Our Mission

Summer Scholars’ mission is to narrow the educational achievement gap. To accomplish this, Summer Scholars operates three programs for the students and families at partner Denver Public Elementary Schools, including the Summer Literacy and Recreation program, Scholars After School and the Family Literacy Program.

Our Program Components

• After-school Tutoring and Enrichment
• Summer Literacy and Recreation
• Family Literacy

Truths

*Summer Scholars students have made big gains on CSAP — from 2007 to 2008 16% of students moved from below grade level to proficient.*
Letter from the Executive Director & President

Sixteen years ago, Denver was reeling from a summer of youth gang violence: a 5-year-old was hit by a stray bullet from a drive-by shooting, a baby was struck by an errant shot while visiting the Denver Zoo and a young boy was shot in the arm as he played on his aunt’s porch. Dubbed the “1993 Summer of Violence,” these incidences galvanized people to action. Then Governor Roy Romer called a special legislative session, Mayor Wellington Webb created the Safe City office. And, in the Park Hill neighborhood of Denver, Summer Scholars was born.

Summer Scholars represents the best of what civic minded community members can accomplish. Wanting more than just a short term solution, founders Cyndi Kahn, Jessica Pearson, Cathy Manchester and others wanted to address an underlying circumstance that lead to at-risk behaviors in young people. Their instincts suggested helping struggling students at the elementary level would decrease later negative behaviors. Like with so many of Summer Scholars early efforts, the founders’ instincts were right on the money.

Failure in elementary school is well documented in research as a significant risk factor for later juvenile delinquency. Cyndi and her team correctly figured that the cornerstone of elementary success is fluent reading. Focusing on kids in our community who struggled with reading, the founders sought to improve skills during the vulnerable summer months, when many kids lose skills. Recognizing that a straightforward summer school was not much fun from a kid’s perspective, Summer Scholars partnered with Denver Parks and Recreation to provide a full day of academics and recreation. And, eager to demonstrate outcomes, Summer Scholars made evaluation a cornerstone of its efforts.

Fifteen years later, Summer Scholars is much expanded, but still remains true to the foundation created by our founders – high quality literacy instruction, blend of academics and enrichment and outcome driven. Today’s core programs, the Summer Literacy and Recreation Program, Scholars After School and Family Literacy all embody these components.

In this annual report, we have success stories to share about the work of Summer Scholars. Thanks to the capable efforts of our staff and volunteers, along with the amazing support of our donors, Summer Scholars itself is a remarkable story. In the midst of seeking to transform our students’ skills, everyone involved in the organization finds themselves also transformed as learners, leaders, givers and receivers. We share the honor of this experience ourselves and hope you do as well.

Anne Byrne
Executive Director

Jaren Ducker
President
Summer Literacy & Recreation

The summer learning loss and its impact on the achievement gap has garnered attention from Malcolm Gladwell, in Outliers: The Story of Success, which illustrates that two-thirds of the 9th-grade achievement gap between low-income and other youth can be attributed to academic losses that occur in the summer. Summer Scholars has long focused on halting the summer learning loss for Denver kids with our hallmark summer literacy and recreation program.

Our summer program includes intensive reading intervention for struggling readers, coupled with an engaging recreation program. Offered at 18 school sites for 1,109 students in 2008, the Summer Literacy and Recreation program has fortified the strong tradition it established in 1994. For example, two teachers and two assistants instructed each of our reading classes of 25 young readers. Instructors assessed each student’s reading skills and designed reading intervention strategies focusing on each student’s needs. Teachers were able to provide this kind of intensive, quality instruction because they benefited from extensive training and coaching. To multiply their effectiveness, teachers and assistants conducted a family visit with each student’s parents to offer encouragement and suggestions on home-based activities to improve reading skills. After a morning of focused instruction, learners participated in a recreation program, offered in conjunction with Denver Parks and Recreation.

Summer Scholars effectively halts the summer learning loss while advancing students’ reading skills. Virtually all the 2008 students improved their reading ability and 22% achieved grade level benchmarks, enabling these learners to return to school in the fall ahead of where they left in the spring.

