



# ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 2012

## New Energy for a New Decade

by Jennifer Knapp Beudert, *Manager*

**L**ast year the Robinson Community Learning Center (RCLC) celebrated its 10th anniversary, providing an opportunity to take stock of our accomplishments. This year the RCLC marks the beginning of a new journey—the start of our second decade. As was commented recently, we’ve now “completed childhood and moved into adolescence!”

I am pleased to share this annual report describing the developments that occurred during 2011-2012 at the Robinson Center. We remain committed to programs established during our first decade while introducing new programs and outreach initiatives.

There has never been a shortage of program ideas at the RCLC but implementation of initiatives has sometimes been limited by available staff. This barrier has now been overcome by a three-year AmeriCorps grant from the Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet community needs. The RCLC AmeriCorps award provided the Center with six full-time and fourteen part-time AmeriCorps members during 2011-2012.

The RCLC is more crowded with 20 additional people. This is a minor inconvenience considering the impact that AmeriCorps members have had on the Center. Some of the tangible products of AmeriCorps efforts include the Take Ten comic book, the *Robinson Review*, the ENL preschool, revised tutoring materials, and a variety of new classes. Details of the innovative programming developed through collaboration between AmeriCorps members and RCLC staff are recounted in the following pages. It has been exciting to take part in the evolution of the expanded RCLC team, as this has enabled the Center to better meet the needs of our community.

**WHAT'S INSIDE:**

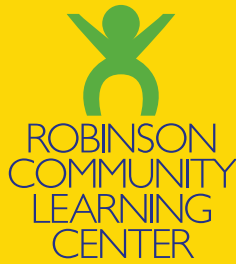
**Reporting on our Goals**

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*Top row left to right: Marquita Gordy, Velsbonna Luckey, Jennifer Wittenbrink, Duane Wilson, Marguerite Taylor, and Andy Kostielney*  
*Bottom row left to right: Regina Gesicki, Reem Abu-Gdairi, Jennifer Knapp Beudert, Lu Ella Webster, and Anna Duchossois*  
*Not pictured: Ellen Kyes and Christy Burgess*

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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](http://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 .....Program Director for Take Ten
- Velshonna Luckey .....Program Director for Youth Development
- Christy Burgess .....Assistant Program Director for Performing Arts
- Duane Wilson .....Program Director for Advanced Skills
- Jennifer Wittenbrink .....Literacy Program Director
- Marguerite Taylor .....Assistant Director for Adult Programs
- Kris Arizmendi .....Volunteer Coordinator

**2011–2012 RCLC AmeriCorps Members:**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Reem Abu-Gdairi | Amanda Leon     |
| Evan Ammeson    | Carlos Leyva    |
| Shannon Banks   | Mark Luckey     |
| Shannon Brown   | Erin Mueller    |
| Katie Doellman  | Kwame Nuako     |
| Anna Duchossois | Brian Reynolds  |
| Rachael Foster  | Rocky Stroud    |
| Regina Gesicki  | Denise Umubyeyi |
| Marquita Gordy  | Lu Ella Webster |
| Lauren Kross    | Jessica Yeh     |

**2011–2012 RCLC Advisory Board Members:**

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Solomon Anderson   | Nicole MacLaughlin     |
| Michael Ball       | G. David Moss          |
| Mozell Bowens      | Melissa Paulsen        |
| Jasmine Brown      | Darice Austin-Phillips |
| Annie Cahill-Kelly | Richard Pierce         |
| Katie Doellman     | Lu Ella Webster        |
| Steve Egan         | Candace Williams       |
| Jim Frabutt        | Carmen Williams        |
| Mike Hebbeler      | Alice Wilson           |
| Caitlin Kinser     |                        |

## 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, Assistant Director for Adult Programs



There were over 19,000 visits to the Robinson Center during 2011-2012.

