



Pillar of strength

UCS

Urban Community School



“Our commitment to improving our curriculum and programming has paid dividends.”



“UCS continued to serve as a pillar of strength for the Near West Side.”



A Message from Sister Maureen Doyle, OSU Director and Joseph K. Juster, Board Chair

As we began the 2012-2013 school year, Urban Community School also embarked on a 5-year strategic plan focused on achieving academic excellence, increasing admissions and expanding our campus to meet growing need, securing sustainable resources, and continuing to serve as a community anchor. Over the course of the last year, we have made great strides towards achieving these goals, and are honored to share some of these successes with you in this annual report.

We continued our tradition of strong academic achievement this year, and proudly salute the 2013 class of 8th level graduates who will further their success at many of the area's top high schools. Our commitment to improving our curriculum and programming has paid dividends, and has been recognized through our selection as one of only ten schools nationally invited to join the Whole Child Network of schools – something we discuss in detail within this report.

Our greatest resource continues to be our alumni, and we were blessed to see and hear from many of them about their successes over the course of this past school year. At our Stakeholder Meeting, our Alumni of the Year, Johnny Abrams ('83), spoke with great passion about the role UCS played in his life and how it prepared him to thrive academically, professionally, and personally. We also had the opportunity to check in with a number of our younger alumni, whose stories have appeared in our newsletter and in this annual report. We continue to find our former students sources of great joy and inspiration, and hope to hear from many more as our alumni numbers continue to grow.

UCS continued to serve as a pillar of strength for the Near West Side, cultivating our relationships with churches, schools, businesses, non-profits, and other key partners. Many of our extracurricular activities provided opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff to play vital roles in the community. Inside, you will read about one such partnership, between a local university and our unique music ensemble. And we also reflect on some of the individuals who helped UCS play this important role in the community, remembering two of our greatest champions.

This school year also marked the first that UCS welcomed three separate kindergarten classes to our campus. These students are expected to become the school's first graduating class of over 60 children – a sign of our continued growth and preparations for expansion. In light of our goal to serve more children, our board voted in September 2013 to break ground on a new, state of the art middle school wing that will open in the fall of 2014, and allow us to meet our goal of serving 600 children each year at UCS. We look forward to reaching out to more members of the community to discuss ways they can support our mission and our growing student population.

While we have made great progress at Urban Community School, we are always cognizant that there is still significant work to be done, and that there is great need for our efforts in the community. None of this exciting work would be possible without the support of each of you – our friends, partners, and collaborators on this journey. With your help, we are able to provide our young people an individualized, innovative, and challenging education, and with your continued partnership, we look forward to advancing this mission in the coming months and years.

Thank you.



Sister Maureen Doyle, OSU



Joseph K. Juster

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of small, stylized human icons in a light green color. The icons are arranged in a grid, with some variations in their orientation and shading to create a sense of movement and diversity.

1 of 10

In May of 2012, UCS was selected by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) as one of ten schools across the nation to become a part of the ASCD Whole Child Network

The Whole Child Network

One of Urban Community School's core values is that students are unique individuals whose educational path must be designed to allow them to learn at their own pace and play to their strengths. In May of 2012, UCS was selected by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) as one of ten schools across the nation to become a part of the ASCD Whole Child Network, whose pilot program emphasizes a holistic focus on students, and aligns with a focus on students as individuals.

The Whole Child Initiative focuses on five major tenets – that students understand and practice a **healthy** lifestyle, learn in an environment that is physically and emotionally **safe**, are actively **engaged** in learning, are **supported** by qualified, caring adults, and are **challenged** academically and prepared for success. Selection for participation in the network includes a \$10,000 grant from ASCD and participation in national education leadership conferences throughout the grant period. The ten selected schools have committed to a three-year comprehensive improvement process using the program's tenets, and the experiences from this pilot group will inform ASCD's continued grantmaking.

