

2016-17 Annual Report

Posted By *Jonathan Webb* On July 2, 2018 @ 10:13 pm In | [Comments Disabled](#)

From the Director

And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country....

The words spoken by John F. Kennedy in 1961 during his inaugural address were the inspiration that moved Elise Schweich (Leesy) to found Springboard to Learning in 1965. Leesy viewed the message as a personal call to action and she responded. Over the course of the last year many were moved to action. It was the privilege of our Board of Directors, volunteers and staff to carry on the work Leesy began—answering the call, as she did—and making an everyday difference in the lives of the children we serve.

Highlights include:

–The IdeaBuilder program was Springboard to Learning’s most frequently-placed program. This STEAM-based program challenged students to identify a real-world problem and then build a 3-D prototype solution using rudimentary objects like cardboard, paper clips and pipe cleaners. Springboard to Learning received the Focus St. Louis “What’s Right with the Region Award” in the category of Improving Racial Equity and Social Justice in response to the IdeaBuilder program work with African American females, who make up less than one percent of the STEM workforce. With support from the Boeing Corporation, Emerson, Arts and Education Council and the Regional Arts Council, Springboard delivered IdeaBuilder programming to more than 1,200 students, mostly in under-resourced schools.

-Springboard to Learning embarked on programming targeting pre-k and kindergarten students this past year, becoming the first-ever and only Missouri affiliate of Wolf Trap Early Learning through the Arts. Springboard to Learning teaching artists—professional performing artists specially trained in the Wolf Trap model—are now partnering with early childhood educators in the classroom to provide developmentally appropriate, arts-integrated learning strategies within the framework of the early childhood curriculum.

With the support of PNC Grow Up Great and the University of Missouri St. Louis Springboard to Learning provided programming to 154 students at five schools.

-Connecting Community through the Arts, a program done in partnership with The Repertory Theatre and Webster Arts, engaged the whole community—resident adults, middle school-aged youth, local artists, arts and cultural organizations— in enabling students to collect and write the oral histories and reflections from the Meacham Park community. This program not only documented, but also celebrated, the vibrant, living history of the Meacham Park area of Kirkwood, Missouri.

Transcribed interviews were turned into a book, performing and visual art and a documentary. Springboard to Learning and the program were highlighted when the documentary aired on the Nine Network during the month of May.

Some 50 years later, the Kennedy call to action is still applicable and great, life-changing work still requires answering the call. Thank you to everyone who did so in the past year, our donors, sponsors, volunteers, community partners, board and staff.

Belief ~ Mission ~ Vision

Belief Statement

Springboard to Learning believes that meaningful, memorable learning experiences transform a child's worldview.

Mission Statement

Springboard to Learning develops children's abilities to think critically, create, collaborate and communicate.

Vision Statement

Springboard to Learning envisions a future where all children are passionate, engaged learners who experience success.

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GREATER ST. LOUIS
WOLF TRAP

INSTITUTE FOR
EARLY LEARNING
THROUGH THE ARTS

Springboard to Learning is proud to announce it is the newest affiliate of the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts. This internationally respected program of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, provides innovative arts-integrated teaching strategies embedded in a 16-session residency to early childhood educators, caregivers, and young children through the disciplines of drama, music, and dance.

Teaching Artist Feature

Alicia "Sunshine" Gbaho

Springboard to Learning is excited to highlight teaching artist superstar, Alicia "Sunshine" Gbaho. Since 1996, Alicia has taught residencies for students from kindergarten to middle school through her work with Springboard to Learning. Her residencies, "All That Dance" and "Hip-Hop Dance" are among the top-reviewed dance residencies offered by Springboard. Her performance, "Africa to America," which details the influence of African culture on America over the past century, was the top-requested Springboard to Learning performance in 2017-18.

Alicia began her dance studies in high school at the Katherine Dunham Center in East St. Louis, Illinois. She furthered her dance studies at Illinois State University with specialties in Modern, Jazz,



Swing, West African and Hip Hop. The list of Alicia's credits are extensive and include NOIR Dance Ensemble, ISU Dance Theater, Lupe Fiasco, The Slaughter Project, Afriky Lolo and JPEK Creative Works. Alicia also created the Beyond Measure Dance Theater dance company. Through her dance company and in her programming Alicia communicates to all students the importance of dance in their lives, that everyone has the ability to dance, and that it is fun!

