

The Einstein Project Annual Report 2007-2008

Einstein - More Relevant Than Ever



Julie Paavola
Executive Director

Not a day goes by that we don't hear folks talking about the new economy as it relates to Wisconsin and, more specifically, to Green Bay. Intellectual capital is the new catch phrase among many who believe that brains, not brawn are behind the industries that will sustain our communities. As I look back at the life of Steve Van Dyke, engineer, businessman and founder of The Einstein Project who recently passed away, (see page 1) it's evident that he was on to this concept nearly 20 years ago.

In the late 1980's Steve launched a mission to recruit and retain scientists and advanced degree holders in Brown County. The exploration led him to the root issue - that people with a natural affinity for Northeast Wisconsin weren't necessarily pursuing advanced degrees in science. Steve and his senior staffer, Dave Turiff, discovered the biggest gains would be made by inspiring science interest early. This concept eventually led to the creation of The Einstein Project, which today provides more than 85,000 hands-on, minds-on science participations to K-8 school children in Wisconsin and science training for teachers.

Now, nearly 18 years later, we think Steve's idea has made a difference and we often hear this from our educators.

"It has been clear that the kits stimulated many students to take more science", said John Fischer, district science chairperson, Ashwaubenon School District, who primarily works with high school students. "I hear that yearly. I also think the kits enhance their science thinking ability. Watching my own daughters and how they have learned from the kits, I strongly feel that the kits spark that inquiry in kids and get them on the road to asking why and experimenting."

In addition, a study by UWGB released last year showed 4th grade students using The Einstein Project's science units fared better than non-Einstein students on state standardized tests. This also proved to be true among students with disabilities, limited English proficiency, females and minority students.

One man's idea and willingness to provide the resources and brainpower necessary to tackle a problem can make all the difference. As we move forward in these uncertain economic times Northeast Wisconsin should be proud that we have a program like The Einstein Project providing the tools needed to keep moving forward.

Thank you Steve Van Dyke for being a thinker, a challenger and a motivator! We wouldn't be here without you.

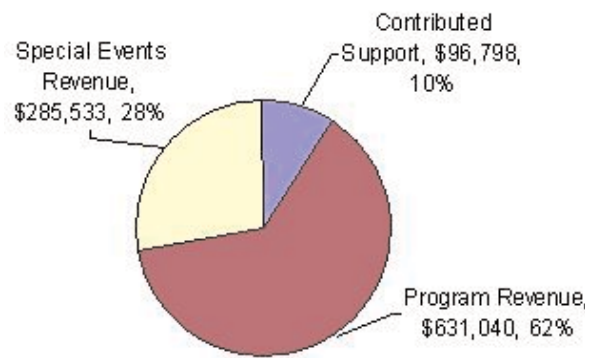
The Einstein Project Mission Statement

The Einstein Project is a non-profit school/community partnership that provides leadership and support for science education in Wisconsin.

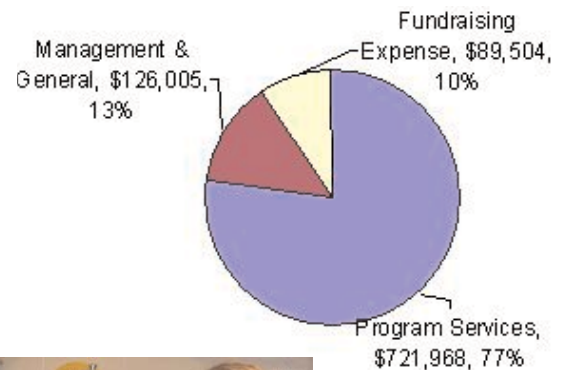
Einstein in the Schools 2007-2008

- 564 teachers trained to use hands-on science in the classroom
- 2,717 kits leased to schools, multiplied by 30 students per classroom, resulting in 81,420 student participations
- 261 refurbishment packages to schools that already own science units, reaching 7,830 additional students
- Grand total of 89,250 student participations last year

The Einstein Project Revenue 07-08



The Einstein Project Expenses 07-08



Inquiry-based science is the most effective.

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Hands-on translates to excitement, involvement, and interest in science!

School children in various grade levels at schools around the area learn from Einstein units including Magnets & Motors, Properties of Matter, and Balls & Ramps.

Connie Greenawald photos

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We thank our partners who have made 2007-2008 a great year and look forward to new successes in 2008-2009. The following is a list of financial and in-kind donors of \$1,000 or more in 07-08. Thank you all for your support!

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