



ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

Celebrating our Community

by Jennifer Knapp Beudert, *Manager*

I am pleased to share this annual report describing the Robinson Community Learning Center’s program development, outreach, and progress toward major initiatives during 2012–13. I would also like to recognize the RCLC’s ongoing dedication to our goal of “fostering active citizenship and a commitment to community building.” None of the following could have been accomplished without the commitment to maintaining a community that is:



RCLC Staff receives 2013 Presidential Team Irish Award!

Left to right: Velsbonna Luckey, Kris Arizmendi, Jennifer Wittenbrink, Duane Wilson, Jay Caponigro, Marguerite Taylor, Ellen Kyes, Christy Burgess, Andy Kostielney, Jennifer Knapp Beudert, and John Affleck-Graves

Photo Credit: Michael & Susan Bennett Lighthouse Imaging

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Diverse and inclusive. Children, college students, parents, community partners, ND faculty and staff, recent immigrants, and lifelong residents work together toward common goals.

Welcoming and expansive. The RCLC community continues to grow. The Robinson Shakespeare Company is now active in local schools; Take Ten has spread throughout the state; and the RCLC has developed programming at the ND Center for Arts and Culture (NDCAC).

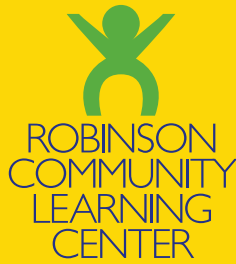
Engaged and active. As part of a center-wide writing theme of “Civic Engagement,” RCLC youth developed a proposal for improvements to a local park through the Engaging Youth, Engaging Neighborhoods project. Members also participated in community activities such as talking to elected officials, writing to newspapers, and participating in CommUniversity Day work projects.

Appreciative of history and our legacy. A decade ago, artist Jacquee Dickey created a record of our neighbors that has hung in our hallway since. This fall, under her guidance, the RCLC Photoformers Club expanded the exhibit to include the stories and photos of 23 current residents. These portraits are now on display at the RCLC and permanently archived at the Northern Indiana Center for History.

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These are just a few examples of what makes the RCLC unique. Join us in celebrating our accomplishments and our community!



The Robinson Community Learning Center is a department in the Office of Public Affairs, division of University Relations, under the direction of Jay Caponigro, director of community engagement, and Timothy Sexton, associate vice president. See more about Notre Dame's local outreach efforts at: publicaffairs.nd.edu.

RCLC History

The RCLC was launched in February 2001, as an off-campus educational initiative of Notre Dame in partnership with Northeast Neighborhood residents of South Bend. While RCLC staff report to University Relations at the University of Notre Dame, programs are overseen by a program advisory board comprised of residents, program partners, ND faculty/staff, and students.

Mission Statement

The Robinson Community Learning Center welcomes community and Notre Dame partners who strengthen the Northeast Neighborhood of South Bend through relationship building and educational opportunities. By promoting innovation and excellence, the center builds individual capacity and enhances existing systems throughout South Bend.



RCLC Staff

- Jennifer Knapp Beudert..... Manager
- Andy Kostielney Assistant Manager
- Ellen Kyes Take Ten Program Director
- Velshonna Luckey Youth Development Program Director
- Christy Burgess Shakespeare Associate Program Director
- Duane Wilson Advanced Skills and Youth Entrepreneurship Program Director
- Jennifer Wittenbrink Literacy Program Director
- Marguerite Taylor Adult Programs Associate Program Director
- Kris Arizmendi Volunteer Coordinator

2012–2013 RCLC AmeriCorps Members:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Reem Abu-Gdairi | Charell Luckey |
| Evan Ammeson | Victoria Mansoor |
| Christopher Bush | Kwame Nuako |
| Natalie Dreyer | Robin O'Brien |
| Anna Duchossois | Nicholas Ortega |
| Susan Esquivel | Terry Provo |
| Emily Flower | Rachel Roseberry |
| Matt Formica | Caleb Stinson |
| Rachael Foster | Ethan Tanis |
| Tracy Huddlestun | Brendan Ward |
| Stacie Jensen | Lu Ella Webster |
| Justin Koselke | Jessica Yeh |
| Carlos Leyva | |