In addition to her programming, Alicia has been an invaluable member of the Springboard to Learning team in other ways, including serving as a 2017 coach in the organization's first-ever Lip Sync Battle- St. Louis, the

gala benefiting Springboard to Learning.

Steve Sandbothe, Senior Program Director at Springboard to Learning says, "The way Alicia Gbaho connects with kids is truly amazing. She has an instant rapport with all ages. Once she starts her work, it's really fun to watch the kids come alive through dance. The rapport she builds with students has them looking forward to each session with 'Miss Sunshine.' Classroom teachers look forward to a high-energy program that engages each student. She is truly one of a kind and we love that she's a part of our team."

Below are some recent comments from teachers and program evaluators about the type of talent Alicia brings to the classroom.

- "She did a wonderful job tying in our school's character traits of joy and respect to their program."
- "We enjoyed learning about culture and history through dance and

music. Our students were engaged and excited for this performance.”

- “The audience participation was an added bonus to the program. It was neat to see students practice their new dance moves throughout the day.”
- “I watched one of our more severe special education students jump right in and dance along with the performers; it was a great moment to watch!”
- “The students were extremely engaged throughout the program. The performers were professional and engaging throughout. I loved how the performers brought the students into the program by having them dance as well.”



Alicia is currently bringing her love of dance into multiple SLPS summer school dance residencies.

Signature Program: Visualizing Mathematics

Many students struggle to connect with mathematics. Visualizing Mathematics teaches core math curriculum through the lens of visual art, giving students the confidence to learn and absorb more math content. Working individually and in groups, students explore color theory, discovering new ways to look at math. The program culminates in a work of public art that’s installed in their school. Having students invest in their school in this way gives them ownership of the space and a deeper connection to each other. This program supports math curriculum through its focus on ratios, perimeter calculations, fractions, measurements, and shape identification supporting standards, concepts, and procedures linked to state testing.

According to the fifth-grade math teacher at Mason Elementary, “The students gained new knowledge of colors and the color wheel. The math component complemented the math skills that the class had previously learned. The students were very excited to explore fractions and art. They are proud of the installation piece that hangs in the room and this residency was a positive experience for all.” The math teacher at Mann Elementary said she appreciated how the program was customizable for each student and that each one could

work at his or her own pace. Third graders at McNair Elementary got a fun and memorable jump on fractions before it was assessed on the state standardized test. In keeping with Springboard to Learning's mission, these residencies incorporated supplemental curricular rigor, while leaving students with meaningful, memorable learning experiences.

Where We Served in 2016-2017

Alton School District (IL)
Andrews Academy – Lake St. Louis
Beyond Housing
Bowling Green School District
Brentwood School District
Cahokia Unit School District (IL)
Chesterfield Day School
City Academy
Clayton Early Childhood Center
Clayton School District
English Tutoring Project
Ferguson-Florissant School District
Francis Howell School District
Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri
Grace Chapel Lutheran School
Hancock Place School District
Hawthorn Leadership Academy
Hazelwood School District
Higher Education Consortium of St. Louis
KIPP Inspire Academy
Kirksville School District
Kirkwood School District
La Salle Middle School
Ladue School District
Lindbergh School District
Louisiana School District
Madison County School District (IL)
MICDS
Messiah Lutheran School
Normandy Schools Collaborative
North Campus

Parkway School District
Pattonville School District
Pike County School District
Ritenour School District
Riverview Gardens School District
Rockwood School District
Rossman School
Special School District
SPROG, Inc.
St. John Community Improvement Corporation
St. Louis Archdiocesan Schools
St. Louis College Preparatory Academy
St. Louis County Library
St. Louis Language Immersion Schools
St. Louis Public Schools
St. Mary's Catholic School (Alton, IL)
University Child Development Center
Villa Di Maria Montessori
Webster Arts
Webster Groves School District
Wilson School
YWCA Metro St. Louis