**SUMMER LITERACY & RECREATION 2008**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>5th grade +</td>
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<td>English and Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<th>Reading Gains</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading assessment</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral fluency</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieved grade level benchmark</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
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**Truths**

*Summer Scholars was featured on the US Department of Education’s “Education News Parents Can Use” television program on summer learning in 2007.*
Student Becomes a Mentor

If Audjaleigh Ford knows one thing about Summer Scholars, it’s how beneficial the programs are for the students. “It’s a really good opportunity and the students should take advantage of it,” says Audjaleigh. She speaks from experience, because she attended the Summer Literacy and Recreation program during her 1st through 5th grades at Smith Elementary.

Now 22-years-old, Audjaleigh is again part of the Summer Scholars program and for the past four years she has been a program tutor for Scholars After School at Whittier Elementary. She’s amazed at how much the program has changed over the years and even more amazed by the children she works with. “It’s great seeing the expression on their faces when you help them get a word correct. I just love it,” she said.

Attending Summer Scholars as a student may have been the beginning for Audjaleigh’s love of education, and now teaching the kids in the same program has inspired her more. She’s continued her education and is currently a sophomore at the Community College of Aurora. What is she studying? You guessed it – Elementary Education.

Teaching, Learning, and Lots of Love

As principal at Whittier Elementary for nearly seven years, Jai Palmer has seen the Summer Scholars program grow. From Summer School to After School, Summer Scholars is a benefit at Whittier for the students, their parents and his staff. As a school administrator, Jai especially appreciates the sophisticated curriculum and genuine leadership of Summer Scholars “The structured program and collaboration are truly beneficial, plus they make the process so easy.”

“Parents will seek out our school because they know Summer Scholars is part of the program,” says Jai.

The program structure and relationship with Denver Public Schools are very familiar to Carrie Palmer, who spent four years as director of instruction at Summer Scholars. Now that she’s teaching again, her experiences with the organization have stuck with her. “It’s had a big impact on me,” Carrie said of Summer Scholars. “Seeing and working with so many teachers and coaches in 20 schools exposed me to so many different ideas and ways of doing things.”

Jai and Carrie Palmer have seen first-hand the power of this collaboration to dramatically raise students’ reading skills and transform their learning habits. Obviously, Summer Scholars has also transformed Jai and Carrie Palmers’ lives: they would sit next to each other during summer program planning meetings and run into each other at DPS events, and they soon learned how nearly their paths had come to crossing during the previous 10 years of their educational careers. Four years ago, after deciding they no longer wanted to leave their meetings to chance, Carrie and Jai married, and a few years later had their son Nathan, who is now nearly a two-year-old.
We provided the Scholars After School program at 11 school sites for 880 students during the 2007-2008 school year. Twice weekly tutoring sessions throughout the course of the school year featured teacher-led instruction, computer-based tutoring, and cognitive-development activities designed to enhance our students’ foundational skills for success in school. We also introduced an English oral language development strand for 60 children who were just learning English as a Second Language (ESL). Partnering with Denver Parks and Recreation, Summer Scholars combined tutorials with recreation and enrichment activities to offer our students a comprehensive five-day-a-week program.

### Scholar's After School 2007/08

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<tr>
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<td>English and Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>100.0%</td>
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<td>Oral fluency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Achieved grade level benchmark</td>
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### Truths

*Summer Scholars has served more than 17,000 young people in our 15 years.*
Swansea Has a Family of Scholars

At Swansea Elementary, it all began with instructor Lynn Lopez and her passion for teaching children to read. Lynn began working with Summer Scholars at Swansea soon after the program began there.

The first year saw one class, the next year two, and the program continued growing. When the After School program arrived, Lynn, already there, could extend her daytime student work to deepen her understanding of what those same students were needing. “I have really good attendance, so I must be doing something good,” says Lynn. Her after-school classes average six children, so she enjoys balancing group with one-on-one work.

“I love listening to them read and teaching them to read,” says Lynn.

