Resource Guide Release

HEART is proud to announce that teachers can now use HEART’s curriculum in their own classrooms! We just released our hot-off-the-presses humane resource guide, created in collaboration with the ASPCA and IFAW. Designed to be used by educators as well as concerned citizens and youth leaders, this 160 page guide contains a total of 40 age-appropriate lessons and activities for grades K-12 that cover issues like companion animal overpopulation, urban wildlife, endangered species, animal emotions, factory farming and animal testing. The guide is available on our website to download at no charge and is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Using this guide, all teachers can bring humane education into their classrooms to build empathy and compassion, and inspire their students to make the world a kinder place.

Summer Camps in NYC, Chicago, Indianapolis and Portland, OR

This past summer, HEART held summer programs in four states, educating kids about important world issues to empower them to create a better world. In New York City, HEART held its fourth annual Have a HEART camp in the Bronx. The kids visited Animal Haven, volunteered at Catskill Animal Sanctuary, visited a children’s museum, and picked up litter at Pelham Bay Park. In Chicago, campers created birdfeeders as they learned about urban wildlife, made eco-cleaners and recycled art. In Indianapolis at the Climate Change camp, kids learned all about climate change and its impact on people, animals and the planet, and presented on ways we can reduce our carbon emissions for everyone’s future. In Portland, HEART helped guide teens as they grappled with world issues and created projects offering humane solutions.
Program News

New HEART Certificate Program

In 2015 we will be starting a Certified HEART Instructor Program to expand our geographic reach and tap into talent across the country. HEART certified instructors will go through a rigorous training process to earn their certification. Stay tuned for details!

New York Supports HEART

We are pleased to share that for Fiscal Year 2015 HEART has been awarded $25,500 from NYC Council Members Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Daniel Dromm, and Annabel Palma, and $6,500 from NYS Assembly Members Brian Kavanagh and Linda Rosenthal, to support implementation of our program in their districts in the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan.

“HEART has made a world of difference to my students. They have learned about critical issues affecting human rights, animal rights, and the environment. HEART instructors ignite a passion in students and guide groups in creating service learning projects that allow students to positively make a difference in their school, their communities, and our world.”

- Bradley Balof
Middle School Language Arts Teacher

Animal Ambassadors Program Launch

In the spring HEART launched a new “Caring Kids: Animal Ambassadors” program at Animal Haven Shelter. Designed for 5-8 year olds, this program fills a void for young children by offering service learning opportunities for them to help animals. The Ambassadors created an adoption video and designed posters and signs about adoptable animals at Animal Haven, visited Catskill Animal Sanctuary, and made nesting boxes for Wild Bird Fund to care for injured wildlife. At the end of each series, students earned badges as companion animal, wild animal or farm animal ambassadors. As Gideon, one of our animal ambassadors, said when asked if he would recommend the program to other kids: “Don’t even think about it, just go right ahead! It’s the best place you could ever want to go.”

Top right: Learning how pollution impacts animals
Bottom right: Animal Ambassadors visit Catskill Animal Sanctuary
HEART Welcomes Our New Director of Development and Communications

This June we welcomed Robbianne Mackin as Director of Development and Communications. She has worked at the highest levels of fundraising in education, and in the environmental arena at The Nature Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Society where she directed the Global Conservation Fundraising program. Robbianne holds a B.A. from Rollins College in Environmental Studies and English, and an M.F.R. from Penn State’s School of Forest Resources. “I am honored to be part of an organization with such a deeply talented staff, working towards a common goal to offer teachers and students an opportunity to understand their world and themselves in a far more powerful way. Empowering youth and teachers with humane education knowledge is a great gift.”

10 Pins for 10,000 Kids Celebration in Chicago

On September 21st, Fox 32 Good Day Chicago anchors Jon Kelley, Melody Mendez, Natalie Bomke and Jake Hamilton joined HEART at Timber Lanes Bowling Alley for a family-friendly event to celebrate a major milestone – HEART Chicago reaching and teaching their 10,000th Chicago youth. Over $12,000 was raised through generous donations, sponsorships, ticket sales, silent auction bids and merchandise to support HEART’s programs, helping us to bring humane education to even more students.

HEART Welcomes Our New Portland Program Coordinator

Claire Howe has taken over as the program coordinator of our Portland, Oregon office. Claire came to us with a background in teaching, law, advocacy and adult education. “I am beyond thrilled to be HEART’s new Portland Program Coordinator. While completing an Animal Law LL.M. at Lewis and Clark, I had the good fortune of becoming involved with HEART on a pro bono basis, and it didn’t take long for me to realize the absolutely vital nature of humane education. Portland, considered by many to be a mecca for eco-friendly, sustainable, and conscientious living, is the perfect location in which to establish a regional model as we move forward and work to expand our reach. There can be no doubt that, both in policy and in practice, an on-going education in environmental ethics, animal protection, and human rights promises us a kinder and more compassionate world, and I look forward to a great and successful year with HEART in Portland!”

Indianapolis

Our “Be the Change” interactive workshop at The Peace Learning Center has been growing! Visitors have been enjoying a few of our new exhibits. We now have a battery hen cage on display to allow visitors a first-hand look at how egg-laying hens spend their lives, a beautiful story told to us by Arun Gandhi about the profound learning that can come from something as simple as a pencil, a display of “How much is a pound of CO₂”, and some fascinating insights into the hidden environmental consequences behind our food choices. At the “Be the Change” workshop visitors can think through the impacts of their everyday choices on humans, animals and the environment.
Study Shows HEART Program Leads to More Prosocial Behaviors

An independent assessment of HEART’s programs was performed this year. Results confirmed that humane education knowledge increased for students over the course of the HEART program. Additionally, teacher responses on student behaviors after the HEART program were statistically conclusive that HEART students were more pro-social than those in the control groups. The assessment shows that students who participate in HEART’s programs learn not only about humane education issues, but even more, their behavior is positively affected by this program in how they treat themselves, other people and animals, and how they perceive their role in the world around them.

Teacher Training

HEART reached numerous educators through various teacher training programs, including:

- Co-sponsoring a 36 hour credit-bearing humane education professional development course for schoolteachers through the NYC Department of Education.
- Expanding our public service project with the American Bar Association to Chapel Hill, NC where we trained volunteer attorneys and law students to teach our lessons to local elementary students.
- Teaming up with Rescue Paw Foundation and creating a customized curriculum for elementary school teachers in Lawrence County, one of the poorest counties in Alabama.
- Conducting professional development workshops for NYC teachers at the Chancellor’s Day Conference, showing them how to incorporate humane education in their curricula.

Nassau County District Attorney Humane Education Project

HEART forged an exciting partnership with the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office, making humane education one of their new community programs. We trained several senior Assistant District Attorneys to conduct hour-long humane education assemblies at elementary schools. We look forward to the county-wide implementation of this program and rolling it out to other D.A.’s offices as well!

HEART’s services rely on the generosity of individuals like you who are dedicated to humane education programming!

Please make your contribution online at teachhumane.org/heart/donate, or mail your donation to HEART, P.O. Box 738, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. For more information on Giving to HEART, contact Robbianne Mackin, Director of Development & Communications, at robbianne@teachhumane.org, 917.226.7595. For more information on HEART’s Programs, contact Meena Alagappan, Executive Director, meena@teachhumane.org, 212.744.2504.