#### ■ Book Club

- by Mike Hebbeler, RCLC Program Advisory Board Chair and Book Club visitor

Each Tuesday morning, eight women gather at the Robinson Center for Book Club. They meet in the library, taking turns to prepare lunch and lead discussion. The club gathers to socialize, but their discussion is always rooted in the chapters assigned for that week. "We make the text bleed," attests Ann, a longtime member of the club. Delving into the story, these women also turn the pages of their own narratives, integrating their personal histories into the unfolding plot and connecting deeply with each other. While perspectives often differ, the club members respect one another and learn from differing opinions and experiences. Book club also prompts further exploration of the subject at hand, like when the group hosted a beekeeper while reading *The Secret Life of Bees*, and leads to further socialization in the community, such as the outing to the theater to watch *The Help* upon finishing the book by that title. Buzzing around the Robinson Center each Tuesday morning, these women have cultivated a love of reading and a fondness for one other, often referring to the club as a family.

#### ■ Lunch and Learn Lecture Series for Seniors

The Robinson Center continues to host this monthly event, sponsored by ND Downtown. During 2011-2012 an average of 65 Michiana residents, representing 17 zip codes,

gathered together each month to support lifelong learning and enjoy social interaction.

#### ■ Talk With Your Baby

The RCLC partnered with Memorial Hospital to offer Talk With Your Baby classes during 2011-2012. Twenty-three adults, with 16 children, learned about literacy, attachment, and supporting early development. Participants came from China, Japan, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States. The TWYB pre-post assessment showed improvement in adult perception of babies' needs. 100% of parents reported that they learned the importance of talking with children and the impact that early learning has on school years.

#### ■ Clubs for Adults

The 37 members of the RCLC senior computer clubs continued their enthusiastic weekly participation this year. Two new computer classes were added to accommodate additional community members.

The RCLC has added two new book clubs, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Starting with just a few members, they have grown over the year and look forward to continuing in the fall.

The senior exercise group continues its dedication to walking and working out with the Wii. A Friday craft club has been added, focusing on creative projects such as knitting, crocheting, and needlework.

## 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 am surprised at how much of an impact I have on my student as she always expresses how well I help her and that she likes it when I am her tutor for the day.”

*Tutor/ND senior*

“The Center really encourages students to push their upper limits and exceed beyond what they may have believed possible. You have high expectations for them and they then have those expectations for themselves.”

*RCLC parent*

#### ■ After-school Tutoring:

Sixty-six youth, grades 1-12, were tutored by 123 college volunteers during 2011-2012. Youth were paired individually with tutors four days a week. This year marked changes to this long-standing program, incorporating new materials to offer targeted instruction. Sixty-four participants took the Scout Achieve Test, which identified five goals for each child to serve as focus areas for instruction.

Ninety percent of youth completed both terms, with an 84% rate of attendance. Students in grades 1-6 showed an average gain of 25% on identified goals. Older students demonstrated an average gain of 10% on goals. Surveys from 120 tutors revealed that:

- 90% of tutors found their students made progress in the areas in which they worked
- 97% of tutors developed a positive relationship with their student
- 97% of tutors felt their time at the Center heightened their awareness of people and circumstances in the Northeast Neighborhood and the South Bend community

#### ■ Be InSpired:

Sixteen speakers from local colleges and the community talked to 24 RCLC students, ages 12-18, about their teen years and career paths. Post-session surveys revealed that 99% of youth felt the presentations increased their understanding of the value of education.

Be Inspired Hits the Road field trips included the Purcell Pavilion, Club Naimoli, and the Main Building, all at Notre Dame. Twenty-two students traveled to Indianapolis to visit the Indiana State Museum, the Children’s Museum, IUPUI, and the State Capitol Building. On post-trip surveys, 50% of students said these activities led them to think about new career options, and 95% were now planning to apply to college.

#### ■ My America:

Thirty-one RCLC youth, grades 6-12, researched and presented on topics including: the Declaration of Independence, the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island. Students were given pre-post tests and demonstrated a 19% gain in content knowledge. Twenty-two students went on a three-day “Liberty Trip,” visiting the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and Hershey Park.

#### ■ Enrichment:

Afternoon activities included a physics club, a bio-genetics club, a photography club, a sports-skills club, art projects, and field trips. Eighteen Fun Fridays, led by ten ND dorms and clubs, offered activities ranging from board games to presentations on pet care.