2012–2013 RCLC Advisory Board Members:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Solomon Anderson | Nicole MacLaughlin |
| Chuck Ball | Sarah Martin |
| Michael Ball | Kaili McGhee |
| Mozell Bowens | G. David Moss |
| Jasmine Brown | Richard Pierce |
| Annie Cahill-Kelly | Richard Threet |
| Steve Egan | Denise Umubyeyi |
| Jim Frabutt | Mike Vogel |
| Mike Hebbeler | Lu Ella Webster |
| Brianna Leon | Carmen Williams |

Goal 1: Hospitality

Create a setting that serves as a place of gathering and interaction among neighborhood residents, ND students and staff, and community partners.

Hosting Innovative Programs

by Marguerite Taylor, Associate Program Director for Adult Programs



There were over 20,000 visits to the Robinson Center during 2012–13.

■ Lunch and Learn Lecture Series for Seniors

Lunch and Learn Lectures for Seniors are offered at the RCLC in partnership with ND Community Relations. This year an average of 53 seniors met monthly to hear local experts speak on topics including, Medicare 101, grandparents as parents, and finding employment after fifty. On evaluation surveys, the majority of participants indicated that the lectures positively impacted their lives, and that they were likely to make changes in their lives in response to information shared.

■ Clubs for Adults

RCLC's longest running book club (almost a decade!) continues to meet weekly for discussion and fellowship. Members comment that, "I value the different thoughts that come from the same read," and "The book club meeting makes my week!" Two additional book clubs were added last year and continue to meet. Books read include *Her Mother's Hope* by Francine Rivers, and *Perfect Peace* by Daniel Black.

Two Senior Computer Clubs, with a total of 20 members, met weekly during 2012–13. Although members report that the content can be challenging, they feel the class is "good for the mind!"

The Craft Club is going strong in its second year. Members spend Friday

afternoons knitting, crocheting, and weaving. A photography club for adults started in the spring and meets weekly to share photos, listen to guest speakers, and take field trips.

■ Talk With Your Baby

Talk With Your Baby (TWYB) teaches that the first three years of life are the most important for the development of a baby's brain, so it is crucial that parents talk with babies as much as possible. The RCLC partnered with Memorial Hospital to offer two TWYB sessions, reaching 15 adults with seven children under 3 years old. Participants learned songs, stories, and creative ideas for reading to children. For the first time, Chinese translations of course materials were available. Beginning in summer 2013, the RCLC will assume coordination of the TWYB initiative, which currently engages multiple organizations to offer TWYB sessions in a variety of settings.

■ Lego Robotics

This has been a transition year for the iRobotics team as several previous team members became too old for the league. The new 10-member team, ages 10–14, continues to be coached by G. David Moss and Lionel Pittman. The team received notice for their research on senior living at the 2012 regional FIRST Lego League Competition.

Goal 2: Education

Establish educational opportunities to develop technical abilities, build life skills, and provide support/mentoring at all ages.

Robinson Center Youth Programs

by Velshonna Luckey, Youth Development Program Director



“I have absolutely loved my time at RCLC. It has inspired me to consider my future career and potential to help communities the way RCLC does.”

—Tutor/ND senior



■ Afterschool Tutoring

Sixty-five youth, grades 1–12, were tutored by 129 college volunteers during 2012–13. Youth were paired individually with tutors four days per week. Eighty-five percent of students completed both terms, with an 80% rate of attendance. Sixty-three participants took the SCOUT Achieve assessment, which identified five goals for each child to serve as focus areas for instruction. Youth in grades 1–8 showed an average overall gain of 10% from pre- to post-test, with an average gain of 25% on identified goal areas. Ninety-three percent of tutors surveyed felt that they had developed a positive relationship with their students, and that their students had made progress in the areas in which they worked. Ninety-one percent felt that their time at the Robinson Center had heightened their awareness of people and circumstances in the Northeast Neighborhood and the South Bend community.

