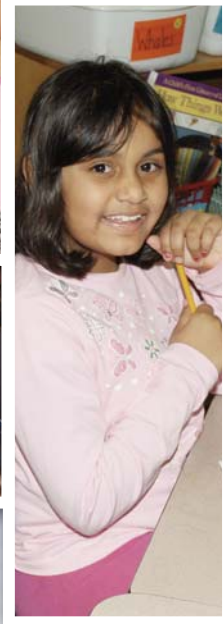




Wake
Education
PARTNERSHIP

2008-2009 Annual Report



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promoting excellent public schools for all

welcome



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Chair, Board of Trustees
2009-2010



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Ann T. Denlinger, Ed.D.
President

Dear Friends,

Wake County's business community demands educational excellence and accountability from our public schools. Without a strong public school system—and without an independent voice for excellence—we all suffer.

For 26 years, Wake Education Partnership has helped the community meet that demand, serving as a vital link between Wake County's public schools, business leaders and politicians.

It is the Partnership's steadfast belief that excellence in public education is a top priority in Wake County and citizens should expect every child to graduate on time prepared for the future.

In keeping with those goals, the Partnership is pleased to report the following highlights since our 2008 Annual Report. Those highlights include:

- A World-Class Education Initiative in which several dozen community leaders helped the Partnership define what a world-class school system would look like in Wake County.
- Hosting information sessions and debates for 2009 Wake County school board candidates.
- Expanding the reach of the Education Roundtable series to include two business sites.
- Awarding Teacher Leadership Grants of almost \$30,000. The Teacher Leadership Grant program has now distributed more than \$850,000 to Wake County classrooms since it began 25 years ago.
- The launch of a new newsletter, *In Context*, that provides background and insight regarding current education issues. The newsletter is sent to more than 6,300 readers.
- The 26th anniversary of Pieces of Gold, a program that has grown far beyond the expectations of those who organized the first "dinner and talent" show in 1983.
- Continuing the work of the Triangle Leadership Academy as it helps prepare tomorrow's school leaders.

Public Education affects each of us every day and it is only through the generous support of our business community and individual donors that Wake Education Partnership can carry out its mission to promote excellent public schools for all children. This is a critical time in the history of Wake's schools—a time of growth and change as we work to prepare students for the 21st century.

Together, we look forward to working with you to make Wake County public schools the best school district in the nation!

Gratefully,

Hilda Pinnix-Ragland
Chair, Board of Trustees (2008–2009)
Vice President - Northern Region,
Progress Energy

Hayden J. (Jay) Silver, III
Chair, Board of Directors (2008–2009)
Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP

Ann T. Denlinger, Ed.D.
President
Wake Education Partnership

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who we are



**Wake
Education**
PARTNERSHIP

► Vision:

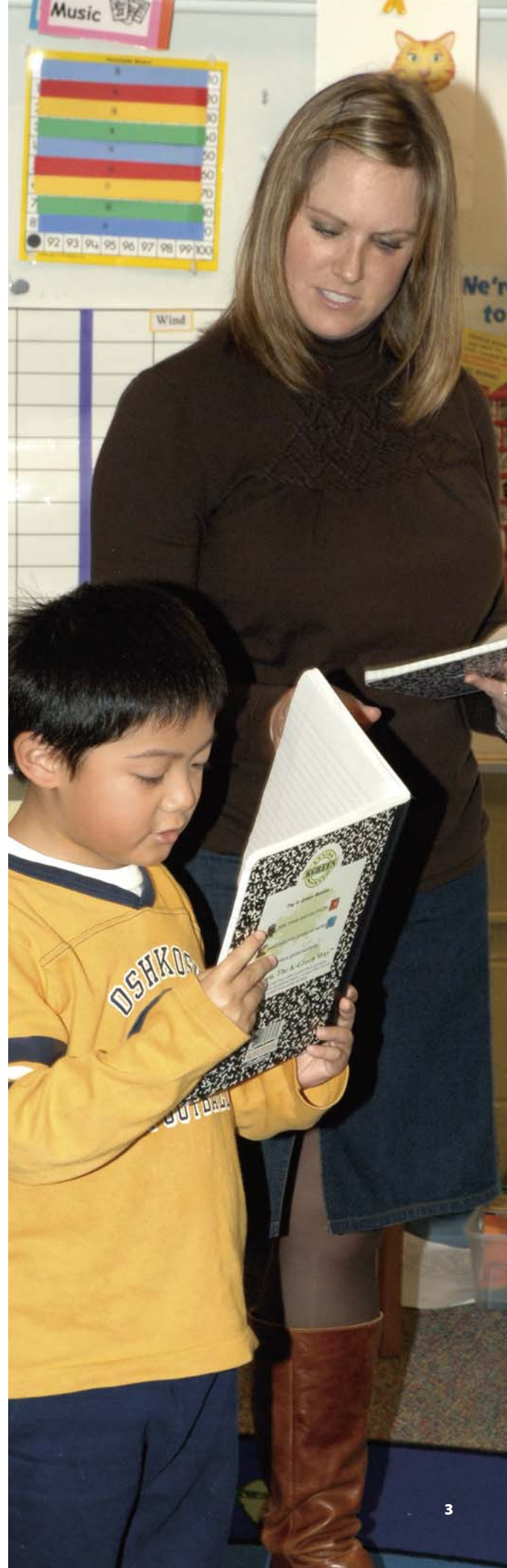
Create a world-class public school system where all students graduate with the skills needed to contribute to Wake County's local and global needs.

