



# ANNUAL REPORT 2010 - 2011

## Looking Back on a Successful Decade and Forward to the Next 10 Years

by Jennifer Knapp Beudert, Manager

**T**his has been an exciting year for the Robinson Community Learning Center at the University of Notre Dame.



Top row left to right: Ellen Kyes, Christy Burgess, Jennifer Wittenbrink, and Duane Wilson

Bottom row left to right: Marguerite Taylor, Kris Arizmendi, Jennifer Knapp Beudert, Velsbonna Luckey, and Andy Kostielney

This year has brought awards and recognition for our innovative programs, greater numbers of participants of all ages, wider outreach than ever before, more than 300 Notre Dame student volunteers working to carry out our mission, a renewed commitment for community engagement from the University, and support from our neighbors, community partners, and the city of South Bend. This year also marked the tenth anniversary of the Robinson Center. It was satisfying to take stock of the growth and accomplishments of the Center over the past 10 years and celebrate! I am pleased to share this annual report which highlights developments at the Robinson Center during 2010-2011.

It was noted that this past year was a time of transition for the Robinson Center staff. In addition to a new manager, the Robinson Center started the year with two new program directors and a new person in the role of assistant manager. This collaboration between the newer and more experienced staff has brought together an exciting blend of ideas, resulting in programs that are well integrated and inventive. It has been a privilege to work with such a dynamic and engaged team.

There are more transitions on the horizon for next year. Vice president for Public Affairs and Communications, Janet Botz, will be retiring, and the Robinson Community Learning Center will be incorporated into the Department of University Relations at Notre Dame, under the leadership of Vice President Lou Nanni. Nanni was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Robinson Center in 2001, and we look forward to his leadership. We would like to thank Jan Botz for her ongoing support of the Robinson Center, and wish her the best for the future.

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## 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.



The Robinson Community Learning Center is a department under the direction of Mr. Timothy Sexton, associate vice president for public affairs, and Mr. Louis Nanni, vice president of University Relations. See more about Notre Dame's local outreach efforts at [nd.edu](http://nd.edu).



## 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 Volunteers & Performing Arts
- Duane Wilson ..... Program Director for Advanced Skills
- Jennifer Wittenbrink..... Literacy Program Director
- Marguerite Taylor ..... Assistant Program Director for Adult Programs
- Kris Arizmendi..... Literacy Program Assistant

## 2010–2011 RCLC Advisory Board Members

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Solomon Anderson      | Greg Long           |
| Darice Austin-Philips | G. David Moss       |
| Michael Ball          | Melissa Paulsen     |
| Jasmine Brown         | Mike Vogel          |
| Anthony Byrd          | Lu Ella Webster     |
| Katie Doellman        | Candace Williams    |
| Steve Egan            | Carmen Williams     |
| Jim Frabutt           | Alice Wilson        |
| Stuart Greene         | Christyne Woolridge |
| Mike Hebbeler         |                     |
| 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



There were over 17,000 visits to the Robinson Center during 2010–2011.

### ■ Lunch & Learn Lecture Series for Seniors

The Robinson Center continues to host this special monthly event sponsored by Notre Dame Downtown. A wide range of speakers were invited to give presentations to the Lunch and Learn group, including professionals from RealServices, Congressman Joe Donnelly's office, the Snite Museum of Art, the Natatorium, the South Bend Police Department, and Notre Dame. Topics included staying safe, tax laws, art exhibits, and healthy exercise. An average of 64 seniors attended each event from July 2010–June 2011.

### ■ Senior Book Club

This group of 10 seniors has been meeting regularly for the past seven years, reading and discussing two to three books each year. This year the Book Club read *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett and *Rainwater* by Sharon Brown.

### ■ Computer Clubs

The Tuesday afternoon Computer Club for Seniors started a decade ago with three members. The club has met continuously since then, and has grown to add a second section with a total of 25 dedicated members. Demand for computer classes was so high this year that two additional introductory computer classes were offered, serving another 22 adults from the community.