Then there was a new program development. When she taught in the summer, Lynn’s daughters wanted to come with her. “But you have to work if you come,” Lynn told her daughters. “Find a student you can help and see if you can get him or her involved in the rest of the class.” And they did. Both Celestina and Christina volunteered for Summer Scholars until they were old enough to become employees of the program. During middle school the girls read to the young learners and later they helped them develop literacy skills. “Reading is such an important thing and it’s good to help when the kids are young, so it doesn’t become a problem for them in the future,” says Christina, a student at the University of Colorado in Boulder. “It’s a good program and I really like working with the kids,” Celestina said, who is a junior at East High School.

The Lopez family lives in the Swansea neighborhood, where Summer Scholars has positively affected many families. It’s a family affair, where multiple siblings participate in programs as they make their way through elementary school. Parents are quick to express their belief that Summer Scholars has played a huge role at improving reading and English language skills. With staff like the Lopez family on the job, Summer Scholars is sure to continue to be successful at Swansea.

“Summer Scholars is a national leader in extended learning. For the last 15 years, Denver has been fortunate to count on Summer Scholars as an advocate for literacy, community building and closing the achievement gap. While I was superintendent of Denver Public Schools, Summer Scholars quickly earned my respect by illustrating their dedication to the children in our school district. It was, and is, a joy to collaborate with them.”

- Senator Michael Bennet
Family Literacy Program

Summer Scholars offered its Family Literacy Program at 13 sites in conjunction with either its summer program or both its summer and school-year programs. Including the four components recommended by the National Center for Family Literacy, the Summer Scholars model includes adult education, parenting education, child education, and parent and child time (PACT) together. Summer Scholars addressed the adult and parenting education components in English classes focusing on the skills and the understanding parents need to support their children in school – and life. PACT included directed activities to encourage oral English use, school readiness, and reading success.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOLARS AFTER SCHOOL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Average years in CO</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>% improving at least 1 level ESL ability</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>% improving by &gt;1 level ESL ability</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
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<tr>
<th>SUMMER LITERACY &amp; RECREATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Average years in school</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Family</th>
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<tr>
<td>Columbine / Steve Wera</td>
<td>x x x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dora Moore / Joan Wamsley</td>
<td>x x x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairmont / Elizabeth Tencate</td>
<td>x x x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden Place / Monica Dilts</td>
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<td>Gilpin / Catherine Gonzales</td>
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<td>Greenlee / Josie Garcia</td>
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<td>Harrington / Sally Edwards</td>
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<td>Mitchell / Jennifer Barton</td>
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<td>Montclair / Shannon Hagerman</td>
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<td>Palmer / Elizabeth Trujillo</td>
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<td>Park Hill / Tonda Potts</td>
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<td>Philips / Margaret Clinkscales</td>
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<td>Smith / Betty Johnson</td>
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<td>Swansea / Mary Sours</td>
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<td>Valdez / Peter Sherman</td>
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<td>Wyman / Charmaine Keeton</td>
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It’s a Learning Experience for All

Jackie Salazar has been a teacher for more than 27 years and her passion is teaching students to read. Even with that experience and passion, she believes her most valued teaching tool is her training with Summer Scholars. “Summer Scholars has done all the research and supports all the pieces of the reading programs. They believe it, support it, and implement it.”

In 2008, Jackie was challenged with a classroom of 4th and 5th graders at Whiteman Elementary who spoke 14 languages and represented several countries, including Burma and Africa. Only a few students spoke English or Spanish, the languages Jackie is fluent in. She worked hard to help the students tackle English literacy and “was absolutely astounded that these children were able to make the significant gains that they made.” Jackie glowed in their achievements. “I love to work with kids who are struggling because I know how not doing well in school affects their self esteem,” says Jackie. “I work them hard and don’t let up.” Her hard work was rewarded with an Exceeds Expectations Award from the Denver Public Schools Superintendent in 2008.

“I absolutely believe that my training through Summer Scholars and my work experiences with the after school program at Whiteman were definitely part of the reason for my success.”

But Jackie’s truest successes come from the growth of students who participate in Summer Scholars programming, and Cinthia Infante-Cortez is one of our shining stars. Before Cinthia attended both the Scholars After School and Summer Literacy programs in 2008, she was behind two to three grade levels. “By the end of last year she caught up to her grade level,” Jackie said. “I have seen students close the gap, but never have they caught up to grade level.” Cinthia not only made it up to her grade level but also surpassed it, reaching her reading goal for accelerated reader.

