

GREETINGS!

It seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating our tenth anniversary here at AVANCE-Dallas. Amazingly, two years have passed, and so much has happened—two years means thousands of changed lives! And the past year has been a particularly pivotal year for AVANCE-Dallas. We're thrilled about the progress we've made regarding the future measured expansion of our agency, which will enable us to reach thousands of more children and parents, and as we look back at our results and planning in the 2007–2008 year, we're anxiously looking forward to what's ahead. Thank you for your partnership in making AVANCE-Dallas happen!

Tamara Marinkovic, Board Chair
Lisa Oglesby Rocha, Executive Director



AVANCE-Dallas is a nonprofit agency that provides educational services to low-income Hispanic families in Dallas during a child's strategic development stage of birth to age three, preparing children to succeed in school

Our **Mission** is to *unlock America's potential by strengthening families in at-risk communities through effective parent education and support programs*

We offer **four educational programs**: Early Childhood Development, Parent Education, Adult Literacy, and HOPE (case management and resource services)

New Strategic Focus Developed

Our most significant accomplishment in the 2007–2008 year was the development of a new Strategic Plan that will guide our agency's program focus for the next three years. Through the joint efforts of Executive Director Lisa Oglesby Rocha, the AVANCE-Dallas staff, and the AVANCE-Dallas board, we created a new Strategic Plan that focuses on bolstering our existing core programmatic work, building organizational capacity to make long-term expansion possible, increasing long-term impact, and positioning AVANCE-Dallas for new growth.

Before the program year ended, we had already implemented several initiatives from the Strategic Plan, including the emphasis on our Parent-Child Education Program as the "soul" of AVANCE-Dallas, an orienting decision that keeps us focused on our core and avoids programmatic distractions. We had also established staff performance benchmarks and provided more coaching, mentoring, and leadership development opportunities for staff, solidifying our program quality and building capacity.

Another major emphasis in our Strategic Plan is to increase our focus on reading. Research demonstrates how transformative the simple, feasible activity of reading is for low-income families, and our Parent-Child Reading Clubs are just the type of initiatives that will make the long-term difference in children.

Expansion and growth are key aims for the future of AVANCE-Dallas, and we have set measured financial and site growth goals for the next three years so we can impact Dallas. Through careful planning and capacity building, we are advancing Dallas children today!



Building Capacity Through Staff Restructuring

The 2007–2008 year was a capacity building year for AVANCE-Dallas. Thanks to funding from the Harold Simmons Foundation, Anne Thomas joined our staff as the new Operations Manager, and Anne's presence made it possible for Executive Director Lisa Oglesby Rocha to conduct a thorough evaluation of the program in order to build AVANCE-Dallas's capacity. One of the results from that assessment was a staff restructuring plan that created more leadership teams and developed a mid-management level for improved program delivery. We implemented the new staff structure by the end of our program year, which has made AVANCE-Dallas more efficient and effective so we can devote our time to carrying out our mission and can reach more children in the years ahead.



Parent-Child Book Clubs

In February, Avance-Dallas piloted a new Parent-Child Book Clubs initiative that would provide an intensive program focused on getting parents to engage in interactive reading with their children. These eight-week Book Clubs were hugely popular with the parents and had strong results—**95%** of parents completing the program were reading to their children three times per week, up from only 42% of those at the beginning of the program. These Book Clubs were so effective as a narrowly focused educational method that we are implementing an expansion of this highly successful pilot to more sites throughout Dallas.

Campaign Highlight

Thanks to the commitment of friends like you, AVANCE-Dallas met its **\$100,000 campaign goal!**

AVANCE, Inc. Ranked Eighth among Top Hispanic Nonprofits

One exciting highlight this year came in May 2008 when the *Hispanic Business Magazine* ranked AVANCE, Inc. eighth on its list of the top Hispanic nonprofits in the nation. This honor confirms again that AVANCE-Dallas is making the kind of impact on the community that captures the attention and recognition of leaders who care.

Parent-Led Reading Week in Bachman Lake

In April 2008, several AVANCE-Dallas moms organized a reading week project at their local Dallas ISD schools in the Bachman Lake area. They made it their goal to read to 1,500 classroom children within one week in April. After hard work and dedication, the moms pulled it off. Eighty-six mothers read to children in pre-K, kindergarten, and first-grade classes at three schools: Obadiah Knight, David G. Burnet, and F. P. Caillet. The teachers raved about the parents' reading and leadership success.

Día del Niño and the Toy-Making Competition

An annual highlight for our staff and families is our Toy-Making Competition and the Día del Niño (Day of the Child) event. From face painting to traditional dishes, the event offers fun for everyone. Most of all, it celebrates the valuable role children play in our society.

The Toy-Making Competition culminates months of parents creating homemade educational toys for their children. The five mothers with the most original toys received college scholarships. The two events together solidified the importance of AVANCE-Dallas values—education, children, and parenting—all in one day!

