

Ten Years Ten Stories

A decade of loving our kids—mind, body and soul



By The Hand Club For Kids
2010 Annual Report

March 20, 2011, is a day to commemorate. It is exactly 10 years from when By The Hand Club began filling a special need for 16 kids from Cabrini-Green. Since then, By The Hand has witnessed tremendous growth within the lives of our kids—and as an organization.



We now have 767 kids from four of Chicago's most under-resourced neighborhoods. To better serve them, we added By The Hand Club For Big Kids (CBK) to three of our locations—Cabrini-Green in 2003 and Austin and Altgeld-Murray this year. We have also expanded our programs and staff, including the addition of a reading specialist in 2008 and college specialist in 2009.

With every passing year, our kids have learned more, accomplished more and grown closer to the Lord. Last year alone, 130 of our kids made the honor roll and 161 professed their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. For the past three years, every one of our 12th graders graduated from high school. There are 19 kids currently attending college and our first college student is completing his BA degree this spring. Praise God!

All this would not have been possible if it were not for God's blessings and the support of people like you. In fact, most of the \$17 million we have raised over the past 10 years came from private funds. This is an important distinction because we are not endowed; we can only serve as many kids as allowed by the generosity of others.

Considering the fact that 2009 was the worst of 34 years in U.S. charitable giving, we are especially grateful that we finished another year under budget for expenses while meeting our revenue needs. Additionally, we were able to allocate 84% of our operational budget to programming while maintaining a low cost of \$5,700 per child for the fifth year in a row.

As highlighted by the kids' stories in this annual report, God's love is life transforming. So are the 500,000-plus hours that our volunteers have invested over the years to tutor and help our kids. Reflecting on 10 years of loving our kids—mind, body and soul—we are encouraged to think about the future.

As doors of opportunity open, we hope to expand to other neighborhoods, allowing us to surpass the goal of serving 1,000 kids by the year 2012. Nothing is impossible with God's blessing and the support and involvement of people like you.

On behalf of our kids, thank you for providing them with an opportunity to experience abundant life—and for making a difference for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Travis". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Donnita Travis
Founder and Executive Director

The transforming power of love

During the past 10 years, By The Hand has had the privilege of serving a total of 1,844 kids. Reflecting on their experiences and growth, we can clearly see what God has done in and through their lives. First referred to us by principals as kids in critical need of intervention, many have overcome poor grades and difficult circumstances to become honor roll students and role models for their younger counterparts. Entire families have come to saving faith as a result of our kids coming to know Jesus.

As our kids grow in stature and faith, and as they matriculate from 1st grade to college, they provide a powerful testimony of God's transforming power, and what it means to be loved—mind, body and soul. Following are their stories, each one told from the perspective of a child who joined By The Hand during one of the 10 years. By The Hand continues to walk with each of these kids today, taking them by the hand, walking with them on a journey to become successful adults walking closely with the Lord.

Discovering the cure

CHANTE WEAVER

17-year-old high school senior. Joined By The Hand
in Cabrini-Green as a 2nd grader.

Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to be a doctor. My big brother, Christopher, had asthma and had to go to the hospital all the time. I told him, "One day, I will cure it!" And now, thanks to By The Hand, I'm getting there.

The first time I heard about By The Hand Club was when Ms. Donnita came to our house to ask my momma to work there and sign us four kids up. Momma said, "This is a Christian program where you can learn about God and get help with your homework!" That sounded good, but I was most excited about getting out of the house and meeting new people. My dad wouldn't let us play outside because our neighborhood was bad—real bad.

I have always been a momma's girl, so I liked that my mom worked at By The Hand Club. At first, I got jealous when she loved the other kids too much. I said, "Momma, why do you call the other kids your babies and love on them so much?" She said, "Chante, you know I love you. You are my child. But, the other kids at By The Hand Club are my kids, too, in a different way. Some of them have problems at home and need me to love them." Later, when my favorite volunteer, Ms. Sarah, was loving on me and treating me like her own, it felt good and I understood how the other kids needed my momma's love.

While I wasn't failing in school, I did have a C or D in reading. Ms. Sarah helped me bring my reading grade up. Since I liked rhymes, she found a book by Dr. Seuss called "Green Eggs and Ham." We read it over and over. I remember thinking, "This is fun!" I've liked learning ever since and today have A's and B's on my report card.

Today, I'm a senior in high school and a member of CBK (Club For Big Kids). I really love it! CBK is helping me get ready for college by helping me with my homework, taking me to college fairs and helping me apply for colleges. I was tired of filling out college applications and was ready to quit when Ms. Lisa, my CBK coach, said, "You can do this, Chante. I'll help you. We will do some now and some later." Then she prayed for me. I felt relieved and like I could do it!

I want to go to Spelman College because it is strictly about academics and is an all-girls school. I like that because boys and books don't mix. CBK just took me to a college fair and Spelman was there. They said I need a 3.6 GPA to get in and I only have a 3.0. So, I have to work really hard this year to get my grades up and go to Spelman.

A lot has changed since I was in 2nd grade. I have good grades, a strong relationship with God and a lot of new friends that are like family to me. One thing hasn't changed, I still want to be a doctor and help other kids like By The Hand Club has helped me.





2001-2002

Never giving up

SHELEA POINDEXTER

20-year-old college freshman. Joined By The Hand
in Cabrini-Green as a 6th grader.

The fight at school that day was fun and exciting. It made me feel in charge. If I didn't feel in charge, then I wouldn't be Lee-Lee, my nickname. As one of 11 children, I learned to fight young, and I was good at it.

I was still heated because of the fight when Ms. Donnita walked up to me and said, "Shelea, you've been recommended for By The Hand Club For Kids." Instantly, my frown turned into a big smile. I'd heard about By The Hand Club from my friends who were in the program and who always went on trips and had fun.

From the very first day at By The Hand there was so much love and help. Even though I liked to get in fights and wasn't such a good kid, they still took me in and loved me. Because people I didn't even know loved me the way they did, I kept coming back day after day. It always amazed me that people you'd never seen before could love you so much, but people you saw every day—like your family and friends—would hold things against you.

When I first came to By The Hand Club, my grades were average and that was fine with me. But, then my perspective started to change and C's weren't good enough. I wanted to do better and get all A's and B's, but mostly A's.

My relationship with God was rocky. I believed but didn't really understand. I was just going along with whatever the church said. At By The Hand I started to understand and see how great God was, and how He wasn't just a name but He was real. How He changed my life and others in front of my face. I stopped fighting and started leading Bible studies with my niece, nephews and little sisters.

When I was in high school, I got molested and then I lost my mom to breast cancer (the most hurtful thing in my whole life) and after that, I ended up pregnant. Through these times, I learned that By The Hand would stand by my side no matter what. When I was molested I really didn't want to come back to By The Hand because I thought they would look at me differently. But being the people they are, they didn't. All they did was love me even more.

God has kept me going forward by keeping the people at By The Hand in my life. If it were not for By The Hand, I wouldn't have finished high school just because I was molested and lost my mom in the same year. Now I am in college and working at By The Hand Club in Englewood.

I love teaching the little kids new things. It can be challenging and fun at the same time. There's a little girl named Tymesha who reminds me of me. She has an attitude and doesn't really care about anything. I am glad she's at By the Hand because I will have the opportunity to be a part of changing her life like By The Hand changed mine.

Ten years from now I want to live in my own house with my daughter and love her so much just as By The Hand did me. I want to be famous for staying in By The Hand Club and never giving up.

Feeling God's love

NATASHA CHILDRESS

19-year-old college freshman. Joined By The Hand
in Cabrini-Green as a 5th grader.

When I first walked into By The Hand Club and met Ms. Sarah, I thought, "Is she crazy? The only white people in Cabrini were cops or crackheads."

Even though I felt loved and welcomed there, that night at home I told myself, "I'm not going back to By The Hand Club because it's for lames and good kids." I was neither. I had D's and F's on my report card, skipped school, cursed and liked to fight. The next day, when I walked out of school, there was Ms. Sarah to take me to By The Hand Club. So, I deliberately got into trouble at school the next day to get sent to detention and avoid seeing Ms. Sarah. But, she took the other kids to By The Hand Club and came back for me after detention.