### ■ Lego Robotic League

The RCLC Lego Robotics Team won first place for project presentation in the 2010 Indiana First Lego League Competition. The team advanced to the state level after winning first place for robot design in the Indy South First Lego League Qualifying Tournament. The team is coached by G. David Moss and Lionel Pittman Jr. The team met one evening a week and on Saturdays to prepare their project, which focused on Tourette's syndrome. The RCLC Lego Robotics team was sponsored in part by the ND Alumni Ride for the Kids. This bike ride from Chicago to South Bend has enabled the RCLC Robotics Team to go to the state competition for the past several years.

### ■ Talk With Your Baby

The Robinson Center partnered with Memorial Hospital to offer the Talk With Your Baby program during 2010–2011, both at the RCLC and at Eggleston's School Age Mothers Program. More than 30 mothers of young children participated, learning about language, literacy, brain health, social attachment, and strategies to support early development.

## 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



“I will take away fond memories and an increased desire to serve. Next year I will be working with at-risk kids and teens and my experiences with the Robinson Center played an important role in my committing to a year of service.”

*Tutor/ND senior*

“My son is in the tutoring program. It provides him with valuable study skills and hands-on help for tough questions.”

*RCLC Parent*

“The Robinson Center is providing strong education in our family, providing strong education in others’ families—the result is one strong community.”

*RCLC Parent*

#### ■ After-school Tutoring:

Fifty-nine RCLC students, ages 8 to 18, were tutored by 78 ND volunteers during 2010–2011. Youth were paired with tutors who worked with them individually each afternoon. Children’s average attendance rate was 87%, and academic results were encouraging.

Fifty-two children took the SLOSSON reading assessment with an average pre-to-post-test gain of .67 grade levels; 56% scored above grade level in May and 30% of children who began the year below grade level tested at grade level at the end. Surveys from 46 tutors indicated that:

- 98% of tutors agreed that the program was beneficial to the student they tutored.
- 100% of tutors agreed that they developed a positive relationship with the child they tutored.
- 97% of tutors agreed that tutoring helped them become aware of local community needs.

#### ■ Be InSpired:

The BeInspired program engages teenagers through the inspiration of community role models. Twenty-eight youth, ages 12-18, participated in the program, with an attendance rate of 98%. Students listened to 14 speakers from ND and the local community, representing a wide range of experience and careers. Most participants (88%) said the presentations gave them a better understanding of the value of education.

BeInspired Hits the Road, the second phase of the program, was launched

in 2011. The group took field trips to Bethel College, the Chamber of Commerce, Innovation Park, Legends, Le Peep, and the ND Main Building. They even went on an overnight trip to Indianapolis; plans are already afoot for some exciting trips next year!

#### ■ College Prep Freeway

Twenty-nine middle and high school youth met weekly to explore college and scholarship options, identify areas of interest, and investigate viable possibilities for the future. Students worked on the Common Application and CollegeBoard.com, as well as on time management and planning skills. Overall attendance was 88%.

#### ■ Fun Fridays:

Enrichment activities ranging from rock climbing, Ultimate Frisbee, to making edible creations were provided by ND dorms and clubs on “Fun Fridays.” Participating groups included LAND (Literacy Awareness), Stanford Hall, ATLAS (Alliance to Lead and Serve), the Ultimate Frisbee Club, and Zahm Hall.

#### ■ RCLC Summer Programs:

The Robinson Center provided multiple programs during summer 2011, including Language Arts/Math/Spanish (offered through the Alliance for Catholic Education), Entrepreneurship, and Shakespeare in the mornings, and afternoon activities such as scrapbooking, international studies, creative arts, and multiple field trips. A total of 45 youth, ages 8-18, participated in the six-week summer program.

### Supplemental Educational Services Tutoring Program by Jennifer Wittenbrink

#### Comments from classroom teachers about their students’ learning:

“He has truly made GREAT progress in reading and writing ... I could tell as I worked with him in reading groups how effective the tutoring was!”

“He has gained much confidence from his tutoring experience. He was very proud!”

“Thanks again for all the support. She has benefited from the tremendous effort!”



#### ■ SES Tutoring:

For the third year, the RCLC served students from South Bend Community Schools by providing Supplemental Educational Services Tutoring. The children served come from Title I schools in the district who have not made their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act. In order to participate in the SES program, students from those schools must be eligible for the free or reduced lunch program, and not proficient for their grade level.