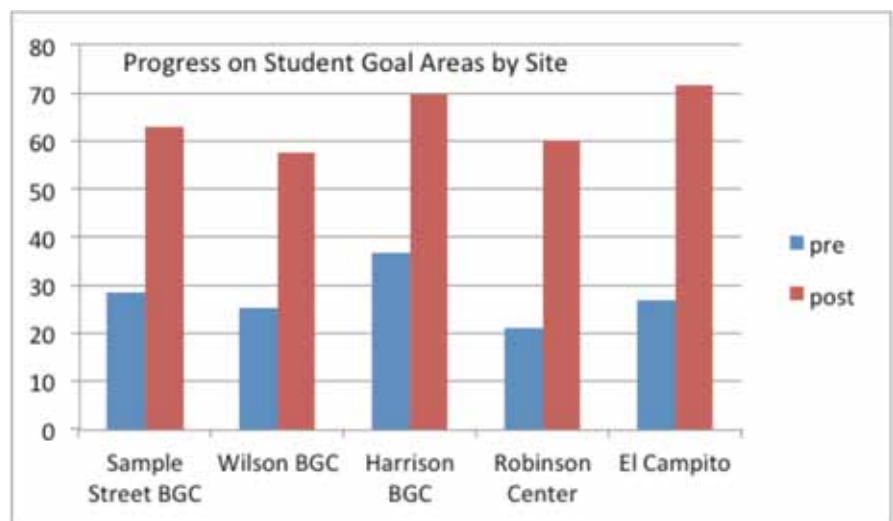
# Supplemental Educational Services Tutoring Program

by Jennifer Wittenbrink, Literacy Program Director

## ■ SES Tutoring:

For the fourth year in a row, the RCLC SES program offered free tutoring to non-proficient, low-income students attending Title I schools that have not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by the federal No Child Left Behind program. Each student received 30 hours of one-on-one or small group tutoring in literacy skills. A total of 163 students, representing 11 schools, participated in the SES program, with 148 completing 100% of their tutoring sessions. Tutoring took place at the RCLC, as well as three Boys and Girls Club sites and El Campito.

Each student participating in the SES program completed a pre-post test assessment. The average overall gain from pre-post-test was 16%. This assessment tool measures skills across 12 areas of reading/language competency. Based on the initial assessment, four goal areas are identified for each child as focus areas during tutoring sessions. The figure to the right illustrates that students showed significant growth on goal areas. When considering only the goal areas, the average pre-test score was 27.69 while at post-test the group average was 62.79—a 35.1 percentage point gain. In addition, 91% of students advanced at least one grade level in sight word recognition, and 58% went up three grade levels or more.



## 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, Assistant Program Director for Performing Arts

### Comments from ND Writing and Rhetoric Students:

“My vision of South Bend and its residents began to change after I met these personable and kind grade school and high school students. Also, my idea of Shakespeare slowly started to transform after I saw the passion these kids had for performing.”

“The Robinson Shakespeare Company is a place where children and college students alike work together to gain confidence performing in front of others, without worrying about not feeling good enough or being judged by others. At the Robinson Center, no one, including myself, feels unimportant.”

### ■ Performances:

The Robinson Shakespeare Company (RSC) continued to flourish this year under the direction of Shakespeare at Notre Dame's Scott Jackson. Scott took over for Christy Burgess who was away pursuing a master's degree in theatre education at the University of Warwick (UK). During fall of 2011, 15 RSC students, grades 4 through 12, participated in the fourth annual Shakespeare at ND Regional Shakespeare Monologue competition. Awards were given to RSC members at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Senior Candace LeBron Williams advanced to the state competition.

In the spring, the 20-member RSC performed half-hour versions of *Hamlet* and *King Lear*, directed by Scott Jackson and ND senior Caitlin Kinser, for a standing-room only crowd at the Washington Hall Lab. Encore performances will be offered at Shakescenes 2012. Christy Burgess will return to the Robinson Center in summer 2012. The Shakespeare Program is proud to have been awarded an ArtsEverywhere grant from the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County to expand the RSC's outreach into the South Bend schools beginning in fall 2012.