Eventually I started having fun at The Club. I liked the snacks and prizes, but most of all I liked the love and attention Ms. Sarah gave me. By the end of the first quarter, I brought my grades up and got to go to the ABC party. After that, I was hooked—they couldn't get rid of me.

While my grades had improved, my attitude hadn't. I was still fighting and getting into trouble at school. It was mostly because the other kids would tease me about my momma. A real turning point for me was at school when I was fighting a big boy, Jonathon. The principal, Ms. Fitzpatrick, jumped in, got hit by me and threatened to expel me. Just when I was telling her, "I don't care," I turned and saw Ms. Sarah. She smiled and said, "What's up, Tasha?" The principal answered for me, "She's getting expelled, that's what's up." Ms. Sarah went into the principal's office and came out a few minutes later saying, "You have a three-day suspension."

Ms. Sarah wouldn't let me come to By The Hand Club that day. Instead she took me home and asked me to memorize Hebrews 13: 5-9: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?' Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

That verse made me understand that even though people talk about me, God doesn't change and He still loves me. It made me want to change and love Him like He loves me.

Right now, I'm a freshman at Indiana State University and my major is Criminal Justice. I've matured a lot and my attitude has really improved—I haven't been in a fight since 7th grade and don't curse anymore. I have Bible study with Ms. Sarah every night on Skype. It's funny, but we are studying the book of Hebrews right now because I want to understand it better.

When I get out of college with a Master's degree in Criminal Justice, I want to work in a juvenile correction facility to pour into other kids like By The Hand Club poured into me.





2003-2004

Just like “The Boy of Color”

SHERRIE NELSON

20-year-old college junior. Joined By The Hand
in Cabrini-Green as a 7th grader.

I tend to keep to myself but By The Hand Club has always pushed me out of my comfort zone. They always have encouraged me to be my best.

I was one of the last students to join CBK (Club For Big Kids) when it started in 2003. That year By The Hand Club asked us kids to write a book. I was sitting at my kitchen table with my baby brother, Ladaniel, who was drawing. He was the inspiration for a story about a little boy who loves to draw and color and paint.

Because blue is my brother’s favorite color, I named the boy in the book “Blue.”

Blue did everything he could think of doing with coloring, and he finally ran out of ideas. So he prayed and asked God what He would have him do with his colors. God gave him the answer and he became “The Boy of Color,” which is what I ended up calling the book.

Ms. Donnita helped me get the book published. She took me to Nashville, Tennessee, to Tommy Nelson Publishers. It was my first time on a plane! I was scared to go on an airplane, and I did not want to sit by the window. The second time I went on a plane with her, though, I wanted to sit by the window so I could look out.

I always looked forward to going to CBK. One night, when it was dark, I thought about how By The Hand brought a brightness to Cabrini-Green that made me want to be there. They brought this same brightness to my soul when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior on September 17, 2004. When they explained what it meant to be saved and asked if anyone wanted to give their life to Christ, I did. I see that I need Christ and I can’t do it by myself. I can now have hope even when it seems like nothing is going right.

I don’t know what I would have done without By The Hand Club. I needed them then, and I need them now. The tutoring, the help, the love, the support and the friendships have kept me going.

Not only did I graduate from high school in 2008, By The Hand Club helped me apply to Robert Morris University. They helped pay for my books, my U-pass—anything I needed for school. They encouraged me to go and still encourage me today.

Also, I work at By The Hand Club For Kids. It feels good to be able to encourage kids the way By The Hand encouraged me.

Just like Blue in “The Boy of Color,” I am praying and asking God what He wants me to do with what He has given me. I believe He wants me to be a Team Leader at By The Hand Club so that I can teach, love, help, encourage and push children to be their best—just like By The Hand has done for me.

Choosing the right way

DEONTE MAILEY

16-year-old 11th grader. Joined By The Hand
in Cabrini-Green as a 5th grader.

My knees were shaking and weak. My heart was pounding. I didn't know a soul at By The Hand Club—and they didn't know me. I thought about running out the door, but something said, "Stay!"

It was my first day at By The Hand. I had bad study habits, a C or D average and no relationship with God. I had no clue who God was, what He did or why people went to church. But the people at By The Hand introduced me to the Bible and God. This changed my vision on life.

Before By The Hand, I thought life was just about having fun and living life the way I wanted. That's what I saw other people do. They didn't have rules to live by. Instead, they drank and did whatever they wanted. When I came to By The Hand, I saw something different. I learned that there is more to life than that.

Now I know that God has a plan for everyone's life. I have an AB average, have improved my study habits and make sure my homework gets done. I am on track to graduate from high school next year.

I have a healthy relationship with God and I go to Bible study so I'm still working to make it better. As I grow in my relationship with God, I feel good because I am becoming better. I am trying to be a role model for my younger brother because I want him to know the right way to go, too. I am showing him by staying in school, playing sports and not gangbanging.

Today, I am most excited about going to college and moving forward in life. By The Hand Club is taking me to college fairs and on college tours. They have college prep classes at The Club. And they are helping us pick the colleges that we want to go to.

I'm so glad I stayed at By The Hand Club. I see God's plan for my life unfolding. I want to go into the FBI because I would love the action and secrecy and I want to bring criminals to justice to make a safer environment for the kids at By The Hand Club.





2005-2006

Taming the tongue

FONTAINE STEWART

15-year-old 9th grader. Joined By The Hand
in Altgeld-Murray as a 4th grader.

I went to a summer camp for a whole week with By The Hand Club. Ain't no evil out there. It's straight angels on the land. I smelled fresh air out there. I ain't seein' so much anger out there. Nobody's fighting. Nobody's doing dirty things. Every day my camp counselor would break down verses. I just kept hearing them over and over. I thought of how By The Hand helped me hang on—to tame my tongue and stay off the streets. I used to cuss and steal from people on the streets and take off running.

The Bible verses also reminded me of the times I had with Ms. Johnnie. I met her for the first time when she came by my house and gave my mom an acceptance letter for me to come to By The Hand Club For Kids. My mom looked like she was half crying and half smiling, but I gave her a silly look because at the time I wasn't interested. I didn't think it was for me.

I didn't go right away, but I finally checked it out. It was new to Altgeld and was meeting at the park in the gym where the fellas were hooping, but we made our sanctuary there.

My first Team Leader, Mr. Lenelle, had heart. He was very concerned. But, I didn't really care about anything at the time. I only came once a week because my mother made me and then I came late.

My grades were on and off depending on what I was involved in. Mr. Lenelle would do anything for his students. As long as we followed his rules, he let us do fun activities, like have some free time and fun enrichment activities, and he loved us wholeheartedly, especially me. My tongue was really unrighteous. I had to really grow up. Mr. Lenelle taught us to raise our hand before speaking, to take turns talking and to do our homework.

When By The Hand Club moved into the old police station that was closer to my house, it was easier to get there so I started coming more often, participating in the activities, making people laugh and flirting with the girls.

Ms. Johnnie, our Site Director, always had love for me. She shared a lot of wisdom with us and supervised us. I was always in trouble and spent more time in the office with her than I did in class. She used those times to teach me. She would say, "Fontaine, don't be a follower, be a leader!"

I'm sorry that Ms. Johnnie passed away before she could see how I have learned to take my own steps. She would be very proud of how I have cleaned myself up and cleaned up my ways.

Paying attention

JAMAL MIDDLETON

10-year-old 5th grader. Joined By The Hand
in Altgeld-Murray as a 1st grader.

At By The Hand Club, we are always talking about God and doing Bible study. I learned that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins. I learned that He is omnipresent. This makes me happy knowing God is with me and my family at the same time.

