



Paving the Way...

Spring 2008
www.pave.org

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Making Excellent Educational Options Possible for Milwaukee Families

Improving Outcomes Through Extended Learning

Educators have long understood that a student's loss of skills and aptitude over the summer months leads to problems at the beginning of the school year. This problem is even more acute for low-income students who typically fall substantially behind their middle-income peers during idle summers, and financial barriers keep them from participating in organized enriching activities like summer camp. This "summer learning loss," which research indicates is equivalent to one month of skills and aptitude, is of particular concern in Milwaukee which has one of the highest gaps in achievement between low-income and middle-income students in the country.

Where there are challenges, PAVE finds opportunity...

Ten outstanding school leaders representing a variety of Milwaukee charter and "choice" schools are collaborating with PAVE to develop summer programming that combines both academics and enrichment activities for the summer of 2008. These schools were chosen for their visionary leadership, strong governing boards, and sound fiscal judgment. They have all identified summer learning as vital in improving the academic performance of their students and in increasing parental involvement.

PAVE's summer partners will focus on building math, reading, writing, and science skills; and most will offer enrichment activities such as music, organized sports, and visual arts. Over



Students at Hope Middle School in Milwaukee engage in an archeology class through the PAVE-supported Summer of a Lifetime in 2007.

1,000 students will benefit from these extended learning opportunities.

To support these efforts, PAVE will provide school leaders with program development assistance, financial support to ensure that these opportunities are available to low-income families, and connections to strategic community partners who can enhance each school's enrichment offerings. Schools will also benefit from the expertise of independent evaluators who will assist them as they work to identify local measures that will be used to track the performance of students during the summer and in the coming school year.

PAVE has a reputation for developing the successful collaborations that will be needed to lead innovation in year-round learning in Milwaukee. By leveraging community partnerships and by increasing access to high-quality summer pro-

grams for low-income families, PAVE hopes to make a positive impact on the educational outcomes of Milwaukee's students.

The idea of improving the educational outcomes by extending the amount of time students spend in the classroom beyond the traditional nine-month year is not new. What is new for Milwaukee schools is having a partner like PAVE willing to make a long-term commitment to help them build the capacity of their school to provide such programs.

PAVE's summer program was recently highlighted in the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's "Branching Out" series available at www.greatermilwaukeefoundation.org/branchingout.



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A Message to PAVE's Great Partners

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first in a series of special reports...*Paving the Way!*

The topics covered in each report are intended to promote a greater understanding of PAVE's strategies as our work to improve educational opportunities for urban students evolves. While our highly successful scholarship program continues to sustain over 240 low-income students, our capacity building work with several schools is developing extraordinary models that challenge the status quo in urban education.

The main topic in this first report is the need for extended learning opportunities for low-income children--and how PAVE has supported effective summer programming with ten outstanding school leaders. From a donor's perspective, it is often difficult to determine which schools are capable of achieving excellence and are therefore worthy of support. PAVE's evaluation criteria are highlighted in one article, and in another we provide an example of a school we are proud to work with: Urban Day.

PAVE has established a reputation as a trusted guide to educational investments in the city, and your support has enabled PAVE to increase the number of schools that have the capacity to offer families excellent educational opportunities. We are proud to be your partners in this great mission!

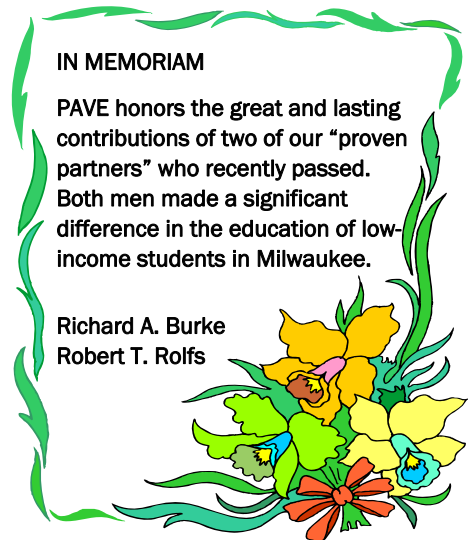
This is the start of what I hope will be an important and interesting conversation, and I will respond promptly to your questions or observations if you use my personal email: dan@pave.org. Thank you!

Dan McKinley
 President & CEO

IN MEMORIAM

PAVE honors the great and lasting contributions of two of our "proven partners" who recently passed. Both men made a significant difference in the education of low-income students in Milwaukee.

Richard A. Burke
 Robert T. Rolfs



Urban Day: Redefining "Summer School"

Founded by a group of committed parents and volunteers in 1968, Urban Day School has served families on Milwaukee's north side for 40 years with a high quality, well rounded education that emphasizes development of the whole child.

Urban Day School participates in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and currently enrolls 640 students in grades K-8 in two north-side Milwaukee campuses.

Urban Day School engages with dozens of outside collaborators to provide essential health services and enrichment such as ballet, African dance and drumming, and visual arts.

PAVE has been a supporter of Urban Day School for over a decade. Most recently,

Urban Day and PAVE have partnered to expand the school's summer programming, adding afternoon

enrichment activities to an existing morning academic program.

In 2007, the first year of PAVE and Urban Day's summer learning partnership, the school saw enrollment increase from 160 to over 240 students due to the expansion of the program from half day to full day with the addition of afternoon enrichment activities.

For the summer of 2008, Urban Day plans to enroll 300 students in its six week, full day program featuring baseball, soccer, music, dance, golf, and visual arts programming in addition to its academic offerings. Urban Day is working hard to make summer learning synonymous with fun redefining the negative stigma traditional associated with "summer school".

"PAVE has made it possible for us to expand our vision of what Summer School can be. Working together with PAVE, Urban Day School will provide an incredibly rich menu of activities that we believe will make kids eager to return to school in the fall."

*John Plantenberg
 President, Urban Day*

To learn more about Urban Day contact John Plantenberg at 414.263.2781.

For more information on PAVE's ongoing efforts to make excellent educational opportunities possible for Milwaukee families and how you can help PAVE accomplish its mission, please visit www.pave.org.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please call 414.263.2970 or email your request to marcie@pave.org.