Throughout the 2012-2013 school year, UCS completed and reviewed a staff and student assessment survey based on the Whole Child Initiative tenets. This data was reviewed and analyzed, and a team of five UCS staff members will represent the school in planning, decision-making, and implementation of the program. The 2013-2014 school year will include ongoing professional development and will highlight community involvement and creative approaches to educating the whole child. "The action plan is a working document," says Principal Pam Delly. "This gives us the opportunity to learn from our experiences and find creative solutions to challenges."

One of these creative solutions is being implemented in the 2013-14 school year. All teachers have been provided iPads to facilitate efficient, accurate, and timely student record keeping. Using this efficient system to minimize administrative tasks will offer teachers more time to provide individual attention to their students. Teachers can also use the technology and the assessment data gathered in creative ways to inform and improve their teaching methods. Innovative apps are already making their way into lesson plans, and teachers are sharing them with one another as they prepare for another school year. The role of this technology will expand as it adapts to new teaching and learning styles in the coming years.

Mrs. Delly and her team of implementers intend to take the lessons learned from this three-year initiative and incorporate them into UCS's overall individualized approach. These lessons will build on a strong tradition of caring for each student's needs on a personal level, preparing them to be life-long learners and successful contributors to a global community.

The Ukulele Ensemble

If you find yourself in the halls of Urban Community School on a Wednesday afternoon or Friday morning, don't be confused if you feel for a moment as if you're on the sunny beaches of Hawaii rather than in Cleveland. A glance into UCS Music Director Catherine McGlaughlin's classroom will quickly answer any questions. There you will find a dozen or so students practicing performance pieces on ukuleles, a centuries-old island instrument that has found a revival in the UCS music program.

The Urban Community School Ukulele Ensemble, affectionately known as the Uke Squad, offers students in the 6th through 8th level the opportunity to learn, perform, and sometimes even teach the method of the diminutive guitar-like instrument. Mrs. McGlaughlin founded the Squad in the spring of 2012 to showcase the instruction that happens in class and allow the students an opportunity to perform.

All 5th through 8th level students receive ukulele instruction in music class as part of the curriculum. In recent years, the focus moved from simple musical appreciation to active learning and performance. The ukulele offers an unusual experience for students while they learn a skill set easily transferable to other instruments. Students who expressed interest beyond music class were offered the opportunity to audition and participate in the Uke Squad.

The ensemble rehearses twice a week, and has already performed in the Christmas program, Success Night, Stakeholders Meeting, and prayer services. The squad intends to extend its reach out to the community, with the goal of performing at community events and nursing homes in the coming school year.

UCS is also using the Uke Squad as a platform to broaden students' horizons. In December 2012, the students had a unique opportunity to teach their craft in a Master Class and get a taste of college life, thanks to a partnership between UCS and Baldwin Wallace University. The Uke Squad traveled to the BW Conservatory to teach sophomore music education students a song on their instruments. While there, the UCS students also had the opportunity to tour the BW campus, have lunch in the student union, and collaborate with college students on the song they had shared. The partnership will continue this spring, when the ensemble will teach a master class to BW's chapter of the Ohio Collegiate Music Educator's Association (OCMEA).

As Mrs. McGlaughlin looks to the future, she is making plans for the Uke Squad to continue to hone their musical skills and expand their outreach. A Pennsylvania-based composer will collaborate with the ensemble this school year, as he works to establish a method for teaching the ukulele in schools. The students will play original compositions, and, Mrs. McGlaughlin hopes, learn to incorporate additional instruments, including xylophones, African drums, and basic percussion instruments. Thanks to programs like this ensemble, students will graduate from Urban as accomplished musicians and performers, but also as confident young men and women with an exceptional understanding of teamwork and creativity, and a vision for future success.



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embrace new opportunities,
and never let the fear of the
unknown hold you back.

A True Champion

Lark Moore, Class of 2007

Lark Moore ('07) is a young woman who relishes new challenges. Her accomplishments are numerous and impressive: academic award winner, varsity sprinter for John Carroll University, scholarship recipient, campus leader, and published poet and researcher. Lark credits something she learned at Urban Community School as playing a major role in her successes: embrace new opportunities, and never let the fear of the unknown hold you back.