► Mission:

Through excellence in public education, Wake Education Partnership promotes the economic health of Wake County.

► Our Core Values:

- Every student deserves an excellent public education.
- Public education is fundamental to a strong local economy.
- Well-informed citizens help public schools succeed.
- Well-supported, well-trained professional educators are essential for a high-quality school system.
- Public schools remain relevant by growing and changing with the world.
- Excellent public schools sustain a democratic society.
- Diverse perspectives strengthen community support for education.



what we do



► Suspending Disbelief

Global competition and a growing demand that all graduates meet higher standards will require a different design for Wake County's public schools. That conclusion is at the heart of a report issued by the Partnership in June that defined the traits of a world-class school system.

Titled *Suspending Disbelief*, the report followed a year of study with six other education groups and more than three dozen community leaders.

Based on the research and recommendations of the group, the Partnership's report describes what a world-class system would look like in areas such as basic student competencies, curriculum standards, assessment, testing and the way time is used in the classroom. The report calls for a far more rigorous curriculum, the use of international benchmarks in student accountability and a better use of the time now spent in each school day.

The Partnership will continue to present the report throughout the community as it has done since June. At the same time, a second group of community leaders is being convened to address how changes called for in the study can be made.

Much like the first gathering of leaders, the second group will include local business leaders, school officials and a variety of experts on the topic of world-class education standards.

Visit our website at www.wakeedpartnership.org to learn more.



► Teacher Leadership Grants

Since 1983, Wake Education Partnership has been awarding grants to Wake County public school teachers and support personnel through our teacher grant programs.

2008-2009 Results:

- Grant winners used Partnership money to attract an additional \$39,775 to expand their ideas and programs.
- Schools saw measurable improvements—from improved reading test results at Rand Road Elementary to a 75 percent decrease in student suspensions at Creech Road Elementary.
- Teachers at all schools were able to incorporate specific ideas into the school district's broader push to focus on data analysis and teamwork as part of Professional Learning Teams.

2008-2009 Winners

- **Ann Badders**, *Rand Road Elementary*: Offered training and materials that focused teachers on improved reading and comprehension skills in grade K-5.
- **Karen D'Elia**, *Reedy Creek Elementary*: Provided teacher training on how to integrate interactive white boards—called SMART Boards—into classroom lessons.
- **Tonya Hinton**, *Athens Drive High*: Created a county-wide student competition to improve test scores in Advanced Placement Psychology classes.
- **Annette Hymel**, *Pleasant Union Elementary*: Focused SMART Board integration on specific subjects, leading to widespread use of the technology in each classroom.
- **Tricia Liberatore Holcomb**, *Lynn Road Elementary*: Integrated technology into first grade social studies lessons to better coordinate curriculum goals.
- **Allison McCarter**, *Wiley Elementary*: Trained teachers to help first and second graders recognize the most effective strategies for solving daily math lessons.
- **Michelle McDaniel**, *Turner Creek Elementary*: Provided time for teachers to develop strategies for students that improved geometry, algebra and problem-solving skills.
- **Shawna Scipione**, *Creech Road Elementary*: Encouraged students to take more responsibility by stressing teamwork, data and results.