In addition to skill-based instruction, tutoring sessions included reading aloud, guided reading, and writing prompts. Writing was directed toward community themes—students wrote letters to the President, the *South Bend Tribune*, and the ND Center for Arts and Culture, offering suggestions for ways to help the community. Student work is presented on the blog rclckids.wordpress.com and in the *Robinson Review*.

■ Be InSpired

Be InSpired invited 12 dynamic speakers from varying backgrounds and careers to meet with 25 RCLC students, ages 12–18. Students talked with the executive director of the Center for the Homeless, the South Bend mayor’s chief of staff, a marathon runner, and many others.

RCLC youth also traveled to the Juvenile Justice Center and met with the Probate Judge. Once again, Be InSpired Hits the Road traveled to Indianapolis. Twenty youth visited Purdue University, the Eiteljorg Museum, the NCAA, and assembled 1,500 Weekend BackPacks at the Gleaners Food Bank. On follow-up surveys, 85% of students said the trip caused them to think about future career/educational opportunities, and 100% said that it was rewarding to “give back to the community” through the food bank.

■ My America

My America focused on the five pillars of the Declaration of Independence: equality, rights, democracy, liberty, and opportunity. Students studied events, people, and places such as Martin Luther King Jr., March on Washington, the Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty, and New Colossus. Nineteen youth traveled to Philadelphia, visiting the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the National Constitution Center.

■ Enrichment

Afterschool enrichment for 1–5 grade students was divided into four strands: art, geography, science, and writing. Activities included re-creating techniques of great artists, conducting experiments, and creating fiction genres, expository texts, and poetry. Students in grades 6–12 developed their research skills through an internet scavenger hunt, and learned about colleges/careers during College Prep Freeway. “Fun Friday” activities were provided by ND students from the Law School, lacrosse team, Pangborn Hall, Fisher Hall, LAND, and ROTC.

Literacy Corps

by Jennifer Wittenbrink, Literacy Program Director

■ Tutoring

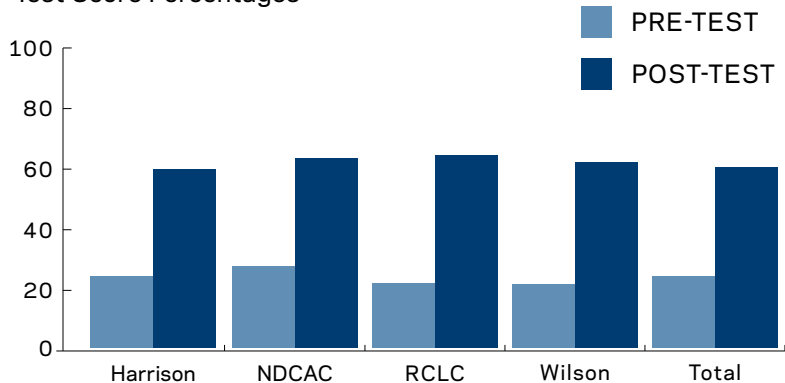
Since 2009, the RCLC has offered free tutoring to 337 low-income students through Indiana’s Supplemental Educational Services Program, funded by No Child Left Behind (NCLB). In 2012, Indiana received a waiver from NCLB and discontinued SES. Rather than eliminating the RCLC program, a new operating model was developed using volunteers. This involved changes in tutor training, and a 6% reduction in children served, but other key elements were preserved. This program is now called Literacy Corps. A total of 153 students in grades 1–6, from 12 schools, enrolled in Literacy Corps, with 126 (82%) completing the 30-session program. Over 100 tutors were recruited. Tutoring took place at the RCLC, two Boys and Girls Clubs, the ND Center for Arts and Culture (NDCAC), and El Campito.

