

46 Years of  
Helping Kids Succeed Academically

**VIPS**

Annual Report  
2008-2009



H. Terri Adelman  
*Executive Director*

Dear Friends:

What Great News! VIPS' tutors and mentors helped more struggling students this year despite the faltering economy. That was excellent because our children were in greater need not only of academic support but the special help we bring that is unique to VIPS. They needed the smiling face that says, "I care about you" at a time when their family life is even more stressful because of the poor economic times.

We were successful in growing because the community responded to our need. The backing of our partners - businesses, foundations, community volunteers and individual donors – all of whom remained committed to our children's education, gave us the capacity to do more. Nothing demonstrates the necessity of a highly educated and skilled workforce more than a financial crisis. Thank you for coming through for our kids!

Our supporters are committed to VIPS because they know we "get it done." VIPS gained this reputation because we established a unique and cost effective student support system – we mobilize the community. Our broad collaborations give us flexibility to quickly address our children's academic needs on this uneven playing field. This year it allowed us to expand our focus on the early grades to prevent drop outs later because research says to start early in a child's life so that building a solid foundation for further learning, skill development and creativity can take place.

A clear demonstration of a need response is how VIPS was able to accelerate the learning of 300 students through its targeted reading program. VIPS firmly believes that the faster our elementary students made up the individual attention they miss with reading, talking and playing educational games the faster they will catch up and feel successful in school, breaking the cycle of failure. To act on that goal VIPS needed hundreds of volunteers, receptive teachers and parents, and a supportive school district – and everyone responded.

Two of VIPS' goals for the next few years are to have all elementary school children proficient in reading, math, science and technology and to have our high school students engaged in science, technology, engineering and math projects. Together the VIPS community will make it possible.

Best wishes for the New Year and many thanks,

H. Terri Adelman  
*Executive Director*

. . . Inspiring minds . . .

**VIPS IS A DYNAMIC  
STUDENT AND  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

VIPS helps students succeed.

As an educational provider, partner and advocate for underserved children in Providence public schools we deliver specially designed initiatives that improve students' ability to achieve academic success.

- **Tutoring/Mentoring - 3,000 students**

VIPS core program pairs volunteers to work one-on-one or with small groups of students.

- **College Collaborative for Excellence in Education - 600 college students**

College education majors receive valuable urban classroom experience providing young students with in-school assistance.

- **Reading Buddies - 300 elementary school students**

Literacy initiative that accelerates the acquisition of key reading skills in below-performing students in grades 1 – 3 with intensive reading intervention from extensively trained tutors.

- **Kid's Bridge - 15 students**

Innovative kindergarten prep pilot developed by VIPS to effectively give children with no pre-school experience the opportunity to get caught up.

- **Power Lunch - 124 students**

Reading comprehension program in which corporate volunteers read with elementary school children during lunch.



*In today's world, urban kids need more time than the schools have the money to provide.*

*. . . helping children make the grade.*

## Tech Center and Experiential Learning Activities

- **Summer Learn to Earn – 75 students**

Workforce development program providing students with hands-on tasks focused on career exploration in urban revitalization and the health care industry.

- **VIPS Tech Center Learn To Earn - 75 students**

Courses offered throughout the year incorporate project-based lessons in Science, Engineering, Technology, Finance and English Language.

- **Hope High Optimized – 500 students**

Out-of-school time program providing Hope High students and family members with expanded academic and enrichment activities.

### Reading Motivation

- **Reading is FUNdamental (RIF) – 6,000 students**

Motivates children to read by giving them free new books to take home.

### Fee for Services for Sustainability

- **Supplemental Education Services - 360 students**

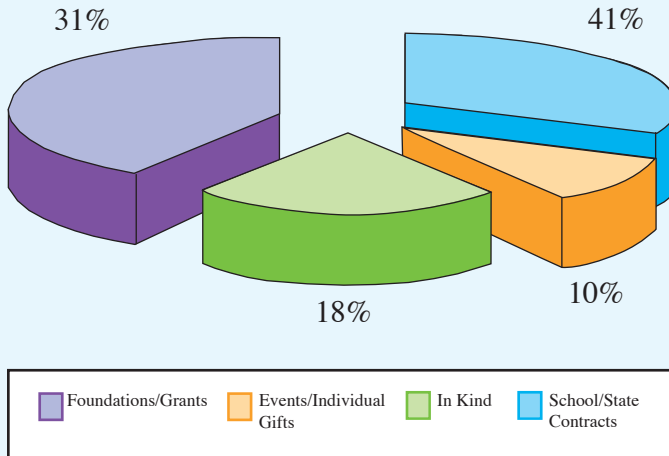
One of the largest SES providers in Providence, VIPS is also one of the few nonprofits offering this student service for the Federal No Child Left Behind required initiative.

