



Do Your P'Art  
Foundation

*Making the world a better  
place through art.*

DoYourPartFoundation.org

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## Fall 2010 Newsletter



### Building a Bridge of Cultural Understanding through Art

We are excited to announce the new curriculum for the 2010/2011 school year. In the spirit of building a bridge of cultural understanding through art, our theme is **Walking a Mile in Your Shoes**. The project will focus on many of the central themes of Do Your P'Art such as understanding, collaboration and learning. What better way to build understanding than walking a mile in someone else's shoes?

Classrooms located in different areas of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs will be paired together to explore the theme and collaborate on a project. Each

collaboration is provided with materials, supplies, transportation to and from partner schools, as well as artist-in-residence and industry professionals to enhance the students' exploration of their projects in the arts. To initiate the collaboration, the visiting students will take a walking tour of the other school's neighborhood.

Through a series of activities involving shoes, the students will learn about each other and their neighborhoods. After discussing similarities and differences, the students will work together to design their projects. The project is creating shoe sculptures in one of four themes: Robot Shoes, Superhero Shoes, Messenger Shoes, and Old Book Shoes. To continue our environmental theme, this will be a green project using recycled materials.



We are looking forward to a year of successful collaborations and walking a mile in each other's shoes.



## 2009-2010 Art in Box Collaboration



**"It's important that kids know that everywhere is not like Winnetka."**

- 5<sup>th</sup> grader, Skokie School

**"The best place we went to is this trip to Skokie School and the Wendella Boat Ride. Both were the coolest of all in this grade. Thanks a lot Do Your P'Art people!"**

- 4<sup>th</sup> grader, Hanson Park



**"It was an amazing experience. Very eye opening for all of us involved."**

- Caroline Folkl,  
Meadowbrook



**"Both classes got to meet a new set of peers and experience different schools and teachers. It gave everyone a broader perspective."**

- Kate Anderson, Teacher, Baker Demonstration



**"You get to learn about other people, see that we are pretty similar."**

- 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Sears School



## “Art in a Box” a Huge Success

The exhibition of collaborative art projects by area schoolchildren was celebrated with a party on April 30, 2010. Displayed in a creative installation developed by Illinois Institute of Technology architecture students, the environmentally friendly works were shown to the public at the Sun-Times Building lobby for a full month from mid-April through mid-May.

Parents, teachers and supporters came out to celebrate the completion of another successful season. Music from Jones College Prep’s WeJAM Vocal Jazz Ensemble was enjoyed along with a video of the students discussing their works. President of Merchandise Mart Properties Inc. and a resident of Kenilworth, Christopher Kennedy, donated the exhibition space and attended the soiree. Anna Davlantes of FOX Chicago News was the keynote speaker.



This Environment was this year’s theme which encouraged the children to use recyclable materials in their collaborative efforts. Each of the 400 projects was housed in a Xerox paper box display, thus named “Art in a Box”.

Nearly 900 students from 34 classrooms across Chicagoland met over the spring to create art projects with the help of the Do Your P’Art Foundation. The charity pays for field trips and organizes schools to partner together to foster the kids’ understanding of different social backgrounds.



### Anna Davlantes Speaks at Benefit

Taking time from her news reporting and anchoring duties at Fox Chicago News, anchor Anna Davlantes gave a speech at the Do Your P’Art Foundation benefit on April 30, 2010.

Speaking on the importance of diversity in Chicago area schools, Ms. Davlantes spoke to the crowd hailing the Foundation’s efforts. She felt the group is providing an important role in art education. She noted the budget cuts in schools across the area and how Do Your P’Art has stepped in with lesson plans and the required materials for the program. Field trips to the art collaborations with schools from other socioeconomic communities are also provided by the charity.