Each child completed a pre-post assessment, measuring skills across 12 areas of reading competency. Average overall gain from pre- to post-test was 17%. Based on the initial assessment, four goals were identified for each child. Students showed significant growth in all goal areas, with an average pre-post gain of 31.8%. In addition, 88% of students advanced at least one grade level in sight word recognition, and 58% went up three grade levels or more. 100% of parents surveyed reported that their child’s reading had improved as a result of tutoring.



Progress on Student Goal Areas by Site

Test Score Percentages



“My students gained numerous skills, and they also gained confidence in their ability to succeed. Both grew more excited about literacy as the semester progressed.” —Tutor

“The tutoring has really improved the children’s skills.... They can write with complete sentences, spell more words, identify main ideas, make predictions, analyze characters, and explain the setting!” —Tutor

Goal 2: Education

Establish educational opportunities to develop technical abilities, build life skills, and provide support/mentoring at all ages.

Robinson Shakespeare Company

by Christy Burgess, Shakespeare Associate Program Director

“Shakespeare has helped me with literature and reading and has helped me understand conflicts from the past. It has helped me with my acting skills and teamwork.”

—RSC member

■ Performances

The Robinson Shakespeare Company (RSC) has just completed its fifth successful year! During fall 2012, 27 RCLC youth, grades 3–11, partnered with 17 ND students from the Community-Based Writing and Rhetoric class, to learn and perform Shakespeare monologues. Their work culminated in a Christmas recital at the RCLC for an audience of 90, and in their participation in the fifth annual Shakespeare at ND Regional Shakespeare Monologue Competition. Awards were given to RSC members at the elementary, middle, high school, and college levels. Paul Ferguson, a freshman from St. Joseph High School, advanced to the state competition, where he was awarded second runner-up. During the spring semester, 29 students, grades 3–10, performed Shakespeare’s *Henry IV*, Part 1, at the Annenberg Theatre, for an audience of 140.

RSC members also enjoyed participating in Shakespeare 24, which involved reading Shakespeare around the clock—a total of seven plays. As shown in the photo to the right, RSC members especially enjoyed portraying the witches during their reading of *Macbeth* at midnight!

■ Outreach

The RSC is proud to have been awarded an ArtsEverywhere grant from the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County

to fund the RSC’s outreach into the South Bend schools during 2012–13. Through this RSC Outreach Initiative, RCLC staff and AmeriCorps members implemented afterschool drama classes and clubs at Perley Fine Arts Academy, Muessel Primary, Jefferson Intermediate, Dickinson Fine Arts Academy, and the ND Center for Arts and Culture. These efforts yielded 14 performances, reaching a total audience of over 3,000. RSC staff also provided professional development for teachers, working with them to implement in-class drama integration strategies aimed at strengthening academic instruction. Results have been encouraging—for example, 7th graders participating in three weeks of drama integration activities showed an overall gain of 7% in class grades, with several students who had been failing improving their grades by 33%. During this first year of the three-year grant, a total of 820 students were able to participate in RSC Outreach Initiative activities, with 250 receiving an hour of drama instruction weekly.



Advanced Skills and Entrepreneurship

by Duane Wilson, *Advanced Skills and Entrepreneurship Program Director*



Robinson Enterprises

This was the most successful year ever for football parking. Six high school students engaged in this hands-on aspect of the Youth Entrepreneurship program. They worked with two ND students and RCLC staff to manage four parking lots, earning a total of \$53,000. GO IRISH!

■ Youth Entrepreneurship

Three cohorts of students from Clay High School, Washington High School, and the RCLC, participated in the 2012–13 Youth Entrepreneurship Program, again offered through partnership with the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurship. A total of 16 students engaged in a fall ideation class, leading to the Elevator Pitch Competition, and a spring entrepreneurship class, culminating in the Invention Convention. Students were mentored individually by 16 ND undergraduate and MBA students. Mentors assessed students' growth in four critical areas each week: focus, work ethic, research skills, and business knowledge. All students showed growth in at least three of these four areas.

