



Closing the Achievement Gap

South Shore Stars 2010 Annual Report

“All over the world,
your chances of
success in school
and life depend
more on your family
circumstances than
on any other factor.”

Newsweek August 2010,
Dr. Mona Mourshed & Fenton
Whelan, McKinsey & Company





Dear Friends,

Both nationally and in Massachusetts, any discussion about education winds up focused on the achievement gap between children from higher income and lower income families. Report after report highlights the significance and consequences of the achievement gap. Solving it has become the priority of education and government leaders from school principals to the President, himself.

Policy makers and educators have reached a consensus that the availability of high quality early education and out-of-school-time programs are vital to resolving this national crisis. In FY'10, over 1200 South Shore children and youth, two thirds from low income families, benefited from Stars programs, which offer excellence in early education, enrichment and family support. I am very proud to be able to share with you that all Stars programs contain the components identified by research as necessary to close the achievement gap, including:

- Low child to teacher ratios
- Focus on social/emotional development and building strong adult/youth relationships
- Research based preschool curriculum
- Use of child assessment data to develop individual plans in our preschool centers
- Use of youth outcome measurement to develop activities in our school age programs
- Creative, innovative programs aimed at student engagement
- Ongoing parent communication and involvement
- Culturally responsive approach

As you review this annual report, you will see highlights of a number of new initiatives aimed at enhancing our efforts to support the development of our children and youth. Most significant is a brand new, federally funded Early Head Start program, which will provide comprehensive services to hundreds of Holbrook and Randolph high risk, young children with the goal of them starting school ready to succeed.

On behalf of our Board members, staff, children and families, I want to thank you for your ongoing support.

With warm regards,

Maddy Pope
President, Board of Directors

2010 Highlights—New Programs & Initiatives

With uncertainty and instability in the U.S. economy as a backdrop, we cemented our resolve and continued to build and expand the scope of services to children and families on the South Shore.

We are especially proud of several new programs and initiatives demonstrating continued confidence and investment by our many partners.



Education & Enrichment:

Summer Literacy—Storyland

Summer learning loss, particularly for low income children, is a serious concern for educators. With the goal of helping our youngest campers maintain their literacy skills, we added a Storyland Pavillion to South Shore Day Camp. Each day our Rising Stars (children entering 1st & 2nd grade) spent 45 minutes being read to and participating in engaging book related activities aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

School Age Math & Science Enrichment—Stars Robotics

With help from a LEGO Children's Fund grant we provided a full year of afterschool robotics clubs to children in grades 4 through 8 attending our Randolph Extended Day Stars programs. The project-based clubs are designed to reinforce math and science concepts while developing strong problem solving skills and teamwork.

Youth Mentoring

With a Today's Girls...Tomorrow's Leaders grant from the United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley, we provided one-on-one mentoring to twenty-four 4th through 9th grade girls. Having a positive adult role model is a key contributor to school success.

Education & Family Support:

R.I.S.E. HomeLINKS

Thanks to support from the Edith Glick Shoolman Charitable Foundation, our preschool R.I.S.E. (Reading Is So Exciting) literacy initiative introduced a HomeLINKS component with the goal of further strengthening the link between our classroom curriculum and home. Over 200 preschool families borrowed and used HomeLINKS kits featuring books and developmentally appropriate activities connected to the classroom.

Early Head Start (EHS) Stars

In January 2010, Stars received notification of a federal Early Head Start grant which extends our services to expectant mothers and families with children aged 0–3. EHS Stars is one of only two new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 EHS grantees in the New England region, and is designed specifically to serve the communities of Holbrook and Randolph with the goal of enhancing the health and well-being of families with very young children.

Stars began enrolling families in April 2010 for services provided through a partnership of local community based non-profits including; Blue Hills Healthy Families/Health Imperatives, Step One Early Intervention/South Shore Mental Health, the Holbrook School District and Randolph School District.

The EHS Stars program provides comprehensive services for the area's most vulnerable families including:

- assistance accessing prenatal and postpartum care
- prenatal education
- health, nutrition and mental health services
- parent/child play groups
- parent education
- screening and developmental assessment of children
- early education and child care

EHS Stars aims to: help families develop parenting skills that support healthy development and learning of their infants and toddlers; gain access to health, nutrition, education, social services and housing resources in the community; and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Closing the Achievement Gap

Lessons from the World's Best Schools

- Get children into school early... High quality preschooling does more for a child's chances in school and life than any other educational intervention.
- Don't ignore the time outside of school...the average child spends half his or her waking hours up to age 18 outside of school...invest in out-of-school time and after-school programs.
- Train teachers
- Recognize the value of individual attention and one-on-one support for struggling students.

"How to Close the Achievement Gap: The World's Best Schools offer important lessons about what works." *Newsweek* August 2010, Dr. Mona Mourshed & Fenton Whelan, McKinsey & Company.

Lessons from Science & Medicine

"The science of early brain development can inform investments in early childhood...the basic principles of neuroscience indicate that early preventative intervention will be more effective and produce more favorable outcomes than remediation later in life."

From *In Brief: The Science of Early Child Development*, Harvard University Center on the Developing Child

"What happens in early childhood can matter for a lifetime. ...In early childhood, research on the biology of stress shows how major adversity, such as extreme poverty, abuse, or neglect can weaken developing brain architecture. ...Science shows that providing stable, responsive, nurturing relationships in the earliest years can prevent or even reverse the damaging effects of early life stress, with lifelong benefits for learning, behavior, and health."

