

Lately, with the highly-visible local and national observances of the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, I believe we should add "City of Resiliency" to the list of New Orleans' nicknames. In fact, I have been thinking a lot about **the LEH's resiliency** as of late—particularly how our many supporters (old and new) have stepped up to help us face so many obstacles, including a greater than 50-percent reduction in State of Louisiana support over the past two years. To all of our supporters I want to express my deepest gratitude. Finally, I am delighted to once again recognize below some of our recent major donors (and also to share a brief story of investment and impact).

—**Jeff A. Hale, Ph.D.**
Director of Institutional Advancement

PRIME TIME Teacher Institute funded by The Community Foundation

The LEH is pleased to announce that it has received a \$38,629 gift from The Community Foundation (of Shreveport-Bossier) to fund a PRIME TIME Teacher Institute for Advanced Study to serve teachers in schools throughout the greater Shreveport-Bossier region. The gift is The Community Foundation's fourth grant for LEH programming associated with the PRIME TIME Family Reading Time program. The LEH master trainer for the teacher institute is Prof. Helen Taylor, Ph.D. of LSU in Shreveport.



Corporations support PRIME TIME across Louisiana

The LEH's award-winning family literacy program PRIME TIME Family Reading Time will be very active across Louisiana this fall and next spring, thanks in part to the philanthropic support of several education-minded corporate partners:

- **Capital One Bank** has again stepped up to support PRIME TIME in Assumption and Lafourche parishes. This is the Bank's third gift this fiscal year, and we are very grateful to Steve Hemperley, Lisa Irons, Ricky Ortte, Renate Dehart, Robert Naquin, and Megan King for their support of family literacy across Louisiana.
- We welcome **Boh Brothers Construction** as a supporter of PRIME TIME across Greater New Orleans. Many thanks to Robert S. Boh, President, for supporting one of the geographic regions of greatest unmet need.
- We are deeply grateful to **Zapp's Potato Chips'** President Rod Olson for recently expanding the company's cash support for two parishes: St. John the Baptist and St. James.
- Our newest local supporter is **IBERIABANK**, which is also funding PRIME TIME in Orleans Parish. Thank in particular to Karl Hoefer, IBERIABANK's President of the New Orleans Market, as well as Cleland Powell, Executive Vice President and Senior Commercial Manager.



Investment and Transformative Impact: A Case Study GNOF's support for the PRIME TIME Longitudinal Study

I was recently reminded of just how great an impact a philanthropic gift can have. Last fall, in a meeting with **Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF)** President & CEO Dr. Albert Ruesga, the LEH requested and was approved for a \$17,500 gift to fund a longitudinal study of the PRIME TIME Family Reading Time program. Although each individual PRIME TIME program—some 1,000 since 1991—has deployed meticulous evaluation and assessment, a longitudinal study assessing student academic performance over a number of years had not been attempted.

The LEH hired nationally-known education and evaluation specialist Dr. James E. Barr (Nicholls State University) to conduct the study. An enormous data stream was assessed regarding former PRIME TIME students as they progressed from elementary through high school. After comparing these data with a control group of non-PRIME TIME graduates, what Dr. Barr found was nothing short of amazing. The study's preliminary results include:

LEAP Results: 4th Grade

Fourth-grade students who completed PRIME TIME outperformed their peers on *all* (26 out of 26) areas of the LEAP test, including the core subject areas of language arts, reading, science, mathematics, and social studies.

LEAP Results: 8th Grade

Eighth-grade students who completed PRIME TIME tracked 4-6 years after completing the program, outperformed their peers on *all* (26 out of 26) areas of the LEAP test.

iLEAP Result Samples

Third-grade students who completed PRIME TIME outperformed their peers by as much as 25 percent or better in several content areas of this test.

Minority and At-Risk Student Impact

The increase in standardized test score performance was particularly pronounced among minority (African-American) students, as well as students in free and reduced lunch programs.

This data demonstrates with quantifiable evidence that the PRIME TIME humanities-based approach to engaging elementary school students and their parents/guardians has a positive and significant impact on future, overall student achievement.

There is a word for gifts of this nature: "transformative." How transformative? This will be revealed over the next few months, as the detailed, final study results are assessed and the LEH continues to work these results into its short-term and long-term strategic planning. Stay tuned.

The LEH thanks Albert Ruesga and GNOF for their truly visionary support.



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