Students competing in the Invention Convention presented their business plans to a panel of MBA and undergraduate students. These judges rated participants on five areas of business plan development. Eighty-seven percent of students competing received an overall rating of very good or excellent.

■ 2013 Invention Convention

Prize Winners:

- **Investor's Choice:**
"C.A.R.M.A"
Tomas Delgado
Clay High School
- **Best Presentation:**
"Delicious Diverse Dinners"
Dominique Goodlow
Washington High School

"The Less Alarm Clock"

Marcus DaCosta
Schmucker Intermediate School

- **Best Business Plan:**

"Hello Pillow"

Deja Bowens
Adams High School

"Fresh Feet"

Colin Wilson
Schmucker Intermediate School

■ Advanced Skills

Over 150 ninth-grade students participated in a seminar on professionalism and workplace skills, offered in partnership with Washington High School. Students were evaluated using pre-post testing to evaluate learning and retention of material, and demonstrated an average growth of nine percentage points, which was statistically significant.

The RCLC partnered with the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program at Clay High School to work with 35 students on topics including professionalism, time management, employability skills, and career development. Participants won top honors in six areas at the JAG Regional Competition, with two students advancing to win awards at the state level.

Goal 2: Education

Establish educational opportunities to develop technical abilities, build life skills, and provide support/mentoring at all ages.

Take Ten

by Ellen Kyes, *Take Ten Program Director*

Take Ten is the RCLC's violence prevention/conflict resolution program. It uses a school-based curriculum to provide the tools to "Talk it Out, Walk it Out, or Wait it Out" as alternatives to violence.

■ Take Ten Locally

During 2012–13, Take Ten expanded within Michiana to serve 17 schools encompassing three school districts. Take Ten now has a presence in five South Bend high schools, and in multiple primary and intermediate centers. Take Ten is also offered in agency settings, including the Center for the Homeless, the RCLC, and local Boys and Girls Clubs. New afterschool programming was initiated at the ND Center for Arts and Culture and El Campito. Take Ten was taught locally by 131 student volunteers from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, Bethel College, IUSB, and Holy Cross. Thirteen percent of these volunteers received college credit for their service, and 42% have taught Take Ten for more than one term. These volunteers worked directly with 2,100 local children. School participation indirectly impacts another 10,810 students on a weekly basis through bulletin boards, assemblies, newsletters, and announcements.

■ Take Ten at a Distance

Take Ten continues to expand its presence geographically. It remains in the Linton-Stockton Community



School Corporation (IN), the Marquette Catholic Schools (Bellevue, IA), and St. Ann's Catholic School (Chicago, IL). This year Take Ten was implemented through Carmel Parks & Rec (IN), and at 30 locations through the Boys and Girls Club Alliance of Indiana. The Take Ten program director provided staff training at these sites, and is conducting follow-up visits and observations. These staff and teachers worked directly with 1,770 children during 2012–2013. Take Ten was also a featured plenary session at the national Kroc Peace Conference and at the statewide Strengthening Families Institute.

■ Take Ten for Adults

Heightened community interest in

bullying and youth violence has led to an increased number of requests for Take Ten parent group presentations and the development of programming for adults. "Take Ten for Parents" classes are now offered at the Center for the Homeless, St. Margaret's House, and the Women's Care Center. An adult Take Ten class with a different focus is offered at the South Bend Department of Corrections adult re-entry facility. The 20 adult offenders who attend this weekly class are due to be released after years of incarceration. Most are parents looking to reconnect with their children, hoping to teach them to make peaceful choices when confronted with conflict.