Jackie’s approach to helping young learners who need it most is deceptively simple: “Just try, and I’ll help you.” And she does.

Always Keeping Our Grades Up

Working to help children in Denver continue learning over the summer has been Summer Scholars’ founding focus, so we were particularly honored when our summer programs caught the attention of the National Center for Summer Learning. “Summer Scholars is a model for Denver and the country,” says Ron Fairchild, executive director of the National Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University.

Summer Scholars was awarded Excellence in Summer Learning Award in 2005, and the organization is still in Ron’s sights: “I continue to be impressed with Summer Scholars and their leadership.”

“Their work is so valuable because bridging the summer learning gap in the early grades is essential,” says Ron.

The Excellence in Summer Learning Award, given by the National Center for Summer Learning, recognizes outstanding summer programs that demonstrate excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting positive development for young people between kindergarten and 12th grade. The National Center for Summer Learning is the only organization of its kind focused on summer as a crucial component of education reform. “Too many summer programs are underfunded or rely heavily on private funding. To grow they must find creative ways to partner with schools and access public funding,” says Ron.
2008 Cyndi’s Scholars

Congratulations to the 2008 Cyndi’s Scholars! Named in honor of Summer Scholars’ founder and president emeritus, the Cynthia C. Kahn Award for Outstanding Participation is a prestigious honor for Summer Scholars students and their families.

Longtime Summer Scholars’ employee Linda Kay Smith of Denver passed away unexpectedly on August 5, 2008. Anne Byrne, Summer Scholars’ Executive Director, was honored to make remarks at Linda’s memorial service. Here is an excerpt:

Linda loved to read and loved teaching kids to read, so she loved Summer Scholars. Linda came on board at Summer Scholars in 1999 to organize our bulging supplies and quickly became what we affectionately called the “Queen of Stuff.” She didn’t much care for that title, I think because she thought we were maybe trivializing what she did. On the contrary, we revered what Linda did, then and today. Summer Scholars has an amazing amount of materials and stuff, from swamp coolers to curriculum; you name it. It was Linda’s job to organize it, put it together, inventory it, distribute it, and bring it back when the program was over. An unglamorous job, but essential, and Linda did it with competence and honor. We all miss the image of Linda coming and going, keys around her neck, pushing a dolly, wearing a Summer Scholars’ T-shirt, pants and Crocs occasionally matching her shirt.

Mama and granny, Linda loved children - her own kids, kids in the neighborhood, her students, and others who needed a safe haven. She took kids in for a night, a month, or however long they needed to stay. For Linda, The lines between family and others blurred: like her sister Ida Pearl said, “The whole world was her family.” Linda had seven children, from oldest to youngest: Roger Carolina, Alamanina Adams, Acquajita Adams, Ronondo Carolina, Alexander Adams, Cecilia Smiley, and Carnella Young. She had 21 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Linda was an exemplary member of the Summer Scholars’ team and she is sorely missed by her co-workers.

The Whole World Was Her Family

Yovanna Gonzalez (4th) Ashley Elementary
Dennis Saenz (2nd) Columbine Elementary
Ivan Tec (2nd) Dora Moore Elementary
Selina Acosta (2nd) Fairmont Elementary
Guadalupe Hernandez (1st) Garden Place Elementary
Rene Navarro (2nd) Gilpin Elementary
Elizabeth Salas (3rd) Greenlee Elementary
Rodolfo Dominguez (4th) Hallett Elementary
Maria Flores Agular (5th) Harrington Elementary
Tania Godoy (4th) Mitchell Elementary
Bot Mayan Bot (5th) Montclair Elementary
Emma Belgard (2nd) Palmer Elementary
LaJoun Brown (4th) Park Hill Elementary
Abriyanna Simmons (3rd) Philips Elementary
Javier Flores (3rd) Smith Elementary
Alondra Leal (4th) Swansea Elementary
Htoo Say Paw (5th) Whiteman Elementary
Demetrious Jenkins (3rd) Whittier Elementary
Gustavo Campos (4th) Wyatt Edison Elementary
Sequoia Dishman (2nd) Wyman Elementary