### ■ Community-Based Learning:

For the third consecutive year, members of the RSC were partnered with students from the ND Community-Based Writing and Rhetoric Class. The college students joined the ensemble, and memorized, analyzed, and performed a Shakespeare monologue alongside their youth partners. The pairs also collaborated to create biographies and character sketches for the play programs. Students from three years of ND writing classes formed the Robinson Shakespeare Company Student Association, dedicated to supporting the RSC. The RSCSA's fundraising activities benefited the spring production.



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# Advanced Skills and Entrepreneurship

by Duane Wilson, Program Director



Last fall saw the publication of the first issue of *The Robinson Review*, a full-color newsletter produced by 15 RCLC students. The newsletter provided its contributors with reporting, writing, and editing experience, and its audience with an inside look at the many exciting RCLC offerings.

The RCLC Advanced Skills and Entrepreneurship program reached 250 local youth during 2011-2012, thanks to partnerships with four local high schools and Jobs For America's Graduates (JAG). This program aims to offer students a competitive advantage when pursuing higher education or employment. Classes focus on:

Strengthening Academic Capacity

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Public speaking
- College prep and essay writing

Developing Interpersonal Skills

- Etiquette training
- Interpersonal communication
- Building self-confidence

Fostering Entrepreneurial Mindsets

- Entrepreneurial concepts
- Financial literacy
- Small business development

## ■ Business Plan Development

The RCLC and the ND Gigot Center for Entrepreneurial Studies again partnered to deliver entrepreneurship curriculum to middle and high school youth. During the fall, 14 students met weekly to explore innovative business ideas. The term culminated in an "Elevator Pitch" competition in which youth had 60 seconds to present ideas to an ND student panel. Charell Luckey, Kaili McGhee, and Tanner Stanton placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

During second semester, RCLC youth worked with ND student mentors to develop business plans based on their ideas. Nine students completed this rigorous process and competed in the 2012 Invention Convention. Notre Dame MBA students served as judges, rating participants on five areas of business plan development. The overall rating for all contestants ranged from very good to excellent.

## ■ 2012 Invention Convention Prize Winners:

- **First Prize:** "Re-Glamorize" by Charell Luckey
- **Second Prize:** "Danik's Property Service" by Matthew Danik
- **Third Prize:** "Stanton Clothing" by Tanner Stanton

## ■ Robinson Enterprises

This year eight RCLC youth and two ND students participated in RCLC Football Parking. They were able to "earn as they learn" and practice strategic planning, marketing, customer service, and money handling. Their friendliness and teamwork resulted in the highest sales ever, totaling \$29,745. Go Irish!

## 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, 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.

#### ■ Children

During 2011-2012, Take Ten served 13 schools within the South Bend Community School Corporation and School City of Mishawaka. Seven of these schools offered Take Ten during the school day, and six offered it as an afterschool program. The Take Ten program was also implemented at six Boys and Girls Club sites, the Center for the Homeless, and the South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility. Take Ten also spread beyond the boundaries of the Michiana area. For a second year

teachers at St. Ann's Catholic School in Chicago delivered the Take Ten Curriculum during the school day to all grades K-8. Take Ten was also taught by teachers at Marquette Catholic Schools in Bellevue, IA, to all schools in the diocese, grades K-12. Teachers from the Linton-Stockton School Corporation (IN) taught Take Ten during the school day to all middle and high school students. Take Ten teachers and volunteers worked directly with 3,094 children, 1,514 locally and 1,580 from schools beyond Michiana; this is an increase of 1,269 from last year. An additional 9,000 youth were indirectly impacted by Take Ten's presence in schools.

#### ■ Volunteers

Take Ten continues to be delivered by a dedicated corps of volunteers, numbering 131 first semester, and 129 second semester. Fifty percent of these volunteers were returning after previously volunteering with Take Ten. Volunteers were recruited from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, Holy Cross College, Bethel College, and IUSB.

Take Ten continues to impact volunteers as well as students. Volunteer surveys reflected that 99% felt they were able to successfully implement Take Ten at their site, 87% thought the curriculum was appropriate and helpful, and 73% saw a marked positive change in the behavior of their students. Many of



the open-ended answers referred to Take Ten as one of the meaningful experiences of their college careers that helped volunteers discern their future career or service path.