*VIPS Tech Center provides a safe, nurturing environment alive with enriching, hands-on learning activities.*



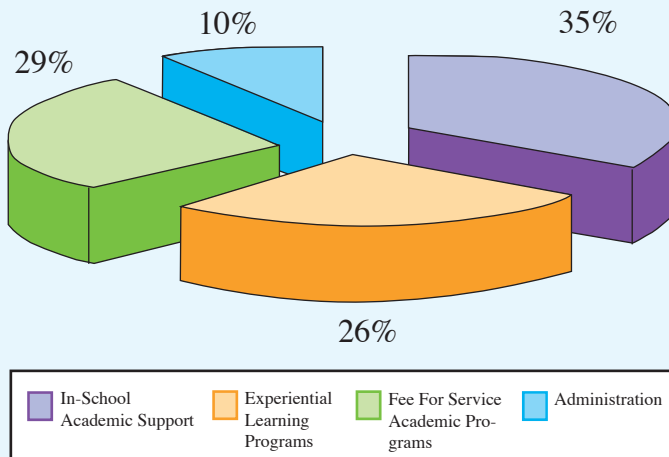
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**2008/2009  
INCOME: \$1,727,117**



*Every year VIPS provides in excess of \$1 million dollars of free academic services to the City of Providence.*

**2008/2009  
WHAT YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES: \$1,691,370**



*... helping children make the grade.*

## VIPS IMPACT

VIPS works.

Over the past few years, working closely with the districts, VIPS has been concentrating its student support services in high need elementary schools to have greater long-term impact on the students and the schools and to create a ripple impact. The latest statistics reveal that six schools with the highest hours of volunteer services also are schools that now meet the desired yearly progress. Many of the schools that VIPS does not service have been reported by the Providence School Department as not meeting annual yearly progress or they have dropped to underperforming.

Through our enthusiastic corps of nearly 1,000 community volunteers, VIPS delivers the individual attention and extra help so many children need to overcome barriers to learning. According to teachers, VIPS' tutored students show improved:

- Eagerness to Learn (80%)
- Writing Ability (78%)
- Social Skills (70%)
- Math Proficiency (65%)
- Reading Competence (55%).

There is a waiting list for VIPS' services.

*VIPS serves 10,000 students; 3,000 of whom receive individualized tutoring.*



*. . . Inspiring minds . . .*



*Volunteers who provide services in school and in our after school Tech Center are the backbone of VIPS.*

## **VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF VIPS**

Volunteer time and caring enable us to assist students professionally and at a low cost. VIPS efficiently manages its initiatives with the contribution of community volunteers who are recruited, trained, managed and supported by VIPS. Also vital to our operation are our collaborations with businesses, other nonprofits and universities. Together, we make a difference in children’s lives.

### **VIPS’ VOLUNTEERS**

- College Students: 60%
- Community Volunteers: 40%

Volunteers give approximately one hour or more a week of their time and are assigned to the age group and subject of preference.

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## CORPORATE PARTNERS

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*VIPS distributes 18,000  
books annually.*

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Rex Capital Advisors, LLC	Verizon Foundation
Rhode Island College	Wal-Mart Foundation



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*While others continually debate the best way to help struggling students succeed academically, VIPS keeps providing what we've always known they need – individual attention and extra time on tasks provided by caring, trained community volunteers.*

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 Patrick Duhon &  
   Karen E. Murphy

*VIPS tutors and mentors students – resulting in better grades, better attitudes, and ultimately more opportunities.*



*... helping children make the grade.*

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Marc & Susan Greenfield  
Dr. & Mrs. Neil Greenspan

*Funding support enables VIPS to play a key role in mobilizing the community to work with our students and provide youngsters with the skills necessary to reach their potential.*



*. . . Inspiring minds . . .*



*Although all children have access to education, urban students often face many more obstacles to learning and achieving.*

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 Fineses E. Mendez  
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 Rose C. Merenda  
 Amedeo & Norma Merolla

*VIPS connects more than 1,000 screened and trained tutor/mentor role models.*

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Gerald Noonan  
Michael Norde & JoEllen Scasino  
John & Katherine Norris

*VIPS is strong in building partnerships, collaborations and mobilizing individuals to get the job done in mutually beneficial ways.*



*... helping children make the grade.*

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 Prof. & Mrs. George Seidel  
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*VIPS is a unique alignment of resources among city, school district, and community for the benefit of children.*



*... Inspiring minds ...*



*District testing shows students in VIPS' intensive Reading Buddies program increase their literacy proficiency by 35% to 75% over their peers.*

Neil & Jean Severance  
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Edward Zuker  
Joseph & Jane Zulli  
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*VIPS is the oldest and largest volunteer program in Rhode Island.*



*. . . Inspiring minds . . .*

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*In the Providence public school system, 31 languages are spoken with 52 countries represented.*

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Keisy Marcano

*LTE Program Coordinator*  
Karlene Toppin

*. . . helping children make the grade.*



*VIPS' mission is to provide Providence public school students with the educational support services and personalized help they need to grow academically and socially.*

Volunteers In Providence Schools  
905 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
401.274.3240