Linda Smith in one of her many Summer Scholars shirts.
2008 Financial Information
Fiscal Year Ending October 31, 2008

Operating Support & Revenue
a. Government Contracts $ 1,015,543
b. Contributions $ 304,302
c. Foundations $ 237,525
d. Fees for Service $ 912,437
e. Endowment Proceeds $ 107,944
f. Interest/Other $ 32,585
g. In-Kind $ 722,511
Total $ 3,332,847

Expenses
a. Program Services $ 3,022,159
b. Administration $ 219,134
c. Fundraising $ 106,030
Total $ 3,347,324

Change in Net Assets $ (14,477)
Total Liabilities and Net Assets $ 854,082
Helen M. McLoraine $ 1,645,017
Summer Scholars Endowment Fund (10/31/08)

This Breakfast is the Most Important Meal of the Year.

Breakfast of Scholars
This breakfast is the most important meal of the year. Come help Summer Scholars Celebrate 15 Years!

2009 Breakfast of Scholars
June 23, 2009 – 7:30AM
1770 Sherman St. Events Center

For more information or to RSVP, contact ikrupa@summerscholars.org
Thank You to Our 2008 Donors
January 1 - December 31, 2008

+ Board Member
+ Former Board Member
+ A Staff Member

$100,000+ Denver Parks & Recreation
Denver Public Schools
The Daniels Fund
21st Century Community Learning Centers - Colorado Department of Education

$20,000 - $99,999
AELA - Adult Education & Family Literacy Act Funds
Robert & Virginia Bayless (+)
Pete & Jo Ann Beaupre, & PCL Construction
B. Larry & Joan Brennan (+)
Wes & Linda Brown (+)
May Chou & Henry C. Cheng (+)
Bruce & Jaren Ducker (+)
Kristin & Corydon Gilchrist (+)
Tony Grampas Youth Services
The JFM Foundation
Helen K. & Arthur E. Johnson Foundation
Making Connections Denver
Mayor’s Office for Education & Children
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Kathleen O’Connor
Honoring Parker Lofgren

Summer Scholars and the Denver community experienced a great loss in 2008, when longtime Board of Directors member Parker Lofgren, his wife Caroline and their children Sophie and Owen died in a tragic accident from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Parker joined the Summer Scholars Board in 2001 and served as Treasurer and President during his tenure. He brought insightful and deliberate leadership to the organization. His financial expertise and ability to zero in on the most important issues were extraordinarily valuable to Summer Scholars. Parker Lofgren was a founding partner of St. Charles Capital, headquartered in Denver Colorado. St. Charles is now considered one of the foremost boutique investment banks in the Western U.S.

Summer Scholars has lost a great champion in Parker Lofgren. Gifts to Summer Scholars in honor of Parker’s contributions are designated to support the organization’s capacity building efforts, a cause important to Parker.

Lofgren Memorial Gifts

+ Board Member
◊ Former Board Member
Δ Staff Member

Tony Anderson
Therese Appell
Holly Bennett & John Lebsack (+)
Hugh & Lynne Brown
Molly Buckley
Caulkins Family Foundation
Teri Chavez & Scott Murphy (+)
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Joseph Durnford
Elevations Credit Union
Susan Farr (Δ)
Stephanie Friday
Hans & Marilyn Grunbaum
Susan Halby
Cynthia Harder
Nancy Hawkins (◊)
Jim & Amy Hecht
HNC Associates, LLC
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R.C. Kemper, Jr. Charitable Trust,
UMB Bank, n.a., Corporate Trustee
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William & Carol Kinnune
Genevieve Logan
Cathy & David Manchester ◊
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Martha Mannix & Stephen Massey
Rosemary Mannix & Peter Eldred
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Don & Diana McGuirk
Joyce Nakamura
Karen Nichols & Chris Baumgartner
John Nigh
Griffen & Ryan O’Shaughnessy (+)
James & Karen Phelan
Rich Rainaldi & Martha Records (◊)
Beatrice Rodriguez
Gretchen & Dale Shaffer
Phil & Lynda Skutt
Suzanne Spencer
St. Charles Capital
Adele Sykes
Garrett Thompson
Elizabeth & Frank Walker
Douglas & Janet Wertz
Whitney Zimmerman

Caroline and Parker Lofgren (second and third from left) with Board members Jane Hansberry, Dave and Amy Mathias and Mike Wilson at a fundraising gathering at the Lofgren’s home in 2006.