A total of 202 students, representing 10 schools, participated in the SES program. Tutoring took place at the RCLC, as well with three Boys and Girls Club sites. Each student received 30 hours of one-on-one or small-group tutoring in literacy skills.

Results were inspiring, and literacy scores went up 18-20% at each site from pre-to post-test. Over half of the students also improved two to five grade levels in their sight word recognition. Equally inspiring was the delight that students felt about their own learning.

## Goal 2: Education

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

### Robinson Center Shakespeare Company by Christy Burgess

#### Comments from ND First Year Composition Students

“This wasn’t the service work I expected. In fact this wasn’t service. This was time spent making a difference in a child’s life.”

“I was very surprised, and overjoyed that he had memorized a monologue that he originally couldn’t even read. When he spoke, his lines came out clearly. Confidence exuded from every bit of his character as he beamed at the audience. I felt so proud of him.”

#### ■ Performances:

The Robinson Shakespeare Company (RSC) once again had an award-winning season! Eighteen RSC students, grades 4 through 11, participated in the third annual Shakespeare at Notre Dame Regional Shakespeare Monologue competition. Five of the six awards given were won by RCLC students. RSC junior Charelle Luckey went on to compete in Indianapolis where she won second place in the state! Many thanks to the ArtsEverywhere Initiative of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County for their support of this program.

The 21-member theatre company, composed of youth ages 9 to 17, also performed a fully staged production of *The Tempest* which was attended by an audience of over 150. RSC actors have also performed scenes and monologues in a variety of venues, including Shakespeare Scenes 2010, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* which was performed in mid-July. The RSC is proud to have been awarded a 2011 Better World Books LEAP (Literacy and Education in

Action) grant—check out better-worldbooks.com to see videos of RSC youth in action!

#### ■ Community Based Learning:

During fall of 2010, 16 students from the ND first year composition class were paired with RSC youth. These “Shakespeare buddies” worked together on assigned monologues—looking up historical references, working on vocabulary and reading comprehension, and enhancing their presentation skills. The ND and RSC students also had the chance to travel together to Chicago to see a performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. ND students wrote papers describing the impact of this experience on themselves and their buddies. At the end of the term, RCLC hosted an evening of Shakespeare, and all participants recited their monologues to great acclaim.



### Youth Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship

by Duane Wilson



The RCLC Youth Entrepreneur Program won the 2010 Key Award for Services Program of the Year for 2010, awarded by the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. This award honors excellence and innovation in a service-oriented community development initiative.



The Robinson Center provides education in financial literacy, small business development, computer skills, and public speaking, thanks to support from Key Bank of Northern Indiana. The program follows the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) curriculum, and incorporates the Students for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (SAGE) program model that encourages civic engagement and community engagement.

Youth were recruited from four local high schools to receive after-school business development training. Twenty-nine students enrolled with five finalists competing in the Invention Convention at the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurship. Additionally, the program extended outreach instruction to five schools teaching entrepreneurship and financial literacy to Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) and the School Age Mothers Program. The students at Rise-up Academy were able to earn academic credit for the course.

#### ■ 2010 Invention Convention Prize Winners:

- **First Prize: “Danik’s Landscaping”** by **Matthew Danik**. Expert lawn care and winter snow removal.
- **Second Prize: “The Flop Sock”** by **Ashley Hesla**. Personalized socks designed to be worn with flip-flops.
- **Third Prize: “Spice of Life Bakery”** by **Madeleine Paulsen**. Cookies with the vegetarian in mind.
- **Honorable Mention: Kimberly Barber and Nicholas Ortega**

**Gigot Center for Entrepreneurship** of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business generously sponsored a trip to the NFTE “Dare to Dream” Gala in New York City for all finalists.

#### ■ Robinson Enterprises

This was a record-breaking year for the RCLC football parking. Seven high school youth and three ND students worked diligently for seven game days to bring in more than \$23,000 for the Youth Entrepreneur Program!



### Take Ten by Ellen Kyes

**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 2010-2011, Take Ten served 15 schools within the South Bend Community School Corporation, School City of Mishawaka, and the Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend. Eight of these schools offered Take Ten during the school day, and seven offered it as an after-school program. Take Ten was even offered at a school beyond the South Bend area. Teachers at St. Ann's Catholic School in Chicago delivered the Take Ten curriculum during the school day using the teacher's manual, with oversight by the Take Ten program director. Take Ten also served eight Boys and Girls Club sites, the Center for the Homeless, and South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility. Take Ten teachers and volunteers worked directly with 1,825 children and youth, indirectly impacting an additional 9,091 students.

