The Genesis Center

We Build Better Lives

annual report 2010

September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010

THE GENESIS CENTER

At The Genesis Center, adult students and early learners build better lives that enrich our whole community. The Genesis Center supports Rhode Islanders of diverse cultures and experiences who are ready to work hard to acquire the skills they need to provide security and happiness for themselves and their families.

Our holistic services respond to each learner's special goals and needs, while striving to meet the highest professional standards.

The Genesis Center was founded in 1982 to help refugees from the wars in Southeast Asia. Since then, we have provided more than 7,000 refugees, immigrants and low-income adult learners with English language skills, literacy, job skills, and early education for their children and other supports.

In 2010, we served more than 720 adults and children.

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"I wanted to move my life! I didn't want to work in a restaurant forever."

Aminata Keita

"When you don't say words right people give you a look. I hate that look."

Luis Miguel Aponte

"I want a good job, a job with benefits."

Zulma Antelo

All photos taken by Jon Lavieri, a teacher at The Genesis Center.

THANK YOU

Our shared American story

Families come to America in a quest to build a better life. That is not an easy journey. They must learn our language and culture so they can create new and better lives for themselves and certainly for their children.

In 1930, my grandmother and mother gave up all that was familiar to them in their home in Portugal to come to America. They boarded the *USS Providence* to make their way to Rhode Island in search of the American dream. More than likely, someone in your family made the same sacrifice.

Today, you can meet men and women much like those pioneers here at The Genesis Center. They are eager and committed to work very hard to make better lives for themselves and their families.

In today's economy they need more than hard work to achieve their dreams. Today's employers require workers fluent in English and proficient in math and reading.

The Center supports Rhode Island's businesses by preparing our students for available jobs in health care, environmental services, food preparation and other growth fields. Our graduates are successful in obtaining paid employment because we partner with employers.

Our focus currently is to make The Genesis Center's education for work programs available to the more than 800 people on our waiting list. When we meet that challenge, we help families build better lives for themselves. As their dreams are achieved, we build a better community for everyone.

Respectfully,

Dean E. Martins, Chairman

Our community of support

Each day adult learners come to the Genesis Center seeking information about classes and job training opportunities. The demand is great. Each day we add learners to our waiting list, **which is now more than 800 people**. They all share a common goal – to learn English, gain employment and make better lives for themselves and their families.

Your support for lifelong learning makes our work of building better lives possible. More than 700 adult learners took big steps on their individual paths to a better life here at The Genesis Center in 2010. They did the most difficult work, but without The Genesis Center's powerful community of support, even their greatest efforts would not have been enough.

The Genesis Center community includes our adult and child care learners, faculty and staff, our selfless volunteers, our many program supporters from business, government, and other nonprofits, as well as the hundreds of individuals, corporations and charitable foundations providing critical financial support. Our community includes you.

We'll need your help even more in the years ahead. For every learner we can serve, others are waiting to take that first step on their path to a better life.

We can't afford to let them wait.

That's why we're driven to help our learners realize their full potential faster. Even in these difficult times, we're working to add more classroom seats, to provide more intentional and intensive services to make each learner's success more certain.

I know we can do it – because we draw on a whole community for support. Thank you for being a member of The Genesis Center community.

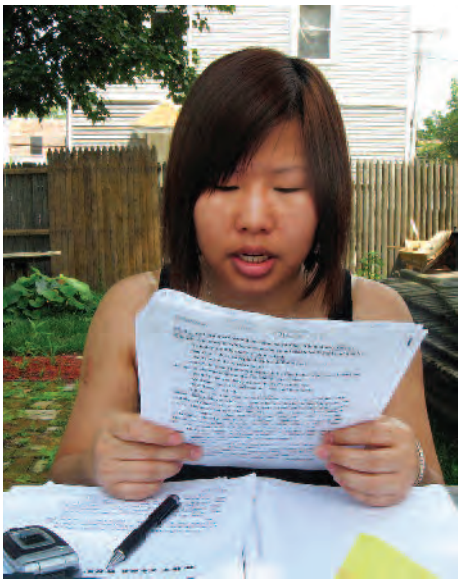
Sincerely,

Pheamo R. Witcher, Executive Director

BETTER LIVES BY DESIGN

At The Genesis Center, every student's vision of a better life is unique. So is their pathway to that better future. As demand for our classes has grown, so have our efforts to make sure that each student enrolls in the class that serves them best by careful testing and assessment of skills and needs. With thousands of people in need of services, every seat and every hour of class time is precious.

National research shows that students who set clear learning goals and receive coaching in job services, public benefits enrollment and financial literacy have significantly higher rates of success than others. Last year we added evening case management and job development services. Later this year, we will create our Family Success Center, with a team of case managers to provide this comprehensive support to our students.



English instruction unlocks the huge untapped talents of our students.

English opens the door

The Genesis Center's first English classes were offered in the tenement homes of recently arrived refugees from Southeast Asia. They were so eager to learn that students stood on kitchen tables to see and hear. Twenty-nine years later, the ability to speak, read and write in English is still the front door to opportunity. The demand for language instruction is stronger than ever.

Our garden produces fresh vegetables that our Culinary Arts students cook for the children in our Early Education and Child Care programs. It also makes a cooler classroom in hot weather.

And so is the determination to master English and move on. "I'm spending a lot on gas to get here, but it's OK because I'm learning English," says one student.

"English is the on-ramp to the other training students need to reach their goals," says Shannon Carroll, Vice President of Programs. The Genesis Center offers four levels of English instruction, each one incorporating critical content that will help students realize their goals sooner, including family health and safety, preparation for U.S. citizenship and financial literacy.

