Making our Mark on Humane Education

Message from HEART’s Executive Director and Chair

We are very pleased to present another edition of HEART Matters. Whether you are a longtime supporter or new to the HEART story, we hope you will get a feel for some of our recent activities and growth initiatives aimed at developing more compassionate youth.

We can only offer a snippet of our work in this letter, but please know we are working tirelessly to expand our programs and reach as many kids as possible. We are grateful to our skilled staff of instructors, volunteers, partner organizations and our supporters— all of you are helping us to open the hearts and minds of the next generation to critical human rights, animal protection and environmental preservation issues. HEART is one of the only organizations providing these vital services to our youth and with your help we can expand our reach and bring humane education into the mainstream where it has belonged all along.

Humanely yours,

Meena Alagappan, Executive Director

Brad Goldberg, Chair

Cultivating Empathy & Inspiring Change Makers

HEART now has over 140 lessons for K-12, teaching youth about important issues concerning human rights, animal protection and environmental ethics. An important component of our program is to show students how they can be agents for positive change.

OUR MISSION

To foster compassion and respect toward other people, animals and the environment by educating youth and teachers in humane education.
Program News

Optimistic Stars

HEART is so happy to have a talented young song writer and singer, Ali Isabella, supporting HEART’s mission. Inspired by her love of animals and the environment, Ali wrote a new song called Optimistic Stars and performed it for a group of our students at the Mamaroneck Avenue Humane Leadership Club. We can’t wait for “Optimistic Stars” to be released so it can inspire students all over the world.

Humane Spots Air on Detroit Public Television

We partnered with Detroit Public Television (DPTV) and the Humane Society of Huron Valley to conduct a Humane Education Multi-Media Campaign, beginning with the creation of four vignettes to help promote the humane treatment of animals to elementary school aged children. We are pleased to share that the spots have already started airing on DPTV Channel 56, reaching 1.5 million US, and 1.2 million Canadian, viewers with our humane education messages! To see the campaign please go to:
www.dptv.org/behumane/

HEART Expands NY Program to Long Island

HEART has been collaborating with Seraphim 12 Foundation, a Long Island non-profit, to develop curriculum focused on horse protection and the horse/human bond. This summer both HEART and Seraphim initiated summer programs at the Henry Kaufmann Campgrounds for kids attending various summer camps at the Campgrounds. We also offered a day-long workshop hosted by PAWS on Long Island, training activists and volunteers to teach HEART lessons in local elementary schools. In addition, we are now teaching 3rd grade classes at Saddle Rock Elementary School in Great Neck, NY. We look forward to significant expansion on Long Island in the months ahead.

Broadening Our Reach Through Teacher Training

HEART continues to reach countless teachers, future educators, and activists through our teacher training and professional development programs. Here are three examples of recent engagements:

NYC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION P-COURSE
In conjunction with the United Federation of Teachers’ Humane Education Committee and the ASPCA, we offered a 36 hour credit-bearing humane education professional development course, with the rigor of a graduate level course, for schoolteachers through the NYC Department of Education.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ABA) PROJECT
We expanded our public service project with the ABA to the Miami, FL and Portland, OR areas in collaboration with the U. of Miami Law School and its student Animal Legal Defense Fund and Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland. We trained volunteer attorneys and law students to offer our lessons to local elementary students.

ACTIVIST TRAININGS
HEART offered day-long workshops for animal activists and concerned citizens, hosted by the Mayor’s Alliance for NYC’s Animals and PAWS (Pioneers for Animal Welfare Society), in the NYC and Long Island areas to train them to teach humane education to elementary school students.

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HEART’s Students Have Heart.

HEART conducted a 20-week elective on Human Rights at Salk School of Science where students raised over $10,000 for the Andrew Grene Foundation, supporting the people of Haiti through education, loans and building projects.

Humane Living Summer Camp 2012

After 2011’s successful pilot, HEART and the Hunts Point Alliance for Children (HPAC) teamed up again to run a much expanded summer camp this July. We trained the staff at St. Ignatius School in the Bronx to teach a two week humane education program to 45 of their rising 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls. In addition, HEART and HPAC were able to invite over 20 local students from the Hunts Point community, ranging from 4th to 7th graders, to participate in the completely free of charge 5-day a week month-long summer camp.