#### ■ Volunteers

Take Ten continues to be delivered by a dedicated corps of volunteers, numbering 138 the first semester, and 131 the second semester. Ninety-seven of these volunteers were new to Take Ten. Volunteers were recruited from classes at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, Holy Cross College, Bethel College, and IUSB, as well as from social concerns commissioners in

dorms, the Bethel recruitment fair, and ND/ SMC Student Activities Night.

Take Ten continues to impact the lives of volunteers as well as students. 2011 volunteer surveys reflected 97% satisfaction with participation in Take Ten. In addition, 87% of volunteers surveyed stated Take Ten had taught them life lessons. Many (66%) of the open-ended answers referred to Take Ten as being one of the more meaningful experiences of their college careers and helped volunteers discern their future career or service path.

#### ■ Training

Take Ten continues to train volunteers and teachers at participating schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Center for the Homeless, the South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility, and five local colleges. The Take Ten training has also been offered in more distant locations during 2010-2011, including Chicago, and Greencastle and Linton-Stockton in Indiana. The Take Ten program has also been presented statewide at Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, and nationally at the ND Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Conference, and the 4th Annual International Conflict Resolution Education Conference.

#### ■ Evaluation

The 2009–2010 Take Ten evaluation report revealed trends in the data which validated Take Ten's effectiveness and its increased implementation in Michiana-area schools. Once again, findings revealed that students in primary, as well as intermediate grades improved in their knowledge about conflict and violence, in their feelings as they relate to this area, and in their actions when faced with potentially violent situations. The significant findings illustrate several key points:

- First, children who have prior experience with Take Ten scored higher in all three categories of analysis (knowledge, thoughts and beliefs, and behavior relating to violence) than peers who had not participated previously. This suggests that a long-term commitment by schools to offer the current curriculum with in-school delivery will have the strongest impact on violence in schools.
- Second, students who participate in Take Ten during the school day outperformed those who participated only in an after-school program. This is true despite the fact that students have longer weekly Take Ten sessions in after-school programs as opposed to during the school day.
- Third, the three schools that worked with Take Ten for the longest period of time (at least five

years) and offered it during the school day showed the strongest gains in all areas of analysis, again demonstrating that repeated, consistent exposure to Take Ten during the school day is the most effective delivery method.

#### ■ Take Ten Festival

Nine schools participated in the annual Take Ten Festival at Notre Dame's Stepan Center. A total of 298 children, 57 volunteers, and 34 teachers and parents enjoyed games and activities, pizza, a performance by the First Class Steppers, and remarks from South Bend School Superintendent Jim Kapsa and South Bend Police Chief Darryl Boykins. Coquillard Principal Bill Soderburgh was the master of ceremonies.

#### ■ Take Ten Awards:

- **James M. Kapsa Award:** John Hess, Principal, Battell Elementary
- **Anne Parry Award:** Liz Dallacqua, ND, Class of 2011
- **Creative Writing:** Kristy Richardson, Battell Elementary, 6th grade
- **Take Ten T-Shirt Slogan Award:** Imani Diggins, Perley Primary Fine Arts Center, 4th grade
- **Take Ten T-Shirt Art Award:** Victoria McGrogan, Jefferson Intermediate Center, 7th grade

#### Take Ten

*by Krisy Richardson*

Take Ten what?

Take Ten seconds to calm down

Take Ten steps away and think

Take Ten minutes to talk

Take Ten means ...

To be violence free!

What does Take Ten mean to you?



"Violence free is the way to be!"

## 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.

### ■ Yoga

Notre Dame's Office of RecSports continues to provide an instructor for the RCLC weekly yoga class. Two eight-week sessions were offered this year, with a core group of 10 regular attendees. Every participant said that the instructor was "great" and helping them to meet their 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 approximately 25 people, checking blood sugar, blood pressure, weight, and makes referrals to physicians when necessary.