■ Evaluation

The *2011–12 Take Ten Evaluation Report* again demonstrates significant gains in key areas, and underscores Take Ten’s positive results when it is implemented continuously over multiple years. Results also suggested revision of assessment surveys in order to fully explore Take Ten’s impact over time and the effects of different delivery methods. Findings included:

- For the fifth year in a row, students in intermediate grades made gains in knowledge/thoughts about conflict and violence, in feelings/attitudes about violence, in behavior/actions when confronted with potentially violent situations, and in identifying perpetration of a violent act. Gains were significant from pre- to post-test, and when compared to a control group. A large majority of intermediate students reported using Take Ten skills in their daily lives.
- Students in primary grades also demonstrated positive gains in the above-mentioned areas, but for the first time these gains were not statistically significant. This appears to be the result of a “ceiling effect.” Children in grades 3–4 who had been participating in Take Ten for several years prior to taking the survey scored so high in the initial assessment there was not enough growth possible for their post-test gains to be statistically significant. Primary students did demonstrate

significant growth in being able to define violence and identify violent behaviors.

- Schools which have participated in Take Ten for five or more years outperformed all other schools.
- Students participating in local Take Ten sites where the curriculum is delivered by volunteers outperformed those from schools at a distance where the curriculum is delivered by classroom teachers.
- Participation in Take Ten positively affects volunteers as well as students. Volunteer surveys reflected that 85% felt they were able to successfully implement Take Ten, 78% thought the curriculum was appropriate and helpful, and 67% saw a marked positive change in the behavior of their students.

■ Comment from a Take Ten Volunteer

“I love Take Ten because it allows me to understand ‘peace’ in a tangible way. I can see concrete ways to implement nonviolence and conflict resolution into daily life. It is vital to educate youth through Take Ten in order to cultivate future generations of nonviolence. On that note, seeing the kids make tangible progress in the program has been incredibly rewarding.”



“A life without bullying would be awesome!”

Goal 3: Partnership

Provide space and support for programs through health care, business, school, and community organizations that promote education and enhance the quality of life.

Through partnership with the South Bend Community School Corporation, instruction for adults in English as a New Language (ENL) is provided at the RCLC throughout the year.

■ 2012–13 at a Glance

English as a New Language

- 50 beginning/intermediate and 40 advanced adult English Language Learners
- 66% of students made national standard academic gains
- 100% of students seeking jobs acquired employment
- 88% of parents of K-12 children increased involvement in their children's education

- 80% improved computer skills
- 96% learned citizenship skills
- Two of the ENL preschool moms, one from Sudan and one from Iraq, passed their citizenship tests! The ENL children and adults enjoyed celebrating this accomplishment together.

■ ENL Preschool

Since fall of 2011, the ENL preschool has served 23 children, ages 3–5, while their parents are in adult ENL classes. These children have come from Mexico, China, Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Sudan, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia; seven of the children were refugees. The ENL preschool operates four mornings per week, incorporates weekly family

literacy activities, takes children and adults on community field trips, and sends home weekend LEAP (“Literacy Exploration Activity Packs”) for families to enjoy together. All children showed improvement in English by the end of the year, demonstrating a pre-post gain equivalent to 1–4 years of language development on the Peabody Test of Receptive Language. Children also showed gains in literacy skills such as book handling, letter recognition, and ability to retell a story.

■ Health

St. Joseph Regional Medical Center continues to provide a nurse who visits the RCLC once a month. She typically sees 25 people, checking blood sugar, blood pressure, weight, and making referrals.

■ Music

Piano lessons taught by ND music students were offered to 17 children at the Robinson Center during 2012–13. RCLC youth are able to take advantage of this opportunity, thanks to the affordable fees made possible by Notre Dame's Music Department and the College of Arts and Letters.

■ Art

RCLC participants engaged in a wide variety of art activities this year through a partnership with ND's Snite



Museum. These activities included presentations by visiting artists, trips to exhibits, and creative projects. A high point was “RCLC Family Night at the Snite,” when the museum opened its doors exclusively for 75 members of the RCLC community. In preparation for this event, nine RCLC

students trained as docents, researching particular works of art. In addition to watching the docent presentations, families explored the galleries on their own, and participated in an art activity.

Goal 4: Civic Engagement

Foster active citizenship and a commitment to community building among the center's partners and participants.