Before coming to By The Hand Club, instead of doing my homework, I played on the streets. Being on the streets is unsafe. I wasn't tempted to do anything, but sometimes there are shootings. After coming to The Club, I stopped hanging on the streets and started doing my schoolwork. It started with Ms. Trishika telling me that not doing my homework wasn't good. My mom, my auntie, my teacher were all telling me the same thing. I realized I could get good grades, pass to a higher grade, and go to a good high school. So I started listening in school and stopped making jokes about my friends and teachers. I knew it was disrespectful and I didn't want to get into trouble and fail a grade.

I was on the AB Honor Roll until 4th grade when my grades dropped. My grades got low because other kids were knocking down desks and getting into fights with each other. It was distracting. They would try to convince me to do it and get bad grades, to be friends with them, doing the same things. It made me feel mad. I would tell the principal that people were distracting me. He would come into the class often and say anyone could be up for suspension.

But, then I started ignoring my friends and started paying attention and studying hard again. I started talking to my Team Leader, Ms. Trishika, and asked her to help me get my grades up. She started telling me to read more and gave me extra reading and math homework to practice. I became an ABC student again and every day started getting better grades, listening and paying attention more, doing my school work and turning my back on things I used to do because when I get to high school, I want to have an education.

I want to go to college and be a lawyer because I want to help other people like By The Hand Club has helped me.



I'm smiling now

MONIQUE WINDFIELD

13-year-old 8th grader. Joined By The Hand
in Austin as a 5th grader.



They were making fun of my hair, "Hey, bald head!" I took a deep breath and walked off counting to 10. I knew I wanted to turn back around and curse at them, but I remembered everything Ms. Nicole and By The Hand Club had taught me.

I was one of the first kids to get signed up at By The Hand Club when it came to my neighborhood. Before, I was always fighting and yelling at people—and I never smiled. One of the first things Ms. Dara from By The Hand Club said to me was, "Why don't you smile?" I told her, "I don't know."

By The Hand helped me get counseling with Ms. Nicole. When I was with Ms. Nicole, we talked about what made me angry. I told her that because I wore the same school pants twice, kids kept saying I was dirty. I would get mad and start screaming and fight them even if I was at school. I didn't care.

Ms. Nicole taught me how to control my anger. She had me do breathing exercises, counting to 10, and I learned to stay away from people who made me angry.

I never made all A's, B's and C's until coming to By The Hand Club. Since 6th grade I have made it my goal to go to every ABC party for the year, and I have made it to every one!

Also, in 6th grade I made it through the entire year without getting in a fight. Because of my grades and attitude, my principal nominated me for the most improved "Student-of-the-Year" at Depriest Elementary School.

Before coming to By The Hand Club, I didn't pay attention in church. But now, I take notes and I pay more attention. I completed a Kid's Evangelism Explosion class and am working through a Bible study. I am still learning about God and what He wants me to do.

Ten years from now I see myself as a college graduate with a degree in counseling. I want to help other people the way Ms. Nicole helped me. She was nice and always perky. I was a different person after I started her class. I felt happier because I knew what to do when I got mad. Oh yeah, I started smiling.

Changing me and my family

TRESHAUN JACKSON

12-year-old 5th grader. Joined By The Hand
in Englewood as a 3rd grader.

WINTER JACKSON

11-year-old 5th grader. Joined By The Hand
in Englewood as a 3rd grader.

TRESHAUN

My first day at The Club, I was nervous. Yet, when I walked into the building, I could see everybody cared about my life—and that made me happy. I was one of the first students to join By The Hand Club in Englewood. My mom signed me up because I was getting C's and D's in reading and math.

I began looking forward to Club days on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays because I knew I would get help with my homework and hear about God. As I attended the Club and got help from Mr. Phil, my grades began to improve. I started getting A's and B's in reading and math.

Chapel is also fun for me. I really enjoy singing and learning about God.

My sister and I knew some about Him, but we wanted to know more. Jesus died on the cross for us. He went through all that pain. We should repay him with respect.

This has helped us respect each other and our guardians. Before, when we were at home, we went outside and hung out with the wrong people. We said bad things about people or each other. But By The Hand taught us to respect each other and our guardians.

When our mom got married, Mr. Phil, Ms. Nya, and Ms. Lauren came to the wedding. Ms. Nya caught her flowers. She almost didn't, but she stepped up at the right time. After my mom got married, we started going to church and we actually liked it.

Now that I'm in the 5th grade, I can see how much By The Hand has helped improve my life. Thanks to them, in ten years I will be 22 years old and getting a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Northern Illinois University. To help me accomplish these goals I'll be a member of CCK (Club For College Kids) and continue to get help with my homework and hear about God.





WINTER

When Mr. Phil and Mr. Aaron came to our house and talked to our momma, she signed us up for By The Hand Club for help and homework. It was new to our neighborhood and our school was excited about it.

Still, I was nervous the first day at By The Hand because I was meeting new people and I didn't know them. But, as time went on, I made friends and felt comfortable.

By The Hand helped me learn about God and how He died on the cross for me. I also learned about math, reading, history and more. Before, I was doing badly in school—getting D's and C's—but now I am earning all A's. By The Hand taught me that getting all A's helps us feel good about ourselves.

They help me with my homework. They will help with anything—it's not like school. And they teach me about God. This has changed us. We share. We don't argue. It also changed my family. Our mom got married on Oct 10, 2009. I love my family and was so happy when my mom and dad got married that I was crying.

Ten years from now I will be 21 years old. I plan to go to Harvard to study medicine. I will get a degree in Nursing because I want to help people feel better.

I'm going to make it

ANTOINE GRIFFIN

15-year-old 9th grader. Joined By The Hand
in Austin as a 7th grader.

I started coming to By The Hand in June. I was a little nervous, but Pastor Ed, Mr. Randall and Ms. Bernadette made me feel comfortable. There were a lot of kids there. They asked me my name and I told them. The boys shook my hand and the girls gave me hugs.

The first day we talked about Jesus. We laughed and did homework. The next day at school, I took a test and got an A! I was like, "What?" It felt good. I was used to getting F's in all my classes. It was like God knew I was struggling and wanted to help me. He knew I was on the edge of dropping out at school and selling drugs.

After I got that A, I knew God had a plan for me. I still don't know what it is, but whatever it is, I'm willing to take it. It wasn't the field trips that kept me coming back to By The Hand Club. I just wanted to do well in school. I've seen what happens when people don't use their talents, and I want to use mine.

Life is good because I made it this far through high school. I was hanging out with these nothing boys, failing everything—math, science, reading and even the ISAT tests. But God gave me a golden ticket and I went for it. I'm doing better in high school. Thanks to Mr. Jerry, I signed up for everything, like the book club and wrestling. He's the one who told me, "When you're in high school, sign up for everything and watch how it changes you and your relationship with the teachers."

My family believes that I can make it. I want to be a better person and not the same young man I was a few years ago. God broke in and started talking to me, and based on what He was saying, I want to do my best for Him since He put me on the right path.

I plan on going to college in New York City. Half of my family never graduated from high school. I want to show them that I made it and I'm not out there on the streets. Thank you, By The Hand, for making me who I am now.



A decade of loving the whole child—mind, body and soul

By The Hand Club For Kids began on March 20, 2001, as a pilot program of The Moody Church. Soon after, By The Hand relocated to be in the heart of Cabrini-Green, one of the nation’s largest housing projects and home to thousands of kids. Now, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is separate from The Moody Church, By The Hand is serving four of Chicago’s most under-resourced communities.

From the start, By The Hand has been known for emphasizing a holistic approach to child development. We literally and figuratively take our kids by the hand and walk alongside them from the time they enroll in our program until they’re walking independently as well-adjusted, responsible adults. We tutor them to academic excellence. We mentor them to make wise, life-defining decisions. And we care for them as our own, meeting their basic nutritional and medical needs. Kids are provided a safe environment and the opportunities they need to develop their God-given talents and reach their full potential.