The "high beginners" in Barbara Al-Sabek's English class learn math skills that will help them qualify for work-preparation courses. "It's a very good way to teach English," says Barbara. "Even though my students have very diverse skills, the English vocabulary of math is new to everyone."

Highlights

- The Genesis Center enrolled 551 students in four levels of English instruction.
- 48 percent of our students gained two or more levels of English mastery, compared with the state target of 41 percent.
- 23 students of The Genesis Center took their oaths of U.S. Citizenship.

> *"I came to The Genesis Center because I wanted to change my life."*
>
> Sokkeang Mok

Better lives, better work

The Genesis Center prepares students in our career development programs with the credentials, experiences and skills they need to succeed in a highly competitive job market. Professional chefs know that graduates from our longest-running vocational program, Culinary Arts, will arrive in their kitchens knowing how to work efficiently and safely.

Our very successful Healthcare Exploration program provides students with specialized vocabulary, essential knowledge and skills like First Aid and CPR and hands-on experience through internships to win entry level jobs with career pathways in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care providers.

Close partnerships with employers are a major reason for the high placement rate for graduates of our programs. Those same partnerships led us to create a new program to

Healthy activities and health lessons are an important part of our English classes.

Students from around the world form close friendships at the Genesis Center.

prepare students for homemaker positions supporting elders in their homes, which launched in September.

Our own research revealed growing demand for "green" cleaning practices. Our new Green Janitorial program prepares students to use environmentally friendly cleaning products and to spot and address lead, mold and other hazards.

> *"For every promotion, you have to learn something."*
>
> Lucretia Duarte

Highlights

- 95 students enrolled in Genesis Center workforce development courses.
- 43 of 47 Culinary Arts students graduate.
- 46 of 48 Healthcare Explorations students graduate.
- 84 Genesis Center students are placed in jobs.

Support from the Rosie for all Kids Foundation and the City of Providence helped us create safe outdoor spaces where children can run and play.

High quality Early Education and Child Care at The Genesis Center gives these boys a real head start on future success in school and later life.

Early learning for a better life

The Genesis Center Early Education and Child Care program serves the children of our adult learners and families from our West End neighborhood, children from some of the poorest families in Rhode Island.

As with our adult students, The Genesis Center is committed to providing our early learners with the best education possible. Research shows that children who receive a high quality preschool education have much higher odds of success in school, work and life than those who do not.

Last year, we partnered with Meeting Street School to create an Early Head Start program for infants and toddlers, conducted extensive professional development for our staff and upgraded our equipment and materials.

> *"Now I can talk to my daughter's teacher. I'm grateful to The Genesis Center."*
>
> Juana Gonzalez

Those efforts were recognized when our Early Education and Child Care program was assessed by the Rhode Island BrightStars quality rating agency last year. Our three-star rating from BrightStars certifies that we exceed state requirements for preschool and child care facilities and meet additional BrightStar quality standards for our facilities the number and qualifications of our staff and other criteria.

We have already begun work on our plan to earn a four-star BrightStar rating.

Highlights

- 74 children enrolled in all Early Education and Child Care programs.
- Three-Star rating from BrightStars.

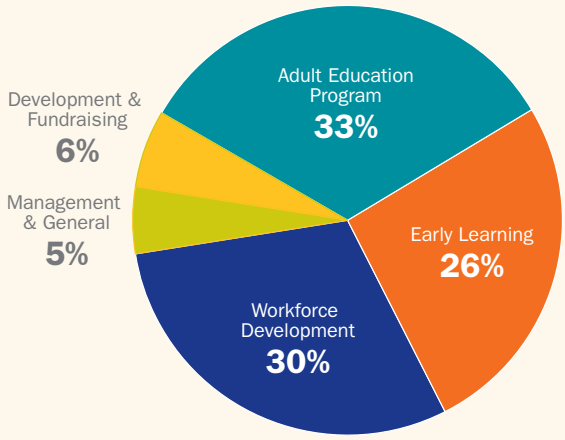
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

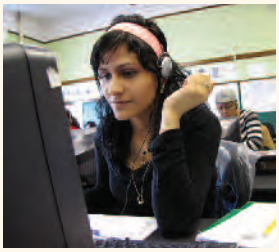
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended August 31, 2010

CHANGES IN UNRESTRDICTED NET ASSETS	
REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
Support	
Government contracts	$ 821,256
Non-government contracts	136,440
Contributions	12,967
Foundations and corporate grants	121,949
Total Support	1,092,612
Revenue	
Program fees	447,849
Fundraising events	36,839
Return on investments	36,867
Rental income	15,792
Total Revenue	567,347
Total Unrestricted Revenue	**1,659,959**
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Adult education program	555,687
Child care program	430,926
Workforce development	496,870
Total Program Expenses	1,483,483
SUPPORTING SERVICES	
Management and general	84,851
Development and fundraising	106,342
Total Expenses	**1,674,676**
CHANGES IN TOTAL ASSETS	(14,717)
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,185,359
TRANSFERS	0
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	**$ 1,170,642**

Expenses





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City of Providence – Food for Thought
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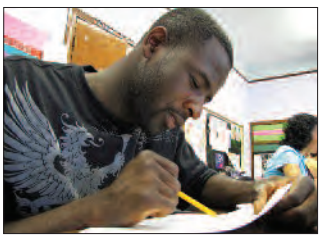

The Genesis Center

Our Vision

The Genesis Center envisions a world where all people have equality of opportunity to realize their full potential.

Our Mission

The Genesis Center provides the highest quality education, job training and support services to people of diverse cultures so that they may achieve economic independence and participate fully in society.

The Genesis Center
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Providence, RI 02907

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