Lark is one of eight siblings, six of whom received a UCS education, and she enjoys being part of an Urban tradition in her family. She grew up on Cleveland's near west side and attended UCS from kindergarten through 8th level. It was at Urban that Lark discovered her love of poetry when her 3rd level teacher challenged the class to write poems for the school's Open House. She has continued writing since then, and her work has been included in three publications featuring young poets, including an anthology of winning submissions to the national Poetic Power writing contest.

When she looks back on her time at Urban, Lark's memories are often of the simplest lessons that last a lifetime – memories like the time Sister Mary Kay saw her cut her own bangs in 1st level. Lark recalls that it took some time to admit that the hair was even hers. She finally came clean, "but I insisted it was because my bangs were getting in my way and making it hard to read. I had to learn that someone was always watching," she says with a smile.

Lark loves the faith-based, inclusive tradition of UCS, from regular prayer services to a school-wide emphasis on openness and understanding. "Urban knows how to incorporate people from all different races, ethnicities, and backgrounds," she said. That welcoming environment made Lark understand from an early age that "I always had something to offer." It's a quiet confidence Lark carries with her, and it's clear she intends to do great things.

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After UCS, Lark continued her studies at Walsh Jesuit High School, where she lettered in track, led retreats, traveled to El Salvador for an immersion trip, received the Principal’s Award, and served as President of the African American Club. She continued to write poetry, focusing on topics of equality and diversity. These issues have been particular interests for Lark since her experience in Urban’s multicultural environment, an atmosphere she has found to be unparalleled.

Throughout her time at Walsh Jesuit, Lark participated in Boys Hope Girls Hope – a residential program dedicated to helping young men and women succeed. Lark excelled in this program, and as a result, she was awarded the John Carroll Boys Hope Girls Hope scholarship, awarded annually to a student from one of the Boys Hope Girls Hope communities across the U.S.

As a Middle Childhood Education major at John Carroll, Lark has thrown herself into both academic and extracurricular pursuits. In February 2013, she and a classmate took third-place honors for their paper presentation at the annual conference of the National Association of African-American Studies (NAAAS). The paper focused on the long-term effects of the eugenics movement and its presence in American curricula, and was one of a select few from the conference to be published by the NAAAS.

Lark’s adventurous spirit also led her to try out for John Carroll’s diving team last year, a notable pursuit because she did not know how to swim until a few weeks before tryouts. But within a week, Lark had learned to swim and competed with the team for the rest of the season. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Lark has been spending time on a new pursuit – rowing at a boathouse in the Flats, as she recently decided to join the JCU crew team.

Eventually, Lark hopes to teach in the Cleveland area, obtain her Ph.D. in multicultural education, and become a superintendent. In the meantime, she’s considering teaching English in France after graduation or joining Teach For America, unless she finds another challenge first. Her UCS family is sure she will succeed in all her endeavors, and can’t wait to see what she tackles next.

In Memoriam

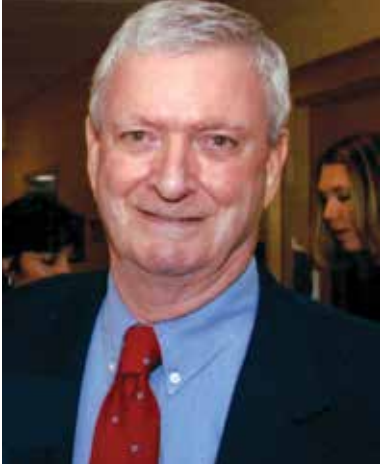
This school year was a time of continued growth for the UCS community, and we are thankful for the immense generosity of our supporters. We would like to use this space to remember two of our greatest champions – Dave P. O’Neill Sr. and Fr. Paul Hritz – both of whom passed away earlier this year. These two friends served as leaders and visionaries for our school throughout its history, and their tireless support and loving care for the children of Urban set the stage for our success. They will be greatly missed.