The campers learned about a variety of humane education issues, including child labor, bullying, companion animal overpopulation, dogfighting, factory farming, habitat destruction, animal testing, endangered species and pollution. We complemented these lessons with a number of outstanding field trips, visiting the Museum of Tolerance, Ellis Island, Animal Haven Adoption Center, Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary, 64th Street Community Garden and the local Rocking the Boat. The camp was enhanced even more by engaging visits from New York Coalition for Healthy School Food and A Fair Shake, daily healthful lunches prepared by the chef and high school apprentices at Wildcat Academy Charter School, and the assistance of enthusiastic junior counselors and volunteers.

Witnessing the personal and academic growth achieved over the program, and seeing campers become more caring citizens in their communities, reinforces just how powerful and fun humane education can be!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

HEART now has a volunteer program in NYC. We have met so many dedicated individuals who are willing to donate their time and talent, and we are lucky to have them involved. Gail Frydkowski is one of our first volunteers in NYC and here is what she had to say…

As I joined the NYC United Federation of Teachers’ Humane Education Committee, I came to know about HEART and was a participant in their workshop presentations for teachers. I was so impressed; I invited them to my school. It was a hit with my kids to learn about environmental and social issues.

I have been volunteering with HEART in the Caring Kids after school program they teach at Animal Haven. I have tried never to miss a class and when I did, one of our caring kids reminded me that I had been absent! That’s when I truly felt part of this. HEART has embraced any thoughts or ideas I bring to the table. I have made the commitment to be there every week and do what I can to bring the message of compassion and empathy to the kids. Working with HEART has taught me so many ways in which to bring the message across and for that I am grateful. They should be in every class, every day, everywhere!
News Headlines for Our Expansion Cities

HEART Chicago is firing on all cylinders with our staff being supported by a group of 25 volunteers and an active advisory board. HEART Chicago continues to expand the list of partnering organizations, including a new collaboration with Northwestern University’s Students for Ecological and Environmental Development (SEED), which we hope will result in SEED volunteers helping HEART instructors in our student programs.

HEART Indianapolis has signed an affiliate agreement with the Peace Learning Center of Indianapolis (PLC), enabling both organizations to utilize each other’s curricula. PLC has programs in Indianapolis schools aimed at “hands-on learning to inspire the peacemaker within.” We hope HEART’s lessons will reach many Indianapolis students through this partnership.

HEART Portland was established in July of this year and is being headed by humane educator Dani Dennenberg. Dani is currently in Woodlawn Elementary school with our initial student programs and she is reaching out to establish partnerships with other organizations as well as develop a volunteer base. We are excited by this HEART expansion to the West Coast and we are very pleased with the enthusiastic welcome from the Portland community.

Meet Chris, Our New NY Instructor

We are delighted to welcome Chris Parrucci to our New York instructional staff. Chris previously directed the New York office of the Humane League, a non-profit focusing on farm animal protection. Chris has split his professional career between his two passions: education and law. He graduated from New York University with a B.S. in Social Studies Education and from Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University. Chris has hit the ground running with HEART, working on several special projects and teaching at our Have a Heart Camp as well as schools in NYC and Long Island.

Featured Partner ASPCA

We are grateful to all of our partners who have enabled HEART to reach and service a broader population. The support from the ASPCA, for example, in the past year has enabled HEART to offer a 36 hour professional development course to NYC schoolteachers, conduct two training workshops in Miami and Portland Oregon for attorneys to teach our lessons, offer two training workshops for animal activists, deliver various in-school and after-school programs in NYC, Chicago, and Indianapolis, conduct our very own summer camps in NYC and Chicago, and so much more!

New York City Invests in HEART

We are pleased to share that HEART has been awarded $18,500 for Fiscal Year 2013 from New York City Council Members Daniel Dromm and Annabel Palma to support implementation of our Humane Living Program in their districts in Queens and the Bronx.

“You have awoken me and the rest of the class, and have inspired us to be active and start making positive changes to make the world a better place.” Keysi, 6th grader

“I liked learning about global warming, endangered animals, bullying, and other things. When I grow up I want to be president. So then I could make the world a better place.” Mehki, 4th grader

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. 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.