Total Served: 754 children and 711 parents
Total Graduates: 330 children and 268 parents
Total Sites: 15 elementary school sites and 1 Dallas Public Library site

INDIVIDUAL PARTNERS:

\$25,000 and Above:

Trammell S. Crow
 William Herbert Hunt
 Barbara Hunt Crow

Gifts of \$5,000–24,999:

Patricia W. Houck
 Albert D. Huddleston
 Caroline Rose Hunt
 Mr. & Mrs. J. McDonald Williams

Gifts of \$1,000–4,999:

Richard J. & Victoria T. Agnich
 Lucy C. Billingsley
 Chrysta and John Castañeda
 D. H. Hunt
 Margery Miller
 Alice Rodriguez & Thomas Kendall
 Martha E. Stowe
 Sandy Weiss

Gifts under \$1,000:

Susan L. Anderson
 Cynthia Anthony
 Frank P. Carter
 Sandra G. Cecil
 Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Crow
 Mrs. Trammell Crow
 Dr. D. Michael Crow
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 Elizabeth Soch
 Nancy B. Stanley
 Anne Thomas
 Elihu & Leslie M. Washburne
 Joe E. Williams III
 Joel Zeff
 Rick Zemlin



**FOUNDATION, CORPORATE,
 & OTHER PARTNERS:**

\$100,000 and Above

Dallas Independent School District
 Texas Department of Protective & Regulatory Services
 United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
 U.S. Department of Education

\$50,000–99,999

Harold Simmons Foundation
 M. R. & Evelyn Hudson Foundation
 Texas Education Agency

\$20,000–49,999

City of Dallas (CDBG)
 Dallas Women’s Foundation and the
 McCall Fund of the Dallas Women’s
 Foundation

ExxonMobil
 Meadows Foundation (In-Kind)
 Pearl C. Anderson Fund, Ledbetter /
 Styron Fund, & Jean B. Lykes Endow-
 ment Fund of the Communities Foun-
 dation of Texas

\$10,000–19,999

Citigroup
 David M. Crowley Foundation
 Dollar General
 Esping Family Foundation
 JPMorgan Chase
 KERA
 March of Dimes
 Rees-Jones Foundation
 Texas Instruments

\$5,000–9,999

Bank of America
 Hoak Foundation
 Hoglund Foundation
 Maverick Capital Charities
 Nordstrom
 Real Estate Council Foundation
 Ronald McDonald House Charities
 Rosewood Foundation
 TJX Foundation

\$1,000–4,999

Anonymous
 Communities Foundation of Texas
 Hispanic Employee Group at JPMorgan
 Chase
 Junior League of Dallas
 Richard D. Bass Foundation
 Speedway Children’s Charities
 Vickery Meadow Youth Development
 Foundation
 Women of St. Michael

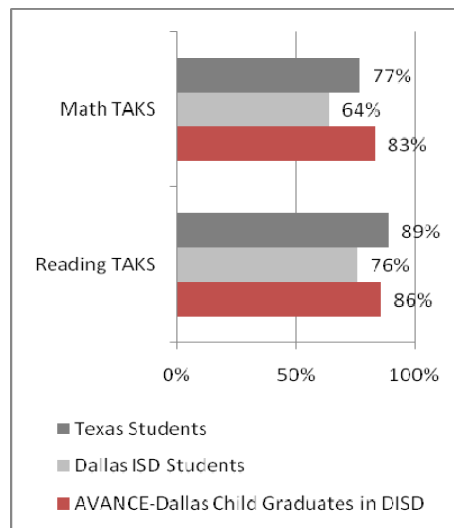
Under \$1,000

Bolton Foundation
 Fidelity Charitable Gift Funds
 Half Shells Oyster Bar & Grill
 Freeman Insurance
 Infinity Insurance
 Shanze Enterprises
 Wealdstone Construction

AVANCE-Dallas Results

- 88% of eligible three- and four-year-old 2008 AVANCE-Dallas child participants completing the program demonstrated the well-rounded development and skills that characterize readiness to start kindergarten by the end of the program.
- 96% of eligible 2008 parent graduates reported reading to their children at least three times per week by the end of the year; 43% reported reading *daily*.
- 85% of eligible 2008 parent graduates met the 3-point increase goal on the post-AVANCE Parenting Questionnaire, an achievement that demonstrates significant growth in parent-child knowledge and skills.
- AVANCE-Dallas child graduates in the Dallas ISD school system attained a 98% attendance rate during the 2006–2007 year—compared with 95.2% of their Dallas ISD peers and 95.5% of their Texas peers.
- 97% of AVANCE-Dallas child graduates in Dallas ISD schools were promoted to the next grade level after the 2006–2007 academic year.

Longitudinal TAKS Achievement (2006–2007)



2007–2008 Financial Summary

Revenues and Support			Expenses		
Government Grants	\$367,348	21%	Program Services	\$1,463,028	86%
Grants & Other Contributions	\$820,154	46%	Supporting Services	\$191,650	11%
United Way	\$393,751	22%	Fundraising	\$44,421	3%
In-Kind Support	\$156,447	9%	Totals	\$1,699,099	100%
Special Events	\$12,850	1%	<i>End of the Year Net Assets</i>		\$588,262
Interest	\$11,808	1%	<i>4% Increase in Net Assets</i>		\$63,259
Totals	\$1,762,358	100%			

Upcoming Highlights for the 2008–2009 Program Year

- Served **826 children** and **848 parents** already since the program began in August
- Launched **two new sites** in Vickery Meadow in August 2008
- Launched Parent-Child Book Clubs at **eleven** sites
- Will launch **two more new sites** in Oak Cliff area in January
- Will see more of the **same steady results** and life-change in our families!