Introducing kids to abundant life

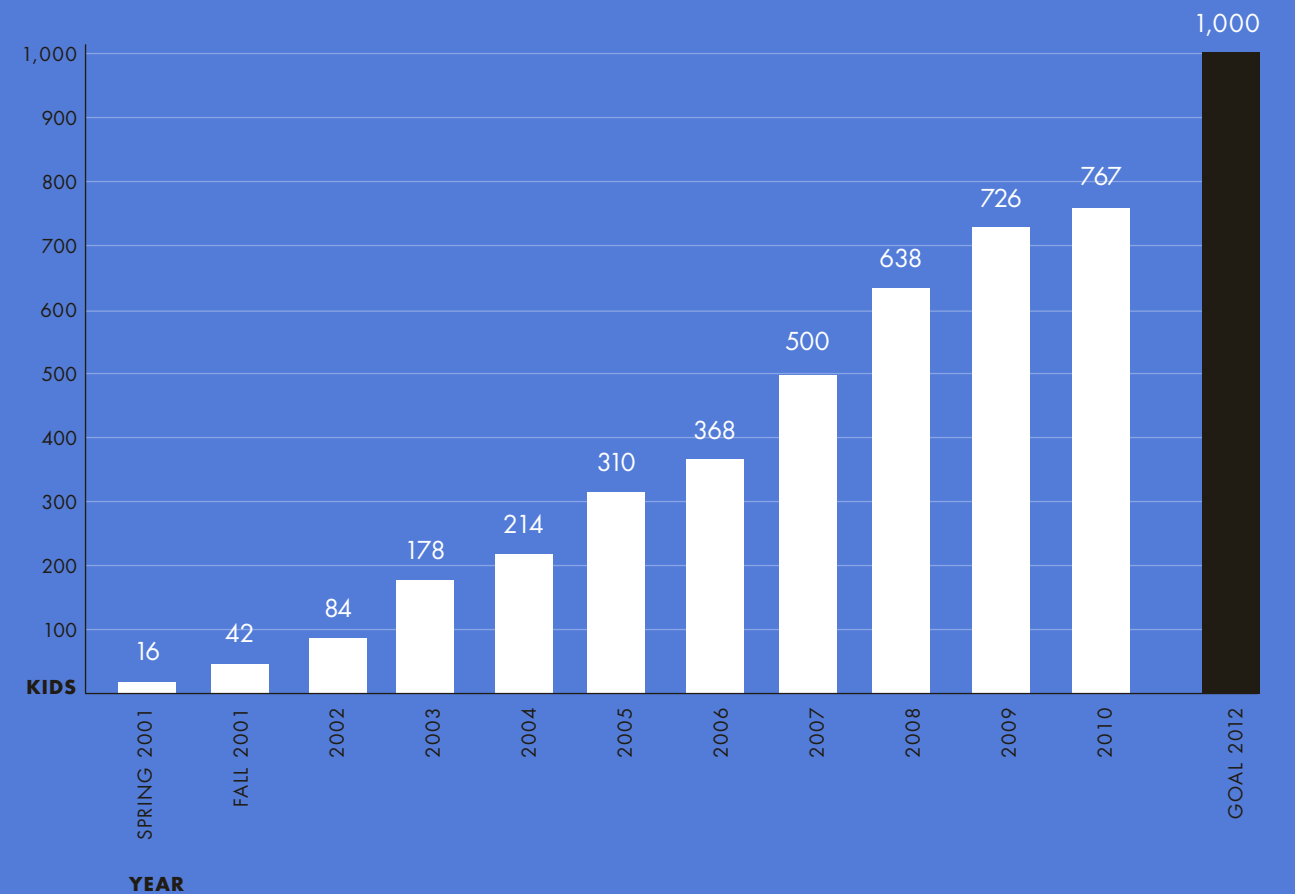
Over the years, By The Hand has worked closely with 16 principals from Chicago Public Schools to identify children who are at risk and in critical need of intervention. Typically, they score in the lowest percentiles on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). Often, there are significant hardships that require special attention to overcome.

However, shortly after kids enroll in By The Hand, they begin to realize that God has a unique plan for their lives. They also come to appreciate the value of an education as a means of experiencing the abundant life God wants to give them. What’s more, their ability to progress academically begins to mirror the inward transformation that occurs as they realize that they are precious to God.

Serving more kids in need

As allowed by the generosity of donors, By The Hand has grown from serving 16 kids from one location to 767 kids from Cabrini-Green, Altgeld-Murray, Austin and Englewood. Compelled to serve 1,000 children by 2012—mind, body and soul—we are grateful for every child and family that God has brought our way and every neighborhood that we serve.

NUMBER OF KIDS SERVED THROUGH BY THE HAND 2001-2010



Graduating a generation of hope

To keep up with our kids' growing needs and to continue walking alongside them through high school, By The Hand added Club For Big Kids (CBK) at Cabrini-Green in 2003. We are also conducting our first capital campaign to expand our Austin and Altgeld-Murray locations to accommodate our kids as they enter high school—a mission-critical need. Once the expansion is completed, By The Hand will offer CBK for 9th to 12th grade at three of our four sites.

By The Hand also hired a college specialist in 2008 to create a college-going culture and to help our high school kids prepare for applying and enrolling in college and helping them secure scholarships and grants to help pay for their education. Recognizing the importance of reading to academic success, we also hired a reading specialist in 2009 to accelerate the pace at which kids who are not proficient readers can catch up.

Giving more of ourselves

Without the involvement of the more than 15,000 volunteers who have helped By The Hand, we would never have been able to invest the 500,000-plus hours over the years to help our children with their homework or to provide the one-on-one tutoring that so often makes a huge difference in the lives of our kids. The same is true for the 337,176 hot and nutritious meals that were served to our children, or the 674,352 safe passages to and from The Club.

We continue to be encouraged by the faithfulness of our volunteer base and staff. People who like Ms. Shanta, our first staff member, are still with us today and Donnita, the founder and executive director, who served as a full-time volunteer when starting in 2001 and continues to do so today.

We are also encouraged by the prayers and generous giving of our supporters. By The Hand is not endowed, so all that has been accomplished through By The Hand during the past 10 years would not have been possible if it were not for the faithfulness of people like you. With God's blessings and your support and involvement, we will be able to achieve our goal of serving 1,000 kids by the year 2012.

Achieving measurable goals

Our kids achieved many milestones for their academic, physical and spiritual growth during the past academic year. In fact, it was a record year with 130 kids on the honor roll—up from 42 in 2009 and 24 in 2008. On average, they improved their reading by more than one grade level.

We are also pleased to announce that all of our 12th graders graduated from high school for the third year in a row and all enrolled in college. It is also noteworthy that all received scholarships—three of which were full scholarships—and that six are going to out-of-state and two to downstate Illinois schools.

The number of our kids who are working towards a college degree almost doubled last year from 10 to 19. Our very first college student, Travis Smith, is expecting to earn his BA degree from Olivet Nazarene University in Business and Art this spring.

Experiencing abundant life

We are especially pleased that 161 of our kids have professed faith in Jesus—the foundation for an abundant and eternal life. Watching our kids grow closer to the Lord has always been a source of encouragement and reason to celebrate. Through your on-going support, many of our kids and their families are experiencing God's life-transforming power. In fact, 720 children have made professions of faith in Christ since By The Hand opened in 2001.

Making quantum leaps

A goal of By The Hand is to move kids out of the lowest quartiles in reading and math and to keep improving their scores to reach their highest potential ranking. This year 26% of the students that were in the lowest quartile last year moved to a higher quartile for reading.* The same was true for math.* These kids learned more than a full year's worth of material to gain on their peers in the nationally normed rankings.

Additionally, not only did our kids move out of the lowest quartiles, but each of the top three quartiles also grew as our kids achieved higher rankings compared to their peers.