#### ■ Training

Take Ten continues to train volunteers and teachers at participating schools, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Center for the Homeless, the South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility, and five local colleges. Using the Take Ten Teacher's Manual, the Take Ten program director conducted multiple-day trainings for teachers in Chicago, IL, Linton-Stockton, IN, and Bellevue, IA. Follow-up observations of teachers were conducted throughout the school year. The Take Ten program was also presented at the 2012 Indiana Out-of-School Learning Statewide Summit.



**Penny, the newest member of the Take Ten Crew, uses her powers to stop cyberbullying!**



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## ■ Evaluation

The *2010-2011 Take Ten Evaluation Report* demonstrates another year of program effectiveness, reveals significant gains in key areas of understanding and knowledge, and underscores the success students achieve if their schools participate continuously over at least five years. Findings included:

- For the fourth year in a row Take Ten students in both primary and intermediate grades made gains in knowledge/thoughts about conflict and violence, in feelings/attitudes about violence, and in behavior/actions when confronted with potentially violent situations. Gains were significant from pre- to post-test, and when compared to a control group.
- Primary and intermediate students made significant gains in the areas of witnessing and perpetrating violence, thus indicating that students learn to grasp the broader definition of “violence” when applied to acts of their peers and their own actions.
- Students who participated in Take Ten during the school day demonstrated an increased understanding of conflict resolution, violence, and bullying prevention compared to those who participated in an afterschool program.
- Students who have prior experience with Take Ten scored higher in all

categories of analysis than peers who have not previously participated.

- Schools who have participated in Take Ten for five or more years have students with the highest gains over time and against similar control schools.

## ■ The Take Ten Crew Returns!

For two months in fall 2011, ten intermediate and high school students participated in writing/drawing workshops twice a week, led by professional artist Jeff Petersen of Mindstorm Digital, to create the third Take Ten comic book. The Take Ten Crew once again used super powers to solve conflict in non-violent ways and tackle a timely issue in *The Take Ten Crew vs. the Cyberbully*. The comic book was written as part of Memorial Hospital’s community plunge on cyberbullying, and the young artists, as well as Take Ten program director Ellen Kyes, were featured speakers at that event. The comic book contains a teacher’s guide to be used as part of the Take Ten learning materials. Artwork from the comic book is featured as part of an anti-bullying billboard campaign and related website which directs viewers to bullying resources at [taketen.org](http://taketen.org).



**“How fun it will be living violence free!”**

## 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***

### ■ 2011-2012 at a Glance English as a New Language:

- 56 beginning/intermediate and 32 advanced adult English language students took ENL classes
- 63% of students made national standard academic gains and 69% made state gains
- 45% of students acquired employment
- 30% increased community involvement
- 88% learned citizenship skills and one student passed the United States citizenship test

### ■ ENL Preschool

Beginning fall 2011, the RCLC offered a preschool program for children whose parents were enrolled in ENL classes. It was hoped this would remove a barrier for adult attendance in ENL classes, and provide an opportunity for parents and children to work on English together. Twelve children, ages 3-5 years, attended. They came from eight countries, and spoke Spanish, Farsi, Cyrillic, Kurdish, Arabic, and Chinese. Most spoke little English. By the end of

the year, all showed marked improvement in their understanding of English, as demonstrated by an average pre-post gain of 17% on the Peabody Test of Receptive Language. Children also showed gains in pre-literacy areas such as book handling, print concepts, and letter recognition. All parents reported they became more involved in their child's education as a result of participating in the ENL preschool.



### ■ Yoga and Zumba:

Through ND's Office of RecSports, the RCLC offered an 8-week session of yoga, and a new Zumba class. A total of 18 adults participated. The Zumba class was received enthusiastically, and 100% of participants said the instructors were "great" and helped them to meet fitness goals.

### ■ Health:

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

### ■ Piano and Music:

Piano lessons were offered to 19 children at the Robinson Center for an affordable fee, thanks to the continuing support of Notre Dame's Music Department. Students also enjoyed musical visits from the ND Summer Scholars voice program and Ballet Hispanico.