2008-2009 At a Glance:

- Grants awarded: 8
- Students served: 3,568
- Amount awarded: \$27,358.55

teacher LEADERSHIP grants



Pictured above are the 2009-2010 Winners: Tracy Casorso, Ligon Middle; Carol Chalk, Baileywick Elementary; Beth Swartz, Wiley Elementary; Michelle McDaniel, Turner Creek Elementary; Jenny Eaton, Ballentine Elementary; and Allison Kuhns, Reedy Creek Elementary. Not pictured: Julie Schmidt, Ballentine Elementary



➤ 2009 Leadership Institute

2009 is bringing significant change to the Wake County school board, including four contested seats in the fall elections.

In keeping with its roles of informing the public and building relationships with policymakers, the Partnership developed two programs for school board candidates.

The first of those programs, called the 2009 Leadership Institute, provided candidates with a nuts-and-bolts description of what it means to be a Wake County school board member from policymaking to test score analysis. The institute sessions were held in July and August.



While reassignment and diversity often attract much of the public's attention, the truth is that running a school system the size of Wake County's is a constant balancing act involving dozens of issues. Those issues are intertwined, complex and present a steep learning curve for many. The Partnership wishes to commend those willing to take the time and effort necessary to run for the school board.

From math, science and technology to financial issues and enrollment growth, the sessions provided candidates with an opportunity to cover a wide range of topics with a focus on understanding the history and context of issues.

As a non-profit that operates independently of the school system and the county commissioners, Wake Education Partnership is proud to work with the active candidates.

Topics

- Policymaking
- Finance
- Accountability
- No Child Left Behind
- Student Performance
- Math, Science, Technology
- High School Performance
- Teachers
- Calendars and Bell Schedules
- School Safety and Discipline
- Charters and Choice
- World-Class Education Standards

➤ 2009 Board of Education Debates

Following the 2009 Leadership Institute, the Partnership was pleased to offer a series of school board candidate debates. The debates were co-hosted with local chambers of commerce and attended by every candidate.

Such debates are central to the Partnership's efforts to help the public better understand public school issues by providing forums where candidates can offer their views.

Debates Held

- **District 1**
Chamber of Commerce partners: Wake Forest, Rolesville, Wendell, Knightdale, Zebulon
- **District 2**
Chamber of Commerce partners: Garner, Fuquay-Varina
- **District 7**
Chamber of Commerce partners: Morrisville, Raleigh
- **District 9**
Chamber of Commerce partner: Cary



► Triangle Leadership Academy

Triangle Leadership Academy (TLA) was created more than four years ago when superintendents in five area school districts pointed to professional development as one of the biggest challenges in their districts. In response to that need, TLA continued to grow in 2008-2009, offering courses that allow educators to earn master and doctorate degrees.

The mission of TLA is to develop a pipeline of new leaders who will improve student achievement. It focuses on providing leadership by all working together rather than relying on an influential few.

The Partnership is a founding member of TLA and is currently a formal member of the larger TLA consortium with the public school systems of Wake County, Orange County, Person County, Chapel Hill-Carboro and Durham Public Schools.

Awards

In December, 2008, TLA was awarded Leadership Triangle's Goodmon Award for an Organization exhibiting outstanding regional leadership. The award recognizes leaders and organizations in our community who demonstrate the ability to address common issues on a regional basis. Leadership Triangle established the annual awards in honor of James F. Goodmon.



In 2008-2009 TLA...

- ... taught 3,500 educators
- ... offered 34 courses related to seven critical functions of leadership as developed by TLA staff
- ... served 46 participants in the Master of School Administration Program at NC State
- ... served 15 participants in the doctoral program at ECU

97% of graduates from the MSA program offered through TLA have been retained by the Wake County Public School System over the past two years compared to 84% of those who are not MSA employees.