*26.02% of students for reading and 25.82% of students for math

MEASURABLE GOALS

MIND

- Meet or exceed state standards in reading and math
- Pass all classes, preferably making all A's, B's and C's

BODY

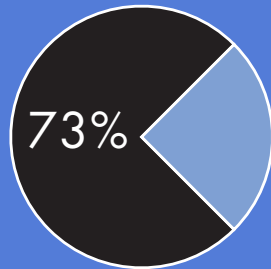
- Eat a healthy and nutritious dinner
- Have a regular physical and immunizations
- Receive a regular dental and eye exam and, if necessary, eyeglasses

SOUL

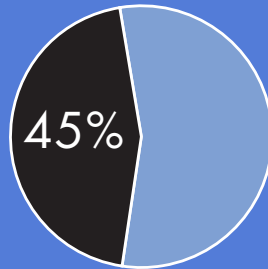
- Profess faith in Christ
- Attend church

Celebrating student achievements 2009-2010

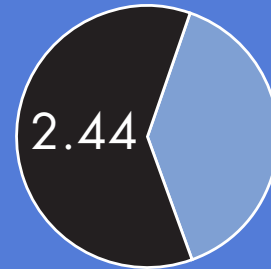
MIND



Passed all of their classes
(16% increase from Q1 - 63%)



Made all ABC's
(45% increase from Q1 - 31%)



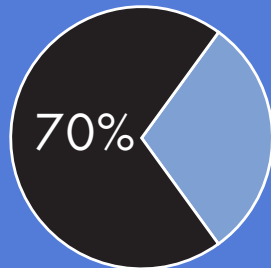
Average GPA (out of 4.0)
(6% increase from Q1 - 2.29)

BODY

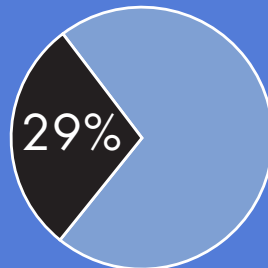


- Were offered a hot, nutritious meal each day
- Were up-to-date on physicals and immunizations
- Received dental and eye exams (follow-up, if needed)

SOUL

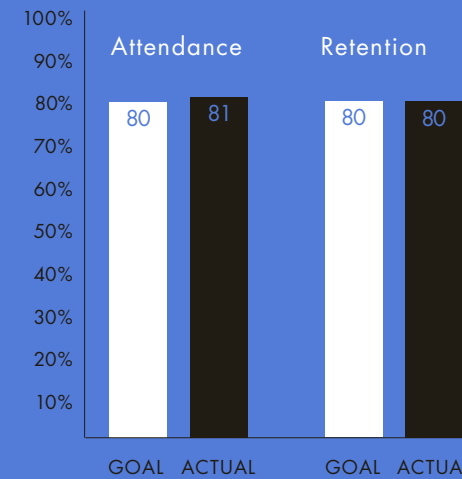


Have professed faith
(16% increase from Q1 - 60%)



Attended church
(7% increase from Q1 - 26%)

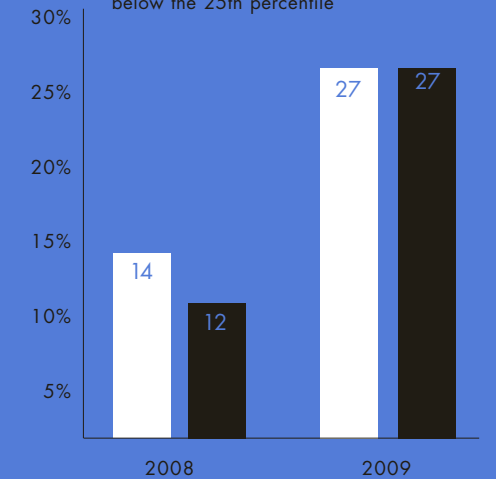
CLUB ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION FROM Q1 TO Q4



Reasons for disenrollment: 62% poor attendance, 20% moved, 15% behavior, 3% other

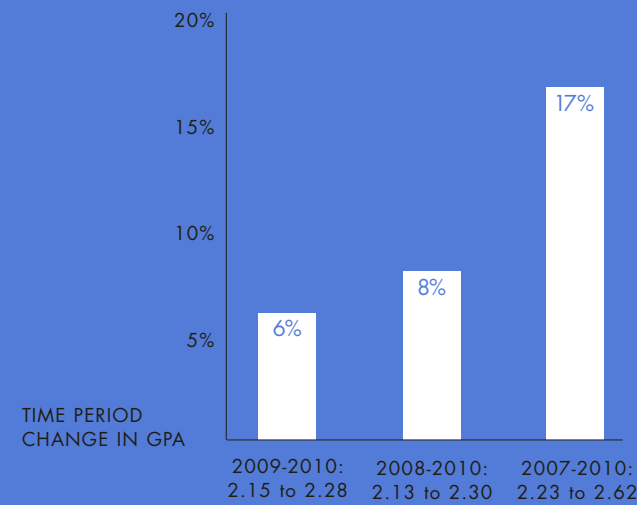
IMPROVEMENT IN ISAT READING AND MATH

Scores for students who were testing below the 25th percentile

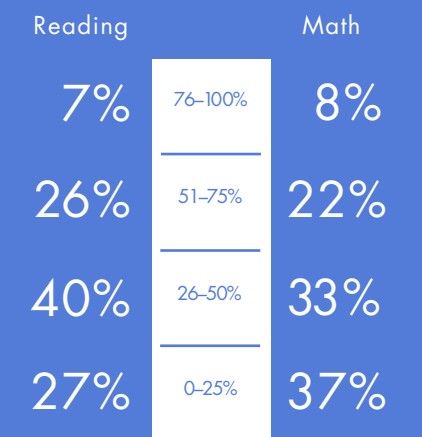


READING: 89% improvement from last year
MATH: 125% improvement from last year

AVERAGE IMPROVEMENT IN GPA OVER TIME



QUARTILES

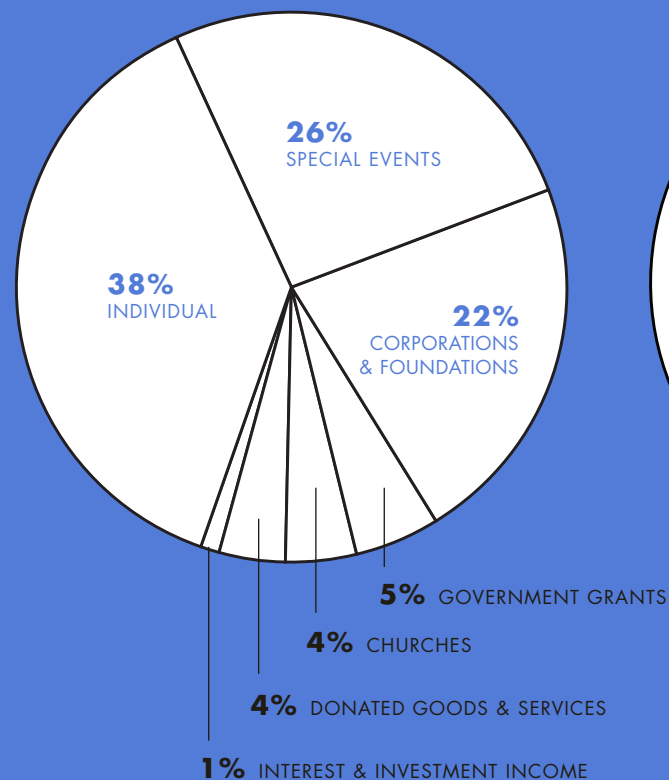


Operating from a solid foundation

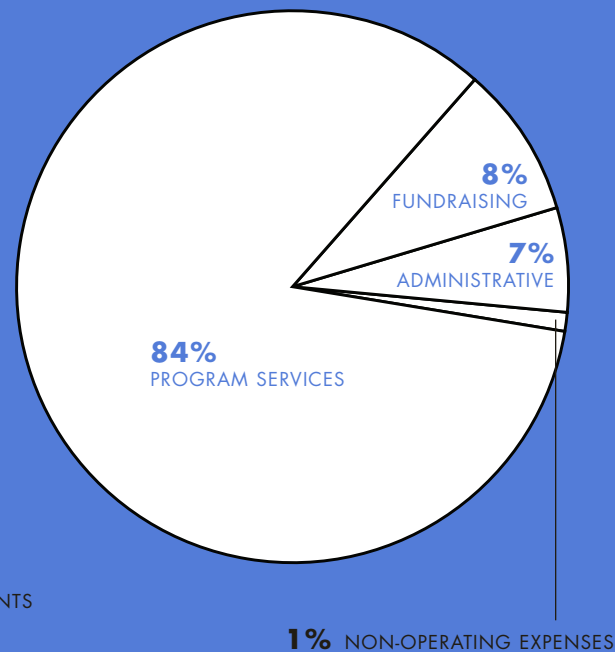
Despite the growing budget and a 3.6% decline in US charitable giving—the worst in 34 years—God enabled By The Hand to finish the 2009-2010 fiscal year under budget for expenses and over our revenue needs. Finishing the year with a strong financial outlook by managing expenses and holding the costs per child at \$5,700 for the fifth year in a row, By The Hand also held fund development, administrative and non-operating costs to 16%, allowing 84% of funding to go to programming.