Truths

Current and former members of Summer Scholars’ Board of Directors have donated a combined $1.2 million to Summer Scholars.
Staff Directory

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Michelle Thatcher

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Beth Duncan

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Joan Brennan

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Jami Powell

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Administrative Manager
Adam McFarlin

Program Assistant
Linda Smith

Program and Supply Aide
Louise Hernandez

Receptionist
Dino Apodaca

Truths

Eager for more impact with students, Summer Scholars adopted its “wrap around” model of services in 2003 with three fundamental components – the Summer Literacy and Recreation Program, the Scholars After School Program and the Family Literacy Program.

Site Coordinators

Ashley Elementary
Bridget Chambers

Columbine Elementary
Ron Harris
Rainy Fresquez
Lorenzo Johnson

Dora Moore Elementary
Lance Malleck

Fairmont Elementary
Joel Cornell
Karina Estrada

Harrington Elementary
Marjanee Gross
Jennifer Harmon

Mitchell Elementary
Monica Guss

Montclair Elementary
Ebony Moore

Smith Elementary
Angelina Najar

Swansea Elementary
Maria Valle

Valdez Elementary
Jennifer Harmon

Whittier Elementary
John Shipp
Heather Toothaker

In 2006, a visit to Summer Scholars program at Harrington Elementary was an important part of the vetting process for DPS Superintendent, now US Senator, Michael Bennet.
Get Involved with Summer Scholars

VOLUNTEER!
Summer Scholars utilizes volunteers as classroom aides and one-on-one tutors during the school year and summer sessions. Volunteers also perform many administrative functions for Summer Scholars, including assistance with the preparation of supplies for school sites and the coordination of the enrichment activities for the summer afternoon recreation program.

GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK!
Summer Scholars is constantly seeking to improve its programming. Feedback and ideas from volunteers, donors, and community members are greatly appreciated.

BECOME A BOARD MEMBER!
Summer Scholars’ Board Members help propel the Summer Scholars mission by attending regularly scheduled meetings, serving on committees, making financial contributions, participating in resource development and serving as goodwill ambassadors for Summer Scholars in the community.

DONATE!
The award-winning services of Summer Scholars are the result of rigorous planning, professional execution and ongoing evaluation, made possible through collaboration with key community partners and the generous support of our donors.

For more information about these opportunities please contact Leslie Krupa at lkrupa@summerscholars.org.

DID YOU MOVE?
Don’t forget to update your information with us. Email your new phone number, mail or email address to: lkrupa@summerscholars.org.

MAKE A DONATION TO SUMMER SCHOLARS:
+ Provide a check or cash by mail or in person to:
  
  Summer Scholars
  3401 Quebec Street, Suite 5010
  Denver, CO 80207
  Phone: 303-355-0290
  Fax: 303-355-0883

+ Online via Summer Scholars’ website – summerscholars.org
+ Workplace giving through Community Shares – communityshares.org

DONORS MAY ALSO ELECT TO:
+ Make a pledge of financial support
+ Make a gift of stock or securities
+ Participate in their employer’s matching gift program
+ Honor someone special with a tribute or memorial gift
+ Include Summer Scholars in estate planning

GIVE MORE FOR LESS!
A 50% Colorado State Income tax credit is available to Colorado taxpayers who make a cash donation to programs that promote childcare in the state. All donations made to Summer Scholars qualify for this benefit. The effect of the credit is that half of your donation to Summer Scholars is offset by a dollar-for-dollar reduction to your Colorado income taxes. The donation must be in the form of cash, check or credit card. In addition, you are still able to claim your full contribution to Summer Scholars as a charitable deduction on your federal and state income tax. Here is how it might work for you:

You give: $1000
You get: $500 state tax credit (50% of gift)
You pay: $500 less on your state income tax

3401 Quebec Street, Suite 5010
Denver, CO 80207