# Message from the President

## Our Past President

*"Hi Sally,*

*I'm looking for something more meaningful to do with my time off. Wondering if you are connected with any volunteer organizations or know of anyone who is.*

*Thanks! Cindy"*

I received this email from Cindy Chippindale 3 days after my father died, this year on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January. The previous fall I was assigned to take charge of the Do Your P'Art benefit, scheduled to take place in May. Due to my procrastination, the only progress for the benefit made by this date was managed to recruit a group of volunteers. At this point, I was completely overwhelmed and bewildered, and, somewhat paralyzed! Call it what you will, but I call her email a total gift!

Cindy was someone I met through ice hockey. She had no prior knowledge of Do Your P'Art. I wrote her back immediately: "Look no further!"

Long story short, **change is good!** After running a successful benefit, everyone on the board hoped she would agree to be the next President. Cindy's skill set is vital to meet the demands of a growing board and network of schools. After some consideration, she accepted the position.

Do Your P'Art is vibrant. Top notch teachers love our program. We matter. To continue providing programs which impact kids, we welcome Cindy!

Thank you so much for your continued support! You help us help others help themselves.

I will always be there to support in any way the board sees fit, in a behind the scenes type fashion.

Please welcome Cindy and thanks again!

Sally Schneiders

## Our New President

It is a great honor to follow Sally Schneiders as president of Do Your P'Art. Sally's passion for art and enriching the lives of students has driven Do Your P'Art from a small, single pairing to an organization responsible for bringing over 800 students together each year. I am excited to have the opportunity to learn from Sally, and to lead this organization through the next phase of the journey.

As we continue to grow the Do Your P'Art program, we are also looking to evolve it as well. This year's project, "Walk a Mile in Your Shoes", by definition, will provide a tight focus on our mission,

'Building a bridge of cultural understanding through Art'.

You may note that the wording of our mission has been modified, but the meaning remains unchanged. We continue to be dedicated to bringing diverse classrooms of students together to collaborate on unique art projects while exploring their similarities and differences.

We are in the process of defining goals and objectives to drive the organization forward, and make our programs available to more classrooms in the Chicagoland area.

We're also evaluating the impact of our collaborations and projects and looking for ways to improve.

Three teachers, **Andy Lubetkin, Pam Nicandro and Maia Wheeler** have recently joined our board and are providing valuable insight.

We are all very excited about our plans for the future and hope you are too.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

Cindy Chippindale

## Help Us Do Our P'Art

It's a new school year and time to start a new project for Do Your P'Art. With your support, last year we took nearly 900 students from 22 schools across Chicagoland on educational Wendella Boat rides and field trips to visit other schools. The children worked on environmental art collaborations called "Art In A Box".

This year's "Walk a Mile in Your Shoes" project will provide an opportunity for a new group of students to learn how similar they really are to those from culturally and economically different backgrounds.

The teachers are preparing for the collaborations and the students are getting excited.

"Right now, this year, the excitement in the air about the upcoming collaboration is something that would be priceless if it could be bottled!"

says Caroline Folkl. She has the unique experience of being both a parent and teacher's aide at Meadowbrook Elementary School in Northbrook and has been involved in the program for the last three years. Caroline explained,

"The kids in our class have now been working on their pen pal letters. It has been an amazing experience for them. To watch them come together, work on a project, forget their worlds for a minute, build something together with someone they have really only met in writing, is something they will remember forever."

"To be proud of something that you have accomplished, building their self-esteem, and a friendship is something that will impact them forever."

"The feeling of pride, accomplishment, and joy of working together is something the kids will take with them and hopefully carry for a lifetime. It starts them out at an early age knowing that they can come together, collaborate with different worlds and accomplish great things! What an amazing thing to be a P'Art of!" says Caroline.

Do Your P'Art was started in 1996 by a suburban mom wanting her kids to know that there is more to life than their neighborhood. Since that time, the Do Your P'Art Foundation has been dedicated to bringing children of different backgrounds together to foster an understanding of those who, on first impression, may appear quite different from themselves.