■ NENC Back To School Picnic

Approximately 350 people attended the annual Back-to-School Picnic, including RCLC youth, parents, ENL families, ND student volunteers, and neighborhood residents. Sponsored by the Northeast Neighborhood Council, ND Student Government, Student Affairs, and the Center for Social Concerns, the picnic was again a great way to kick off the school year. Activities included face-painting, balloon sculptures, music, and visits from the police and fire departments.

■ Homeward Bound Walk

The Homeward Bound Walk/Run, an event aimed at fighting homelessness, was hosted at the RCLC for the second year. Over 250 people walked or ran, and 45 volunteers assisted. It was a great chance to collaborate with other local nonprofits and bring new people to the RCLC. The event raised over \$16,000 for the sponsoring agencies.



■ CommUniversity Day

The fifth annual CommUniversity Day was sponsored by ND Student Government, the Center for Social Concerns, the City of South Bend, and the RCLC. Approximately 650 students, from five colleges participated in 30 work projects around the city. Mural painting and garden preparation were completed in record time at the RCLC, and 42 seniors went on a bus tour to campus, the NDCAC, and the Civil Rights Heritage Center. Those

attending the picnic enjoyed listening to the ND Marching Band.

■ Notre Dame Center for Arts and Culture

This year the RCLC helped develop educational programming at the new ND Center for Arts and Culture, located on South Bend's west side. RCLC staff conducted focus groups and discussions with a range of neighborhood residents and community leaders to elicit information about community needs for programming. Approximately

170 people provided feedback, in response to which an afterschool tutoring/arts enrichment program, adult ENL classes, a senior computer club, and summer arts camps were developed and implemented.



A Sampling of our Organizational Guests in 2012-13

Friends of the Snite
AARP Tax Assistance
Shakespeare at Notre Dame
Bridges Out of Poverty
City of South Bend
Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars
South Bend Heritage
South Bend Community School Corporation
Northeast Neighborhood Council
Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization

Circle K
American Red Cross
Homeward Bound Walk
Chamber of Commerce
Community Campus Advisory Coalition
Eastside Reunion Committee
Quarknet
Education, Schooling & Society
Upward Bound
Logan Center

Goal 5: Sustainability

Acquire resources necessary to achieve program goals.

Many thanks to our 2012–13 sponsors!

The Robinson Community Learning Center would like to acknowledge our generous sponsors, without whom our work throughout the community would not be possible:

ARCO/Murray National Construction
The ArtsEverywhere Initiative of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County
AT&T
Better World Books
Carroll Charitable Trust at Wells Fargo Bank
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
The Family Connection
The Gigot Center for Entrepreneurship at Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business
Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives AmeriCorps

Indiana Black Troopers Association
The Kelly Cares Foundation
Key Bank of Northern Indiana
Kohl's
Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns
Notre Dame Federal Credit Union
Shakespeare at Notre Dame
The South Bend Community School Corporation
Individual donors and those who wish to remain anonymous

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done!

This is the final line of the AmeriCorps pledge, adhered to by more than 80,000 AmeriCorps members who serve communities across America each year. A total of 37 AmeriCorps members have completed terms of service at the RCLC during the past two years (some of them more than one term), and they have certainly “gotten things done!” These members are charged with a wide range of responsibilities, including volunteer coordination, recruitment, capacity building, teaching, and curriculum development. AmeriCorps members have enriched existing RCLC programs by taking on new projects, such as the Robinson Review, the third Take Ten comic book, and the RCLC kids writing blog. They have organized new RCLC clubs and classes, including book, craft, and computer clubs for adults, and the “Photoformers.” Without the efforts of AmeriCorps members, the ENL Preschool and the NDCAC afterschool

program would not exist, and Take Ten, Youth Entrepreneurship, the Robinson Shakespeare Company, and LiteracyCorps would not have been able to add multiple new sites throughout South Bend and beyond. Looking at the numbers, RCLC programs have reached an additional 3,750 participants since AmeriCorps members joined our team. In fact, RCLC staff members are so grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of the AmeriCorps members that we are willing to forgive their irreverent humor and the fact that they consistently beat us at ping-pong!