As we look to the future, we are appreciative of the faithfulness of God and people like you. It's important to remember that we are not endowed, so it is by the generosity of many that we are able to fund existing programs and continued expansion to reach 1,000 children by 2012.

REVENUE BY SOURCE



ALLOCATION OF ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PER CHILD



Statements of Activities Years ended August 31, 2010 and 2009

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED ACTIVITIES:	2010	2009
Operating activities:		
Revenue and Support		
Contributions:		
Individuals	\$ 1,043,841	\$ 1,011,865
Churches	117,380	139,322
Corporations and Foundations	635,809	349,113
Donated goods and services	111,200	83,100
Special events, net of direct costs of \$126,140 in 2010 and \$123,468 in 2009	744,131	827,499
Government grants	136,807	313,660
Interest and dividends	822	22,865
Realized gains and losses	451	6,500
Other	—	1,475
Net assets released from restrictions:		
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	23,242	12,898
Total operating revenue and support	2,813,683	2,768,297
Expenses:		
Program services	3,160,548	2,941,021
General and administrative	244,913	221,535
Fundraising	303,023	318,185
Total operating expenses	3,708,484	3,480,741
Change in unrestricted net assets from operating activities	(894,801)	(712,444)
Nonoperating activities:		
Contributions from individuals designated for long-term growth	—	262,000
Contributions from individuals designated for capital	2,000	—
Expenses of funds designated for long-term growth	—	(50,897)
Expenses of funds designated for capital	(52,770)	—
Change in unrestricted net assets from non-operating activities	(50,770)	211,103
Change in unrestricted net assets	(945,571)	(501,341)
Changes in temporarily restricted activities:		
Contributions	49,876	15,550
Net assets released from restrictions:		
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	(23,242)	(12,898)
Change in temporarily restricted net assets	26,634	2,652
Change in net assets	(918,937)	(498,689)
Net assets at beginning of year	2,769,928	3,268,617
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,850,991	\$ 2,769,928

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statements of Financial Position August 31, 2010 and 2009

ASSETS	2010	2009
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 355,195	\$ 1,708,291
Prepaid expenses	39,614	28,556
Other	12,598	6,490
Total current assets	407,407	1,743,337
Property and equipment, net (note 3)	1,550,641	1,153,452
Security deposit	9,750	9,750
Total assets	\$ 1,967,798	\$ 2,906,539
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 71,150	\$ 99,538
Accrued payroll expenses	45,657	37,073
Total current liabilities	116,807	136,611
Net assets:		
Unrestricted net assets:		
Unrestricted - undesignated	—	—
Investment in property and equipment	1,550,641	1,153,452
Board designated (note 2):		
Board designated for operating reserve	849,552	827,640
Board designated for long-term growth	—	884,935
Board designated for property development	(579,708)	(99,971)
Total unrestricted net assets	1,820,485	2,766,056
Temporarily restricted net assets	30,506	3,872
Total net assets	1,850,991	2,769,928
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,967,798	\$ 2,906,539

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statements of Cash Flows Years ended August 31, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009
Reconciliation of change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Change in net assets	\$ (918,937)	\$ (498,689)
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash used by operating activities		
Depreciation	35,321	34,447
Contributions designated for long-term growth or capital	(2,000)	(262,000)
In-kind contributions	(28,100)	—
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Other current assets	(6,108)	(943)
Prepaid expenses	(11,058)	1,598
Security deposit	—	(780)
Accounts payable	(28,388)	739
Accrued payroll expenses	8,584	8,660
Net cash used in operating activities	(950,686)	(716,968)
Cash flows used in investing activities:		
Cash paid for property and equipment	(404,410)	(373,532)
Net cash used in investing activities	(404,410)	(373,532)
Cash flows provided by financing activities:		
Proceeds from contributions designated for long-term growth or capital	2,000	262,000
Net cash provided by financing activities	2,000	262,000
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(1,353,096)	(828,500)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	1,708,291	2,536,791
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 355,195	\$ 1,708,291

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of Functional Expenses Year ended August 31, 2010 (with comparative amounts for 2009)

	PROGRAM SERVICES	SUPPORTING SERVICES		TOTAL 2010	TOTAL 2009
		GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	FUNDRAISING		
Compensation, benefits and taxes					
Salaries and wages	\$ 1,582,144	\$ 41,040	\$ 159,246	\$ 1,782,430	\$ 1,542,695
Benefits	431,042	10,018	34,225	475,285	392,751
Payroll taxes	117,828	1,021	9,976	128,825	112,503
Total salaries and wages, benefits and payroll taxes	2,131,014	52,079	203,447	2,386,540	2,047,949
Insurance	27,261	—	—	27,261	30,285
Printing	19,568	1,196	21,828	42,592	58,636
Telephone	49,667	169	6,310	56,146	41,803
Supplies	28,745	24	895	29,664	42,845
Building repair and maintenance	17,034	—	—	17,034	49,033
Utilities	55,909	—	—	55,909	23,176
Training	25,699	—	—	25,699	38,745
Transportation	188,397	—	—	188,397	191,022
Non-capital equipment	32,751	—	5,084	37,835	81,965
Rent	104,618	—	—	104,618	104,020
Camp	5,400	—	—	5,400	5,193
Meals	196,360	1,459	922	198,741	179,756
Curriculum	9,883	—	—	9,883	8,897
Enrichment classes - supplies	1,387	—	—	1,387	14,365
Entrepreneurship and financial literacy	—	—	—	—	69
Benevolence	39,053	—	—	39,053	34,019
Student incentives	3,200	—	—	3,200	9,254
Academic evaluation	24,969	—	—	24,969	28,754
LEAP - literacy evaluation and program design	34,000	—	—	34,000	33,952
Children's events	68,222	—	—	68,222	119,322
Publicity	—	—	46,664	46,664	49,993
Memberships	—	—	1,945	1,945	2,164
Postage	—	1,627	7,248	8,875	9,791
Legal and professional fees	3,295	179,207	8,680	191,182	180,282
Bank charges	—	9,152	—	9,152	7,267
Volunteer support	41,162	—	—	41,162	40,756
Scholarships	10,874	—	—	10,874	12,981
School and college supplies	6,759	—	—	6,759	—
Depreciation	35,321	—	—	35,321	34,447
Total expenses	\$ 3,160,548	\$ 244,913	\$ 303,023	\$ 3,708,484	\$ 3,480,741

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements:

August 31, 2010 and 2009

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors
By The Hand Club For Kids

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of By The Hand Club For Kids as of August 31, 2010 and 2009, the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related statement of functional expenses for the year ended August 31, 2010. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of By The Hand Club For Kids (By The Hand). Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of By The Hand's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of By The Hand as of August 31, 2010 and 2009, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



Paul J. Smit & Associates
November 2, 2010

(1) Description of Organization

By The Hand Club For Kids (By The Hand) is a faith-based, after school program that helps children have a new and abundant life by nurturing the whole child – mind, body and soul. For the mind, By The Hand has homework help, tutoring, language and reading literacy programs. For the body, By The Hand provides health education and access to health services, as well as a meal program. For the soul, By The Hand teaches and models biblical truths.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of By The Hand have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting; consequently, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses when the obligation is incurred. The significant accounting policies followed are described in the paragraphs that follow to enhance the usefulness of the financial statements to the reader.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

By The Hand maintains its accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), *Audit and Accounting Guide for Not-for-Profit Organizations*, which requires that resources be classified for reporting purposes based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. This is accomplished by classification of balances into three classes of net assets – unrestricted, temporarily restricted, and permanently restricted. Descriptions of the three net asset categories and the types of transactions affecting each category follow:

- Unrestricted – net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions. Items that affect this category principally consist of unrestricted contributions, bequests and memorials, investment income whose use is unrestricted, grant revenues, as well as all expenses incurred in connection with the operations of By The Hand. Unrestricted net assets also includes unrestricted net assets that the Board of Directors has designated for long-term growth, as described in the following paragraph.