### ■ Piano & Music

Piano lessons were offered to 23 children at the Robinson Center for an affordable fee, thanks to the generous support of Notre Dame's Music Department and the College of Arts and Letters. Students also enjoyed musical visits from the ND Summer Scholars voice program, and the South Bend Symphony summer camp. Twelve youth received recorder lessons during the summer sessions taught by high school volunteers.



*Through our partnership with the South Bend Community School Corporation, instruction for adults in English for New Learners and GED preparation is provided at the RCLC throughout the year.*

### ■ 2010-2011 at a glance English for New Learners:

- 54 beginning/intermediate and 32 advanced adult English language students took ENL classes at the RCLC.
- 81% of students advanced one or more levels on standardized CASA tests.
- 93% of students with children increased their involvement with their children's literacy/education activities.
- 72% increased community involvement.
- 100% learned citizenship skills and one student passed her citizenship test.

Thirty-seven adults participated in GED preparation class (total of 146 class hours provided)

## 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 fall event, sponsored by the Northeast Neighborhood Council, ND Student Government, Student Affairs, the Center for Social Concerns, and the RCLC, drew over 350 neighborhood residents and students. The celebration included face-painting, balloon sculpture, service dogs, music, visits from the police and fire departments, and even a corn roast!

### ■ Turning Over A New Leaf

Despite the fact that it was snowing the morning of the 2011 "Turning Over a New Leaf" event, 130 hardy students raked the lawns of 38 Northeast Neighborhood seniors. This annual tradition is sponsored by Circle K of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's.



### ■ CommUniversity Day

Hundreds of Notre Dame students worked side by side with community members to clean parks, paint fire hydrants, mark storm sewers, prepare community gardens, and install rain barrels on the third annual CommUniversity Day sponsored by ND Student Government, the Center for Social Concerns, the City of South Bend,

and the Robinson Center. The weather was a bit threatening, but RCLC and ND students repainted 20 mural panels, working with concentration despite wind gusts and the occasional rain drop. Thirty-five neighborhood residents were given bus tours of the University, and children enjoyed the Kids Festival on the Irish Green. The day ended with a picnic at the RCLC.

### A Sampling of our Organizational Guests in 2010-2011

Friends of the Snite  
Eastside Reunion Committee  
NNRO-South Bend Heritage  
OPAC Division Meeting  
League of Women Voters

South Bend Police Department  
NENC Annual Meeting  
AARP Tax Assistance  
Young Life

Quarknet  
INDOT  
South Bend Community School Corporation  
Indiana Youth Institute

## Goal 5: Sustainability

Acquire resources necessary to achieve program goals.

### Many thanks to our 2010–2011 sponsors!

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

Indiana Office of Faith-Based and  
Community Initiatives

Key Bank of Northern Indiana

Carroll Charitable Trust at Wells Fargo  
Bank

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

ARCO/Murray National Construction

The ArtsEverywhere Initiative of the  
Community Foundation of  
St. Joseph County

St. Joseph Regional Medical Center

Better World Books

Memorial Hospital of South Bend

Notre Dame Federal Credit Union

Shakespeare at Notre Dame

Jewish Women's Endowment Fund

Indiana Black Troopers Association

ND Center for Social Concerns

The Kelly Cares Foundation

ND Class of 2011

Individual donors and those who wish to  
remain anonymous

#### ■ The Robinson Community Learning Center Celebrates its 10th Anniversary!

It has been more than a decade since the Robinson Center first opened its doors in 2001. To commemorate the event, the Robinson Center hosted a 10-year anniversary party for approximately 250 RCLC participants of all ages, Notre Dame students and staff, Northeast Neighborhood residents, and others involved with the Robinson Center over the years. Speakers included ND President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., and University President Emeritus Rev. Edward "Monk" Malloy, C.S.C., as well as a representative from Congressman Joe Donnelly's office and Superintendent of Schools James Kapsa. Awards were presented to those who contributed significantly to RCLC programs during 2010–2011. Father Malloy summed up the event with the comment that "This is

a chance to celebrate and recognize that great things happen when good people pull together their knowledge and resources to help the young, old, and everyone in between." The evening was topped off with a musical performance by Kennedy's Kitchen, which resulted in enthusiastic dancing from the RCLC youth.