Fr. Paul Hritz

Fr. Paul Hritz was raised in Cleveland’s Broadway neighborhood and was a graduate of South High School, John Carroll University, and Saint Mary Seminary. Although he served many roles throughout the Diocese of Cleveland, including assistant pastor to several parishes and professor at Saint John College, the Second Vatican Council inspired Fr. Paul to lead his own parish, and he served as pastor at St. Malachi from 1967 to 1994. Even before joining St. Malachi, Fr. Paul was instrumental in founding UCS along with the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland and the members of St. Malachi and St. Patrick parishes. With his guidance and support, the school incorporated a new model of education in the spirit of ecumenism, emphasizing unity and the importance of diverse voices. Fr. Paul was always focused on the students and graduates of UCS, following their successes in high school, college, and beyond. “They were his kids,” said Sr. Maureen Doyle. “He wasn’t an emotional person, but he was so proud of every one of them.” Fr. Paul would remain an advisor and friend to the school’s leadership, serving on the board for more than 30

years, but always striving to remain in the background, and never taking the spotlight. George Eppley, a long-time friend and parishioner of Fr. Paul, noted that the leader “was involved in everything in his own quiet way. He didn’t sound trumpets, but you knew that Paul Hritz was always there, never taking credit for anything.”



Dave P. O'Neill Sr.

Dave P. O'Neill was raised in Shaker Heights and graduated from St. Ignatius High School and Georgetown University, where he met his future wife and fellow Clevelander Catherine ("Kaki") Sullivan. Dave would go on to become president of Chesterfield Steel for several decades and was the proud father of five and grandfather of seven. He retired from Chesterfield in 1993, turning his focus to UCS as chairman of the Board of Trustees, and leading the first UCS Endowment Campaign. Dave was a tireless advocate for the entire UCS family, and regularly introduced his own friends and family as supporters of the school. "Dave loved the school and he loved the kids," said former board chairman Tom Sullivan about his brother-in-law and friend. "He was passionate about the kids and he was instrumental in getting the school where it needed to be financially." As for Dave's role in raising funds for the new campus in the early 2000s, Tom said, "he was convinced the new school was absolutely necessary, and he could help anyone else who needed convincing." Sr. Maureen saw that for Dave, it was simply

about helping the kids. "He would always ask me, 'Sister, what do they need?'" she said. "And then he'd work to make it happen. He could never do enough for the kids."

These two men's interconnected legacies expand far beyond the walls of Urban Community School. "They were two men who were passionate about education and who dedicated their lives to those in need," said Fr. Tony Schuerger, Fr. Paul's successor at St. Malachi Parish. Along with Kaki, Fr. Paul and Dave worked to open and raise operating funds for Malachi House, a home for the dying poor. They were both committed to countless projects for those in need throughout Cleveland, and we know that they are both missed in dozens of organizations and communities. Urban Community School owes much of its history and its future to these two members of its family. Their shared commitment to ensuring that more children could receive an Urban Community School Education has been instrumental in our success. We hope to honor these two great men with our continued commitment to the young people of Cleveland's Near West Side, and are proud to be a part of their shared legacy.

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The above listed members have no material conflict of interest and all of the members serve without compensation.

Financial Results

Revenue

June 30, 2013

Unrestricted Revenue

Contributions and Fundraising	\$ 950,050
Vouchers	1,257,287
Tuition	249,537
Other Income	197,049
Interests and Dividends	2,567
Total Unrestricted Revenue	2,656,490

Restricted Revenue

Contributions	2,224,773
Interest and Dividends	290,305
Total Restricted Revenue	2,515,078

Total Revenue **\$ 5,171,568**

Net Restricted Unrealized and Realized (Loss) on Investments \$ 1,083,890

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 2,465,545
Security, Maintenance, Utilities and Insurance	386,666
Depreciation	273,524
Development*	436,144
Educational Program	183,388
Consulting and Professional Services	97,353