During the year ended August 31, 2008 the Board of Directors of By The Hand established a financial reserve fund which is included in unrestricted net assets. The purpose of the fund is to create a financial operating reserve over time that is equal to 20% of By The Hand's operating budget. The reserve will be available, upon board authorization, to meet unexpected cash flow needs of By The Hand. The reserve balance was approximately \$850,000 and \$828,000 as of August 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively, and consisted of unrestricted cash and investments. In addition to the reserve, the board has designated other funds for the long-term continued growth and expansion of By The Hand at new locations throughout Chicago as well as funds for the expansion and development of existing locations throughout Chicago. Funds designed by the board for long-term growth of \$884,935 as of August 31, 2009, as reflected in the accompanying statements of financial position, were transferred as planned to operations during the year ended August 31, 2010 to enable the funding of operating expenses at Austin and Englewood for the year ended August 31, 2010.

- Temporarily restricted – net assets subject to donor-imposed restrictions that will be met either by actions of By The Hand or the passage of time. Items that affect this category are gifts for which restrictions have not been met. These amounts are reclassified to unrestricted net assets when such restrictions are met or have expired.

Notes to Financial Statements:

August 31, 2010 and 2009

- Permanently restricted – net assets subject to donor-imposed restrictions to be maintained permanently by By The Hand. Items that affect this category include gifts wherein donors stipulate that the corpus be held in perpetuity and only income be made available for program operations. By The Hand currently does not have any permanently restricted net assets.

OPERATIONS

Operating results in the statement of activities reflect all transactions increasing or decreasing unrestricted net assets except the receipt and expenditure of those gifts, grants and bequests of a capital or long-term investment nature.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include all monies in banks and highly liquid investments with maturity dates of less than three months. The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents approximates fair value because of the short maturities of those financial instruments.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment are carried at cost or, if donated, at the approximate fair value at the date of donation. Expenditures for property and equipment and items which substantially increase the useful lives of existing assets are capitalized at cost. Acquisitions of property and equipment in excess of \$5,000 are generally capitalized. By The Hand provides for depreciation on the straight-line method at rates designed to depreciate the costs of assets over their estimated useful lives.

Building repair and maintenance costs for two of the facilities leased by By The Hand are expensed as incurred since for these facilities the leases can be cancelled by the lessee or lessor at any time or are short-term in nature. Therefore, these repair and maintenance costs are not capitalized and depreciated because they are not deemed to have any realizable, long-term economic value to By The Hand. For owned facilities and those subject to long-term leases, building repair and maintenance costs that increase the value or estimated useful life of such facilities are capitalized and depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Building repair and maintenance costs that do not increase the value or estimated useful life of such facilities are expensed as incurred.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Gifts of cash and other assets received without donor stipulations are reported as unrestricted revenue and net assets. Contributions of assets other than cash are recorded at estimated fair value. Gifts received with a donor stipulation that limits their use are reported as temporarily or permanently restricted revenue and net assets. When a donor stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Gifts of property and equipment and other long-lived assets are reported as unrestricted revenue and net assets unless explicit donor stipulations specify how such assets must be used, in which case the gifts are reported as temporarily or permanently restricted revenue and net assets.

FUNCTIONAL ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

Expenses are recorded when incurred. The costs of providing various program and supporting activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the accompanying statement of activities. Accordingly, certain occupancy and administrative costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited based on estimates made by

management. The supporting services are indispensable to the conduct of the program activities and to By The Hand's existence.

INCOME TAXES

By The Hand is a not-for-profit organization. By The Hand has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service indicating that it is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, except for income taxes pertaining to unrelated business income. No provision has been made for income taxes in the accompanying financial statements, as By The Hand has had no significant unrelated business net income.

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires that management make estimates and assumptions related to the reporting of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, gains, losses, and other changes in net assets during the period. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES

A substantial number of unpaid volunteers, including members of the Board of Directors, have made significant contributions of their time to the By The Hand policy-making, program and support functions. The value of the contributed time from volunteers and The Moody Church is not reflected in these financial statements since it is not susceptible to objective measurement or valuation.

(3) Property and Equipment

Property and equipment at August 31, 2010 and 2009 consisted of the following:

	2010	2009
Building and building improvements	\$ 1,039,164	\$971,304
Land	502,020	164,971
Vehicles	77,201	48,100
Furniture and equipment	17,989	17,989
	1,636,374	1,202,364
Less accumulated depreciation	85,733	48,912
Total	\$ 1,550,641	\$1,153,452

(4) Concentrations

During the years ended August 31, 2010 and 2009, By The Hand maintained deposits in excess of federally insured limits. Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 105 identifies these items as a concentration of credit risk requiring disclosure, regardless of the degree of risk. The risk was managed by maintaining all deposits in high quality financial institutions.

During fiscal year 2010, By The Hand received 50% of total contributions from 14 donors. Of this, 1% was restricted for college scholarships while 49% was unrestricted for current operations. During fiscal year 2009, By The Hand received 57% of total contributions from 15 donors. Of this, 9% was unrestricted but designated for future growth while 48% was unrestricted for current operations.

(5) Related Party Activity

By The Hand outsources certain accounting, human resources, payroll

Notes to Financial Statements:

August 31, 2010 and 2009

and information technology services to The Moody Church's Finance and Administrative Department. During the years ended August 31, 2010 and 2009, By The Hand incurred and paid The Moody Church \$150,000 and \$150,986, respectively, for these services.

During the years ended August 31, 2010 and 2009, The Moody Church made contributions from its general operating fund of \$83,696 and \$85,500, respectively, to By The Hand.

Members of The Moody Church can designate gifts for By The Hand through member envelope giving to The Moody Church. During the years ended August 31, 2010 and 2009, The Moody Church received gifts designated for By The Hand of approximately \$145,000 and \$111,000, respectively, and in turn remitted these amounts in full to By The Hand.

(6) Commitments

By The Hand conducts its operations from one facility that it owns and three locations that are leased. By The Hand is responsible for funding all necessary repair and maintenance at one of the leased facilities due to the rental amounts required by the lease. Total rent expense under the leases amounted to \$104,618 and \$109,420 for the years ended August 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

On August 17, 2010, By The Hand entered into a license agreement to share space with Wentworth Elementary School in the Englewood area of Chicago. The lease agreement is for a period of one year and the monthly rent under the lease is \$3,750 per month starting in October 2010.

Future minimum base rental payments of \$119,125 are required under the above operating leases for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2011. Future minimum based rental payments of \$1,200 are required under the above operating leases for each of the fiscal years ending August 31, 2012 through August 31, 2033.

(7) Subsequent Events

Management has performed an analysis of the activities and transactions subsequent to August 31, 2010, to determine the need for any adjustments to and/or disclosures within the audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2010. Management has performed their analysis through November 2, 2010, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Activities subsequent to this date have not been evaluated by management. The following subsequent events were noted as part of management's review.

On September 28, 2010, By The Hand received an unrestricted contribution of \$900,000. The contribution was deposited into By The Hand's operating account and will be used for long-term growth funding of Austin and Englewood for the year ending August 31, 2011.