Springboard by the Numbers

Programs Delivered

Program Sessions

Contact Hours

Children Served

Economically Disadvantaged

Schools

Community Venues

Annual Report Financials

Income

Program Income

Corporations/Foundations

Arts Agencies

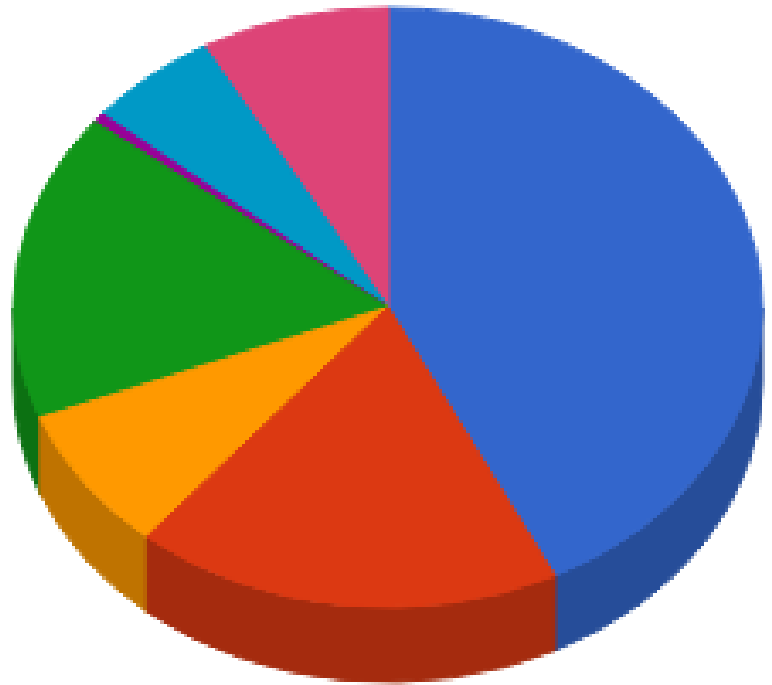
Individual Contributions

Special Events

In-Kind Contributions

Investment Income

Total



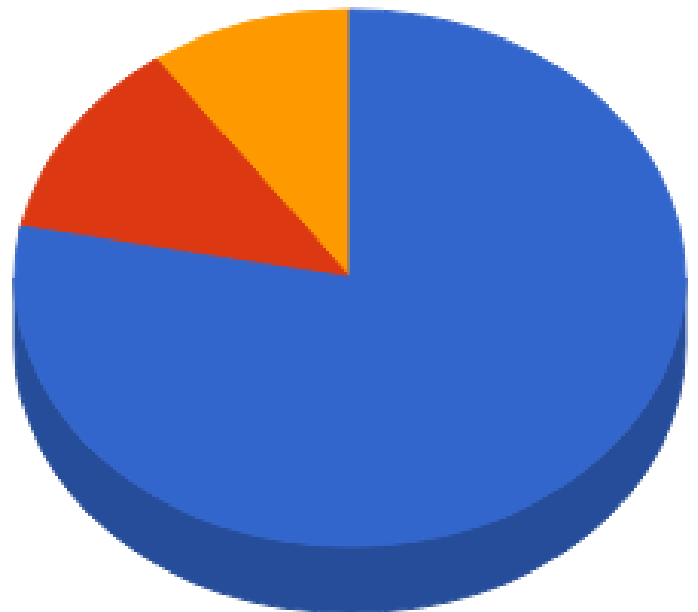
Expenses

Program Expenses

Fundraising Expenses

Management and General

Total



**Sunburst
Society 2016-
2017**

Sunbeam Level

Mary Ann Lee*

Shirley and Donald Sher*

Helen S. Shopmaker*

Sunshine Level

Paula Keinath

Cynthia Maritz*

Mary and Richard Weinstock

Sunray Level

Philip and Kay Roush*

Earl Shreckengast and Julia Muller*

Heather and Christopher Thompson*

Sunlight Level

Jacqueline Chun

Mary Kay and Chris Lofgren*

Anne-Christine and Kevin McCormack*

Patrick and Emily McGinnis

Rahm Narayan and Misty Watson-Narayan

Mary and Robert Piper

Juli and Bernard Plassmeyer

Laura and John Rossmann

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Robert and Monique Schweich

Tracey Temanson and Jim Donnelly*

Katrin and Daniel Tobben

Susan and Ralph Treiman

Elizabeth and Thomas Wack

*Denotes founding member



The
Luminaries
for Learning

Giving Club is a key group of committed donors who have come together to ensure that our Signature programs are delivered to each child that needs them. Our Luminaries support our programs with critically needed on-going funds. Donors agree to give on a monthly basis, selecting to participate in one of our five giving levels. This helps Springboard to Learning continually provide the meaningful memorable learning experiences which are so greatly needed in impoverished communities, where access to STEM, music, or art is less likely to occur. On average it costs \$3072 to provide 24 children with 8 weeks of programming.



Thank You to Our 2016-2017 Donors

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