camp proved that enhancing academic skills and learning how to become more caring citizens of the community can be integrated in a fun and memorable summer experience!
New Partnership Highlights

HEART has been able to accomplish so much in the past year by partnering with various organizations.

- **Multifaceted Partnership with ASPCA**
  We are excited to announce that the ASPCA will be supporting and co-sponsoring several of HEART’s projects in 2012, including teacher training workshops, school-based programs, a humane education conference, and an expanded summer camp with the Hunts Point Alliance for Children. The ASPCA will also be providing support to our Chicago chapter and is helping to jumpstart our expansion to Indianapolis!

- **HEART Teaches Caring Kids Program at Animal Haven**
  As part of our continued collaboration with Animal Haven, HEART began teaching the Caring Kids After-School Program at Animal Haven during the 3rd annual New York Week for the Animals in October. We are introducing children of all ages to various welfare issues affecting companion, farm and wild animals.

- **Anti-Bullying Workshops with Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC**
  In honor of Martin Luther King Day and Respect for All Week, HEART continued to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters to conduct workshops for Bigs and Littles on preventing, recognizing and responding to bullying and to engage them in problem-solving surrounding this growing issue.

- **Curriculum Partnership with Unleashed**
  HEART has partnered with Unleashed, which is an after-school program for middle school girls focused on puppy rescue and adoption. We conducted orientation sessions at some schools where Unleashed is offering its program, teaching students about the issues of cruelty, overpopulation and puppy mills.

- **HEART Pilot Program in Galapagos with Darwin Animal Doctors (DAD)**
  We are partnering with DAD, the only free full-service professional veterinary clinic in the Galapagos Islands, to develop a humane education curriculum. We are so excited to be working with DAD to reach the Galapagos Islands and are currently developing a pilot program.

- **New Collaboration with Seraphim12 Foundation**
  HEART began a new partnership with Seraphim12 Foundation to develop curriculum and school programs related to horse protection and to coordinate student and teacher field trips to their Long Island horse farm. Seraphim12 is “dedicated to redefining the relationship between horse and human.”

New York City Invests in HEART

We are pleased to share that HEART has been awarded $26,500 for Fiscal Year 2012 from the following New York City Council Members to support implementation of our Humane Living Program in their districts: $8,000 from Maria del Carmen Arroyo (Bronx-17); $3,500 from Daniel Dromm (Queens-25); and $15,000 from Annabel Palma (Bronx-18).

NYS Humane Education Audit Bill Introduced

HEART encouraged NYS Assemblywoman Rosenthal to develop a humane education audit bill, which was introduced this spring. This legislation, A. 1664, amends the humane education law by requiring the auditing of state schools to determine compliance with the mandate. Many school districts are not meeting existing humane education requirements so a State Education Department audit would be an efficient way of assessing compliance and determining if action is needed.

**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 or via email at meena@teachhumane.org.