On March 14, 2010, By The Hand embarked on a \$9 million capital campaign to expand its Austin and Altgeld-Murray facilities for high school students. By The Hand believes this expansion effort is mission critical, if By The Hand is to continue serving kids as they enter high school and if By The Hand is to accomplish its goal of serving 1,000 kids from 1st to 12th grades by 2012. The goal of the capital campaign is to raise enough funds to construct a 26,000 square foot facility in the Austin neighborhood in Chicago and to construct an 18,000 square foot addition to the facility in the Altgeld-Murray neighborhood in Chicago. The capital campaign to expand the Austin and Altgeld-Murray facilities started its private phase in October 2010. The public phase of the campaign will not begin until spring 2011.

By The Hand Board of Directors

Tom Sawyer, Chairman
Attorney (Retired)

Carol Simpson, Vice Chairman
Attorney, Carol Simpson Law Offices

Christine Parker, Secretary
Counsel, IBM Corporation

Mark Sauer, Treasurer
Vice President, eLoyalty Corporation

Julius Wilson, Assistant Secretary
Manager, Avaya (Retired)

Vivette Payne
President, Avery Payne Group

By The Hand Staff

Donnita Travis
Founder & Executive Director

Dara Johnson
Senior Director of Operations

Franklin Ballenger
Director of Volunteer Development

Ed Johnson
Director of Spiritual Development

Susannah Schwarcz
Director of Fund Development

Bethany Arvan
Director of By The Hand Club For Big Kids
(CBK)

Angel Davis
Director of By The Hand—Altgeld-Murray

Jerry Banks
Director of By The Hand—Austin

Sarah James
Director of By The Hand—Cabrini-Green

Al Green
Director of By The Hand—Englewood

For more information or to schedule a visit:

Contact Donnita Travis at 312.305.2622 or
donnita.travis@bythehand.org
Visit www.bythehand.org

Contributors

Design: Design-360^o Incorporated, Evanston
Photography: Ingram Photography, Chicago
Copywriting: WordSlings for Hire, Chicago



September 11, 2001

By The Hand Club opened its new location at 419 W. Oak Street, in the heart of Cabrini-Green, with 42 kids from every part of Cabrini-Green and Marshall Field Homes.

During opening day, terrorists attacked the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon. Recognizing that the kids would be terrified and confused because they lived in high-rise apartment buildings, By The Hand Club remained open even though many businesses and organizations closed that day.



As a result, 9/11 turned into a day of prayer during which the kids were receptive to hearing about God and His love for them.

Even though By The Hand was told that kids from rival gang territories could never be brought together peacefully, God used this to teach the children that they are all created in God's image and should love and respect each other accordingly.

June 2003

By The Hand started Club For Big Kids (CBK), a high school program, in Cabrini-Green.



May 6, 2005

A final gift was received to reach the needed \$600,000 and By The Hand Club announced that it would open a location in Altgeld-Murray.



September 6, 2005

By The Hand began serving kids from Altgeld-Murray at the local Park District while renovations were made to a CHA leased property, an old police station that By The Hand occupied in October with 66 children. The Club was serving 310 students at two locations.



April 2007

By The Hand felt God's leading to open a third facility in Austin, one of Chicago's most under-resourced neighborhoods.

A general contractor friend introduced By The Hand to a newly renovated church owned by Chicago First Church of the Nazarene.

Located at 500 N. Laramie, one of the most dangerous corners in Austin, it was the perfect location for By The Hand to reach kids from the neighborhood.

By The Hand finalized a lease agreement over the summer months.

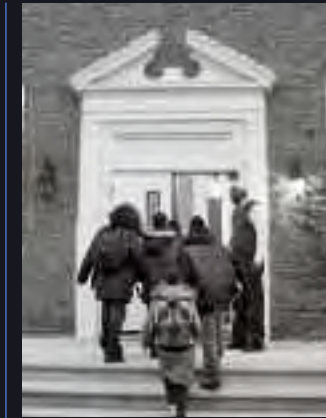
Later the contractor shared that while he was renovating the church in 2005, he had prayed that By The Hand would open in that facility.

September 26, 2007

By The Hand was out of space in the Altgeld-Murray police station when the Presbyterian Church at the front of Altgeld-Murray was about to go on the market.

It was one of only a few privately owned properties in the CHA development, an 8,000-square-foot building that was ideal for serving kids at the Club.

By The Hand was able to purchase the property before it went on the market and began renovations in October 2007.



October 2008

By The Hand moved into its newly renovated 8,000-square-foot facility and expanded to serve 154 children in Altgeld-Murray. By The Hand Club also opened a fourth location serving 88 children in Englewood, another one of Chicago's most under-resourced neighborhoods. Overall, The Club served 638 children that year.



September 2010

CBK was started in Austin and Altgeld-Murray to serve 9th graders.

June 2001

Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) agreed to lease the bottom two floors of a Cabrini-Green high-rise tenant building to By The Hand, enabling the ministry to move to the neighborhood that fall.

Even though the CHA declined many other nonprofit organizations, it agreed to lease space to By The Hand, recalling that students of Moody Bible Institute had faithfully served the children and families of Cabrini-Green throughout the years during rioting, shootings and turmoil.



February 2003

Outgrowing its space at 419 W. Oak Street, By The Hand asked the CHA for a lease on the Lower North Center, a 24,000-square-foot building with classrooms and a gymnasium, located just across the street from its current location.

Negotiations had stalled, but God encouraged Donnita through prayer that a man would talk to her in two days about Lower North.

Two days later, Franklin Ballenger, currently the Director of Volunteer Development, spoke to Donnita and encouraged her to pursue lease negotiations with CHA.

September 7, 2004

CHA gave By The Hand Club a 5-year lease on the 24,000-square-foot Lower North Center for \$100/month, allowing By The Hand Club to expand that year to serve 214 children.

September 14, 2004

One week after By The Hand Club moved to the Lower North Center, pipes in the 419 W. Oak building burst and the building flooded, leaving a foot of water in what had been By The Hand Club.

The building was later demolished in December 2004, making it obvious that God had gone before By The Hand Club to provide a new place in perfect time.

March 7, 2005

Prayerfully, By The Hand agreed to open in Altgeld-Murray if \$600,000 was raised in 60 days to confirm the decision and provide first-year funding for the new Club.

January 2005

Referring to By The Hand Club as their "most effective social service agency," CHA asked The Club to open a second location in the Altgeld-Murray neighborhood on the far south side of Chicago.

July 2005

By The Hand became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and formed a board of directors.



September 4, 2007

By The Hand opened in Austin with 132 kids. By The Hand was serving 500 children that year.

Timeline continues insideback cover

2009 to 2010

By The Hand was serving 176 children in 1st to 8th grades in Austin and Altgeld-Murray and was out of space in both locations. Unable to serve high school students without additional space, By The Hand began seeking the Lord while looking for opportunities to lease, buy or share space in these two neighborhoods.

After an exhaustive search, By The Hand launched its first capital campaign to build a new learning center in Austin and an addition in Altgeld-Murray. In Austin, the City of Chicago sold three vacant lots for \$1 to By The Hand.

After a three-day fast, By The Hand Club heard from the two other property owners who offered to sell their lots. A fourth initially said "no," but changed his mind after "everything started going wrong at his property."

In total, God blessed By The Hand with 12 lots from five different owners, enabling By The Hand Club to plan to begin construction in Spring 2011 on a 26,300-square-foot ministry center for after-school programming, as well as community and ministry collaboration and instruction.

August 31, 2010

Chicago Public Schools signed a license agreement with By The Hand to lease space at Wentworth Elementary School in Englewood—the first time By The Hand Club shared space with a school.

Wentworth has sufficient space to accommodate By The Hand Club when it reaches capacity in Englewood.

By The Hand Club expanded to serve 132 kids in 1st to 6th grades in Englewood.

By the Hand Club serves 767 children and is on track to serve 1,000 by 2012.





By The Hand—Cabrini-Green
1000 N. Sedgwick
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By The Hand—Altgeld-Murray
13015 S. Ellis
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By The Hand—Austin
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Chicago, IL 60644

By The Hand—Englewood
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www.bythehand.org

Helping children who live in high-risk, inner-city
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