► Wake Regional Educational Roundtable Series

The Roundtable Series consisted of monthly lunch discussions hosted with area chambers of commerce and area businesses. Discussions help citizens better understand issues facing the district so they can make more informed decisions about public education.

2008-2009 Roundtable Topics

- Socioeconomic diversity in schools
- Redefining the roles of the school board and county commission
- A uniform approach to the school system's curriculum

Survey of Roundtable Participants

- 95% - Participants reporting a good to excellent understanding of the Partnership following the sessions.
- 93% - Participants reporting a good to excellent understanding of the roundtable topic following the session.
- 80% - Participants agreed they learned information they did not already know before the session.

By the Numbers:

- 200 attendees
- 6 chamber of commerce roundtables
- 2 corporate roundtables



► 2009-2010 Program of Work

World-Class Education Initiative – The 2009-2010 year will focus on identifying needed changes to create a world-class, globally-competitive Wake County Public School System. Every aspect of our school system will be explored—including use of time, curriculum, policies, and funding. Our research and advocacy efforts will focus on this topic and engage our community in conversation.

Community Outreach – The Partnership plays an active role in education conversations in Wake County and positions itself as a reliable source of accurate information. Staff regularly attends and participates in a wide variety of community meetings.

In Context Newsletter – The Partnership produces a bi-weekly newsletter highlighting current education news relevant to Wake County. Topics include local, statewide and national issues.

Leader Institutes – Candidate forums were offered in 2009 for WCPSS Board of Education candidates.

Teacher Leadership Grants – Teacher Leadership Grants align with all Partnership strategic initiatives and the work of Triangle Leadership Academy (TLA). Grants support the work of Professional Learning Teams and concepts learned through TLA. Special consideration is given to energy education grants, courtesy of Progress Energy.

Wake Regional Education Roundtable Series – The Roundtable series includes regular discussions held in conjunction with local chambers of commerce and other community groups. Roundtables will focus on our World-Class Education Initiative, socioeconomic diversity in public schools, or current events. Parents, business leaders, elected officials, and chamber members are encouraged to attend.

Triangle Leadership Academy – TLA is a public-private partnership that provides leadership development and capacity building for school/system leaders in five local districts.

Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting provides the venue for releasing our Annual Report, formally beginning our Annual Campaign For Public Education, and presenting the Friend of Education Award.

