

News from Making It Better - June, 2011



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Save the Date!!
Sat., October 29

**Magnums Make
a Difference**



A one-of-a-kind,
decadent wine dinner!

**The Wynden
on Post Oak**

(formerly Masraff's)
Details to follow!

A Message from CEO, Jerry Davis



In the five short years since our non-profit's founding, we have seen our students developing the life skills, literacy, confidence, character and hope they will need to overcome the obstacles faced by them on a daily basis. Every time I visit one of our programs, see the students and the confidence and trust reflected in their eyes, I am reminded of the responsibility we have to build and plan for their future.

Since all of our programs are offered *free of charge* to families, the cuts to school districts and other state budgets leave MIB with a heavy burden and a great need for private support to ensure that our programs continue to be available for some of Houston's most at-risk children and families.

As Making It Better looks to the future, we are confident that the private sector will pick up where the public has left off. The children served

by Making It Better's programs are benefitting from a range of opportunities which are proven effective in the prevention of youth involvement in drugs, alcohol, gangs, and other self destructive activities, while concurrently improving students' performance in school and helping them develop positive conflict management skills and improved self-esteem.

When the Board of Directors recently held its first retreat, sustainability was identified as the key challenge faced in planning MIB's future. Our ability to sustain what has been started in the lives of these precious children has become our top priority. During an extensive brainstorming session, board members identified "quality and performance of the board" as being of the greatest importance. Board effectiveness impacts our fundraising effectiveness, our development resources and our staff performance, our financial discipline and risk management, and our profile and involvement in the community.

It is an incredible honor for me to work with such a dedicated group of individuals, board members, staff and volunteers, each of whom cares deeply about our mission and the future of our students, and brings a set of experiences and skills essential to our success. I share with them the belief that Making It Better's future lies not just in the quality and successful operation of our programs, and the continued strength of our funding, but in the effectiveness of our board and its ability to sustain our future. You can be sure that what energizes and sustains each of us are the bright and hopeful faces of the students that we serve.

I invite you to take a look at the accomplishments of our programs and our students reflected in the following pages and on our newly updated website, www.mibt.org, and appreciate your continued support of our mission...changing the world, one life at a time.

2010-11 Highlights

- Since August, 2010, MIB has received over **half a million dollars** in funds thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors.
- We have more than tripled the number of students served, from 320 in to **973** students this school year!
- Our Literacy Program showed over a **150%** increase in students reading at or above grade level.



Many thanks to our donors!

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Complete Energy Services
Conoco Phillips
G & H Air Conditioning
Matthews Capital Partners, LLC
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O'Brien Resources
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Grace Presbyterian Church
GracePoint Community Church

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Hildebrand Foundation
The Children's Fund
The Simmons Foundation

Grants

Change Happens
Families Under Urban & Social
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Troop 55 Boys Scouts of America

School

Houston ISD

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News from Making It Better

Literacy Program Highlights

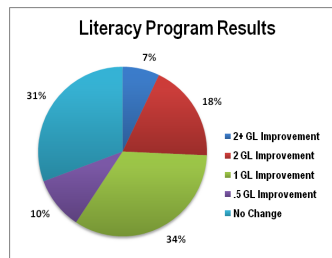
Literacy Program

Making It Better's Literacy Program nearly doubled the number of students served in 2010-2011. MIB served 172 1st - 3rd graders from Askew, Shearn and Piney Point Elementary schools. Our Literacy Programs work with students, identified by the school, as needing intensive reading intervention – the majority of these students are reading well below grade level. Our staff, in this intensive tutorial program, works closely with these students to build a foundation for reading success.

Results Highlights

- 69.3% of all students showed an improvement in their Reading Grade Level

Of those showing improvement, 37.1% increased two or more grade levels.



- 92.7% of teachers reported some or significant change in confidence in reading.
- Our students showed a 152% increase in their reading skills and are now reading at or above grade level.

After School Program Highlights

After School Programs

Making It Better continued its partnership with Shadowbriar Elementary and Belmont/La Fontaine Apartments to provide after school programs. Additionally, in continuation of our partnership with The City of Houston's After School Achievement Program, MIB added an after school program at Frost Elementary.