Total Expenses **\$ 3,842,620**

Change in Net Assets **\$ 2,412,838**

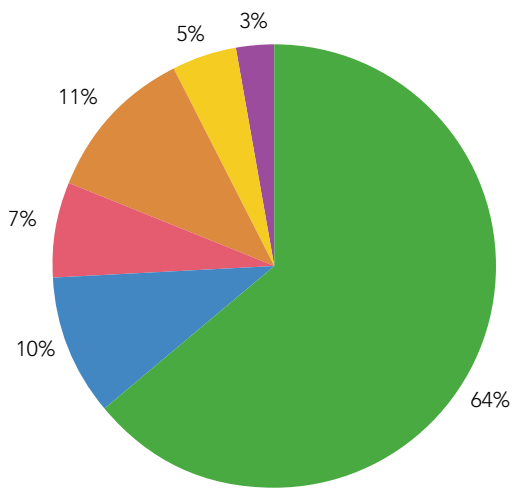
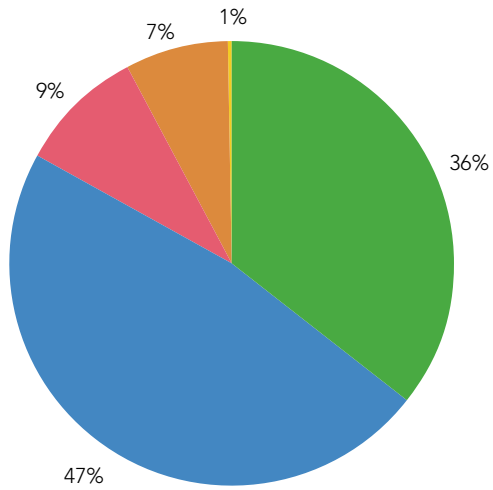
Statement of Net Assets

Cash	\$ 2,065,333
Investments at Fair Market Value	12,011,949
Property and Equipment	9,144,086
Liability	(232,585)
Total Net Assets	\$ 22,988,783

Note: 5% transfer of Endowment assets totaled \$510,278

The information contained in this report was obtained from the financial statements of PM Foundation, Inc. and Subsidiary as audited by Barnes Wendling CPAs, Inc. Complete copies of the audited financial statements are maintained in the UCS Development Office.

*Includes development staff salaries, benefits, and one-time expenses related to the capital campaign



Ways to support UCS

With approximately 78% of UCS families living at or below the Federal Poverty Level, tuition accounted for less than 9% of our nearly \$3.3 million 2012-2013 operating budget. The school relies on the generosity of individuals, foundations, corporations, and other organizations to cover much of the annual budget. UCS offers a variety of ways for donors to help further our mission.

Annual Fund and Direct Support

Annual Fund support is critical for UCS to remain a model of education, and to continue providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to break the cycle of poverty and lead fulfilling lives. UCS accepts cash, check, credit card (VISA and MasterCard) and money order. You can also give directly on-line.

Gifts of Stock

UCS accepts stock, stock options and other investments. You can receive a charitable deduction for the full market value at the time the gift is made on a donation of stock you have owned for more than one year.

Gifts of Time and Non-Cash Items

UCS has a variety of volunteer opportunities available for those wishing to donate their time and service. We are always glad to discuss our volunteer opportunities. In-kind gifts are also welcome, and give donors a strong sense of satisfaction by passing sentimental and/or useful items to charities.



Bequests and Planned Gifts

In addition to realizing substantial tax benefits, planned giving is a means to accomplish both your personal financial and charitable giving goals. Through a planned gift, you can maximize the personal financial benefits of philanthropy and make a larger gift than you may have thought possible.

Honorary or Memorial Giving

Celebrate the life or achievements of special individuals by making a gift in their honor.

Matching Gifts

Many employers sponsor a matching gift program and will match charitable donations made by their employees. If your company offers a matching gift program, please request a matching gift form from them, and send the completed form along with your gift to UCS.

United Way

Thank you to all those who designate a portion of their United Way contribution to UCS.

To learn more about UCS giving options, please contact:

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