## 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

This annual event was again a highlight of the fall. Sponsored by the Northeast Neighborhood Council, ND Student Government, Student Affairs, and the Center for Social Concerns, the picnic drew a crowd of over 300. Activities included face-painting, balloon sculptures, music, and visits from police and fire departments. The DJ had RCLC families dancing in the parking lot!

### ■ Turning Over A New Leaf

Turning Over a New Leaf was held in early November. Unlike last year, it did not snow, which made raking easier. Over a hundred volunteers from Circle K of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's raked the lawns of 48 houses. AmeriCorps members drove students to assigned houses.

### ■ Homeward Bound Walk

The RCLC partnered with four local agencies to sponsor the Homeward



Bound Walk, an event aimed at fighting homelessness. The annual walk/run was held for the first time at the RCLC. Despite inclement weather, 42 runners and 125 walkers participated.

### ■ CommUniversity Day

Approximately 650 students from five colleges worked to complete 45 work projects throughout South Bend on the fourth annual CommUniversity Day. This event was sponsored by ND

Student Government, the Center for Social Concerns, the City of South Bend, and the RCLC. Volunteers filled garden boxes and painted rain barrels for an RCLC community garden, and 40 residents enjoyed campus bus tours. The day ended with a picnic at the RCLC.

### *A Sampling of our Organizational Guests in 2011-2012*

Friends of the Snite  
NENC  
Eastside Reunion Committee  
AARP Tax Assistance  
NNRO-South Bend Heritage  
Michiana Young Life  
Quarknet  
Shakespeare at Notre Dame  
League of Women Voters  
INDOT  
South Bend Police Dept.

South Bend Community  
School Corporation  
ND Community Engagement  
IUSB  
Triangle Neighborhood Association  
ATT Public Relations  
Indiana Youth Institute  
Community Campus  
Advisory Coalition  
Education, Schooling & Society  
Center for Social Concerns

South Bend Kiwanis  
Delta-Kappa-Gamma  
Circle K  
The Family Connection  
American Red Cross  
Upward Bound  
City of South Bend—Mayor's Office  
Homeward Bound Walk  
South Bend Fire Department

Approximately 3350 individuals attended meetings of these organizations at the RCLC in 2011-2012.

## Goal 5: Sustainability

Acquire resources necessary to achieve program goals.

### Many thanks to our 2011–2012 sponsors!

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

The ArtsEverywhere Initiative of the  
Community Foundation of St. Joseph County  
ARCO/Murray National Construction  
AT&T  
Better World Books  
Carroll Charitable Trust at Wells Fargo Bank  
Indiana Black Troopers Association  
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute  
Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community  
Initiatives

The Kelly Cares Foundation  
Key Bank of Northern Indiana  
Memorial Hospital of South Bend  
Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns  
Notre Dame Federal Credit Union  
Shakespeare at Notre Dame  
Individual donors and those who wish to  
remain anonymous

#### ■ Congratulations to the RCLC Lego Robotics Team!

The RCLC I-Robotics team, which consists of 10 members ages 10-15, was honored as the top FIRST Lego League Robotics team in the state of Indiana. Competing with 52 teams from all corners of the state, I-Robotics was chosen as No. 1 in the areas of Research Project, Robot Design, and exemplifying the Core Values of FIRST Lego League. They competed in a day-long competition that allowed students to interact and learn about innovative solutions each team developed to combat food contamination.

As a result of their victory, the RCLC I-Robotics team traveled to Mannheim, Germany, to compete against 67 international teams in the Open European Championship. Although they did not bring home a trophy, the team received the highest possible points for their research

presentation. Team members were accompanied by their coaches, G. David Moss and Lionel Pittman Jr., Velshonna Luckey, 10 parents, and 6 siblings. The travelers were able to experience places they had only imagined, including castles, European villages, a concentration camp, the Mercedes Benz factory, and the view from the top of the highest mountain in Germany. Students and parents studied German together in preparation for the trip, and participants documented all stages of their progress from the very beginning of their research through the European competition.