We are working hard to enhance our program to make a bigger impact on the students involved and to increase the number of classrooms and schools we service. We are shooting for 10% growth over the next 3 years. In coming years, we are also looking to extend our program into a new geographic area within Chicagoland.

**Do Your P'Art** relies on the generous support of people like you to continue impacting the lives of more and more children. Please consider sponsoring a specific partnership or just support the program as a whole. As a certified 501 C 3, your donation will be tax deductible. Increase the value of your gift by contacting your employer for their Matching Gift program, if applicable.

\$2,500 Sponsor an entire collaboration

\$500 Provide art supplies and materials for a collaboration

\$200 Sponsor the transportation for a field trip

\$100 Help sponsor lunch for the collaborations



**Thank you for your support!**

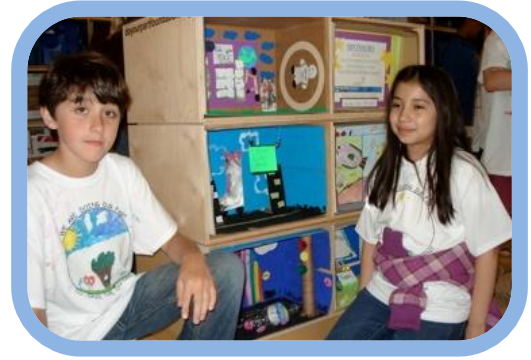


## The Do Your P'Art Foundation is on Facebook!

With this exciting jump into social media, we are hoping to build creative relationships between our teachers, current and past students, our volunteers, and the Do Your P'Art team. So become a fan and share your own updates, images, videos, and stories with the Facebook community. Also visit us on the web at [doyourpartfoundation.org](http://doyourpartfoundation.org).

### Going Green

Over the last few years the Do Your P'Art Foundation's schools have been working on projects that involve ways to preserve the environment; this time it's *our* turn. Help us in our quest to "go green" by submitting your email address to us at [doyourpart96@gmail.com](mailto:doyourpart96@gmail.com); in turn you will receive emailed updates on DYP happenings.



### Know of any teachers interested in "doing their P'Art"?

We are always looking to expand the Do Your P'Art Foundation collaborations to new schools around the Chicagoland area. If you know of a school or a teacher that would like to participate in the 2010/2011 Do Your P'Art collaborations, feel free to shoot us an email at [doyourpart96@gmail.com](mailto:doyourpart96@gmail.com). Be sure to include a name and contact information so we can reach out to your suggestions!

## Do Your P'Art School Participants 2009-2010



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Baker Demonstration School                 | Peabody Elementary School               |
| Joseph Sears School                        | Hinton School                           |
| Chicago Lab                                | Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy |
| Liberty Elementary                         | John J. Pershing West Magnet            |
| Columbia Explorers                         | Sacred Heart School                     |
| Meadowbrook Elementary School              | John Middleton Elementary School        |
| Easter Seals Autism Therapeutic Day School | The Skokie School                       |
| Niles North                                | Johnson School of Excellence            |
| Gary Sanborn                               | Stuart Paddock                          |
| Pasteur Elementary                         | Jones College Prep                      |
| Hanson Park Elementary School              | Walt Disney Magnet School               |



# 2009 Gift Report

Below is a list of our sponsors from January 1, 2009 through October 14, 2010. In the event of an error in the above information, please contact DYP at DoYourPart96@gmail.com to allow us to make the necessary correction.

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## Thank you for your Generous Donations!



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Andy Lubetkin

Pamela Nicandro

Katie Porter

Jae Sherman

Paige Sims

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### **Program Director**

Mary Serbe, MAT

### **Special Thank You To:**

- Susie Fogel, Lea Lazarus and Sally Schneiders for all their hard work. We could not have done this without their great support.
- Frank Flury and IIT
- Chris Kennedy and The Merchandise Mart
- Solberg Manufacturing, Inc.
- All of the incredible volunteers
- All of our generous supporters

Thanks for all your support and hard work. With your help we can continue **Building Bridges of Cultural Understanding through Art.**



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