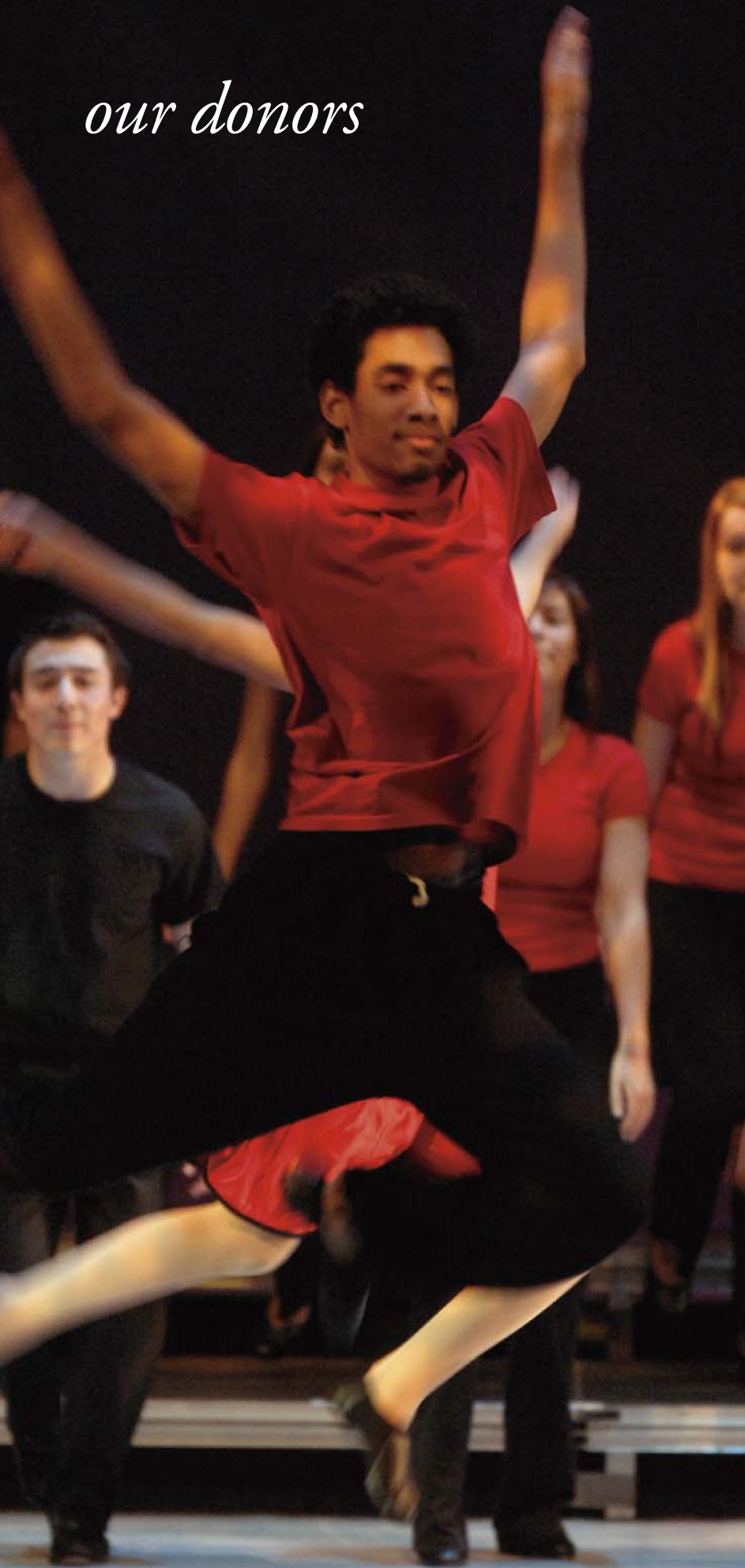
Annual Report and Quarterly Updates – The Annual Report highlights the prior year's work and reviews programmatic and fundraising items. Electronic quarterly updates follow throughout the year.

Partnership Website – The Partnership maintains an easy to use, up to date website. Content includes information about the Partnership, our programs, events and publications. Our funders will be showcased, and opportunities for giving will be provided.

Topic Reviews – Two to three page summaries of the data and politics behind current events will be presented to our Board of Directors and Board of Trustees during the course of the year. Topics will be determined by staff or Board request and may include issues such as student assignment proposals, school funding decisions, assignment trends in other NC districts, test score results and other topics.



our donors



► 2008-2009 Corporate Gifts

Sustainer • \$100,000 and above



Platinum • \$50,000 - \$99,999



Gold • \$25,000 - \$49,999



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► 2008-2009 Corporate Gifts

Silver • \$10,000 - \$24,999

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Partner • \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Capitol Broadcasting Company
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Crescent State Bank
Curran Foundation
DeVere Construction Company
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Hunton & Williams
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K&L Gates, LLP

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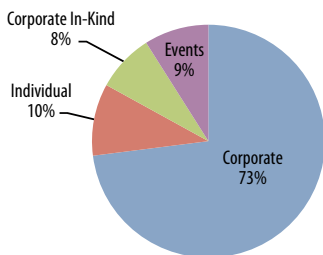
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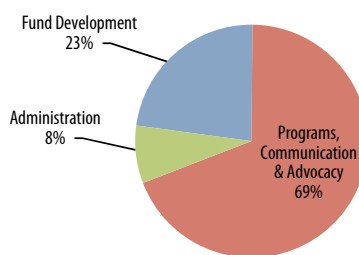
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Sources of Revenue
2008-2009



Allocations of Revenue
2008-2009



our leadership

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Kenneth Reece (Ken) • First Tennessee Bank
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Mathias Bishop • Community Leader
Kenneth Black (Ken) • First Citizens Bank
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Anthony M. Clayton (Marty) • Progress Energy
Beth Cochran • Wake County Public School System
David Cooke • Wake County Manager's Office
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Sandy Fain • The News & Observer Publishing Company
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Wake
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and printing of this piece.
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