MIB's after school programs served over 115 students grades K-5, of which 88% qualified for free/reduced lunch status. Students in these programs participated in a wide variety of academic and enrichment activities including: Mad Science, ARTeach

Results Highlights

- On average, 73.5% of students showed an improvement in attitudes and knowledge about their self, school, their friends and their health.
- 78.3% of students passed their Math TAKS and 72.5% passed their Reading TAKS.
- 80.5% of teachers reported some or significant change in self-esteem.
- 85.4% of teachers reported some or significant change in grades.
- 61.1% of teachers reported some or significant increase in positive choices.

(ceramics, silk screening, painting, drumming, hip hop dance, and papier maché), TAKS tutorials, various sports, Leadership Academy, Life Skills, games, computer and many other activities.



Additional Program Highlights

Leadership Academy

During the 2010-2011 school year 45 students, from Askew Elementary, Shadowbriar Elementary, Frost Elementary and Revere Middle School, participated in our Leadership Academy. Students learned how to develop positive social skills and relationships, how to avoid bullying, coping with anger, how to start their own business and many other new skills. On average, 77.2% of students showed an improvement in attitudes and knowledge about their self, school, their friends and their health.

Life Skills & Positive Action

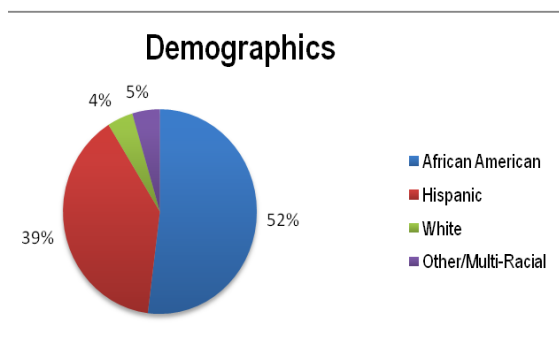
In collaboration with Change Happens! (formerly FUUSA) we were able to provide Life Skills and Positive Action curriculum to 622 students, grades 1st – 5th at Askew & Shadowbriar Elementary this school year. The Life Skills and Positive Action curriculum are research-based programs that focus on developing positive actions for the whole self, as well as,



personal self-management skills, social skills and drug resistance skills.

- 95.8% of students in the Life Skills program showed an improvement in knowledge relating to self-esteem, communication, social skills, effects of tobacco, and resistance skills.
- 70.9% of students in the Positive Action program showed an improvement in knowledge and behavior relating to health, decision making, and positive actions for their whole self.

Student Demographics



MIB's students are ages 6-14 and have been identified by their classroom teachers as having academic difficulties and/or discipline/social issues. 87.3% of students in our targeted programs (Afterschool Programs, Literacy Programs and Leadership Academy) live in high risk, low rent apartment complexes in close proximity to the schools they attend. Children living in this type of environment are exposed to

multiple risk factors including crime and violence; poverty; poor academic performance; and lack a sense of social connection and bonding to their school, community, and family.

Looking Forward—the future of MIB

Making It Better experienced phenomenal growth during the 2010-11 school year and we are looking forward to continuing this growth in 2011-12 as we expect to serve approximately 1500 students attending 8 - 9 HISD schools! We will deliver our Literacy Program at three additional schools and will add another apartment complex to our list of after school sites.

We are continuing our geographic expansion efforts and, in addition to serving students in west and south Houston, we are excited to be branching out to Houston's Fifth Ward where we will be serving students at Bruce Elementary. We are proud to partner with Houston Housing Resource at the Kennedy Apartments at our first Houston Housing Authority site, as well serving students

in east Houston at Robinson Elementary!



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Making It Better

Changing the world,
one life at a time.

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2010-2011 Report Card

Making It Better

85.6% of students passed the Math TAKS
 78.8% of students passed the Reading TAKS
 12.2% of students in our Literacy Program received
 COMENDED on their Reading TAKS
 20.4% of students received COMENDED on their Math TAKS
 87.1% of teachers reported some or significant change in self-esteem
 84% of teachers reported some or significant change in grades