From *In Brief: The Impact of Early Adversity on Children's Development*, Harvard University Center on the Developing Child.

Lessons from Economic Experts

"Investment in birth to five early education for disadvantaged children helps prevent the achievement gap, reduce the need for special education, increase the likelihood of healthier lifestyles, lower the crime rate and reduce overall social costs. In fact, every dollar invested in early childhood education produces a 10% per annum return on investment. Equitable early childhood education resources produce greater social and economic equity."

"Letter to Federal Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Reform," James J. Heckman, Henry Shultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, The University of Chicago.

Lessons from Experience

Stars: Excellence in Education, Enrichment & Family Support Closing the achievement gap for South Shore families

For over 40 years it has been our mission to provide comprehensive early education and youth programs that enhance the development of children from economically and culturally diverse families.

Our substantial experience with the most vulnerable families and children has taught us about the most effective interventions. We achieve our mission by providing:

- Developmentally appropriate early education
- Academic enrichment for older children
- Family support
- Early assessment and intervention
- Individual planning for children
- Relationship building
- Professional development for staff
- Outcome measurement and program evaluation

We invest in developing character skills in the children and youth we serve, recognizing that character attributes—perseverance, motivation, self-esteem, self-control, and conscientiousness—are often just as important as cognitive abilities to future success.

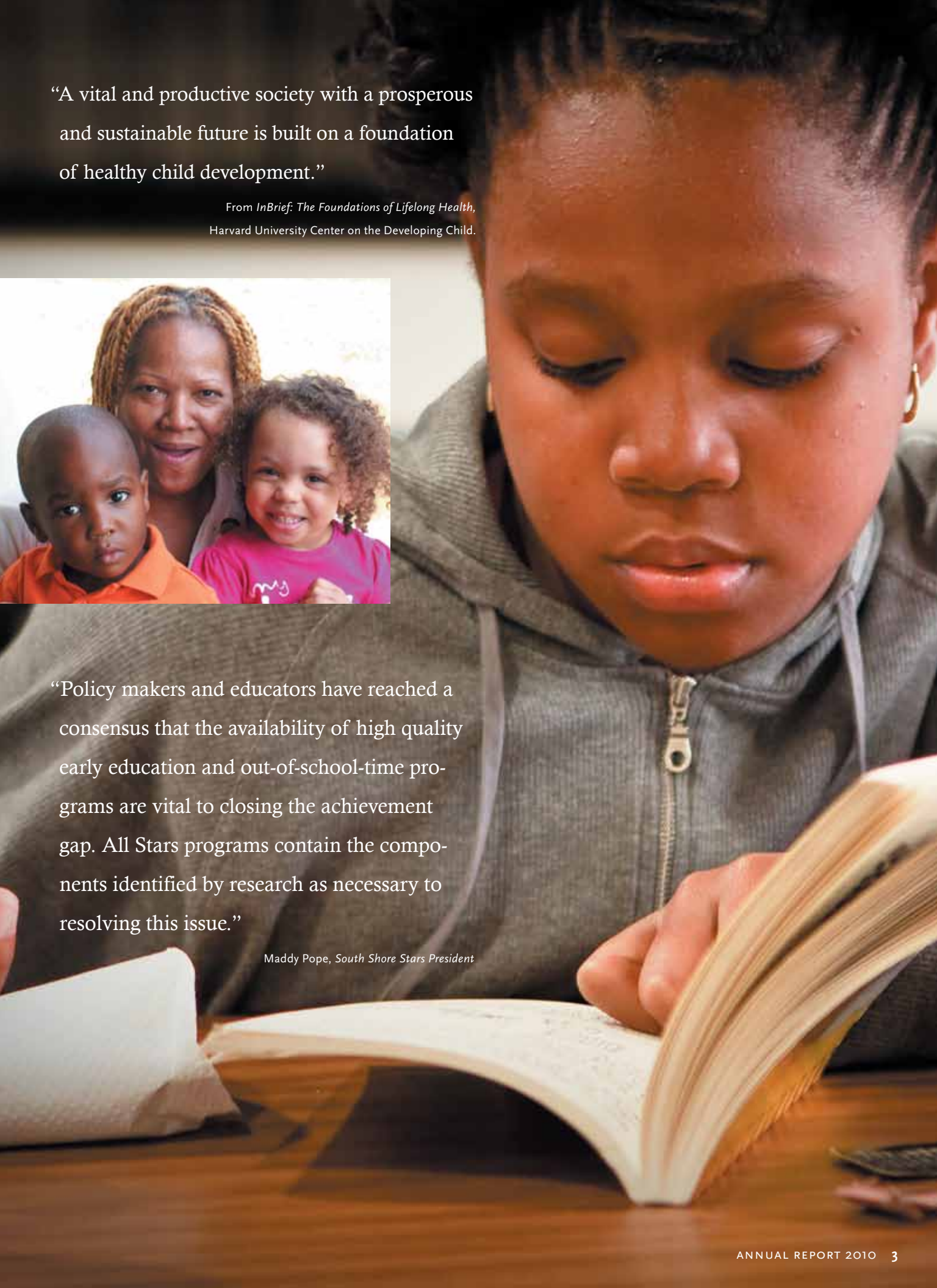
“A vital and productive society with a prosperous and sustainable future is built on a foundation of healthy child development.”

*From InBrief: The Foundations of Lifelong Health,
Harvard University Center on the Developing Child.*



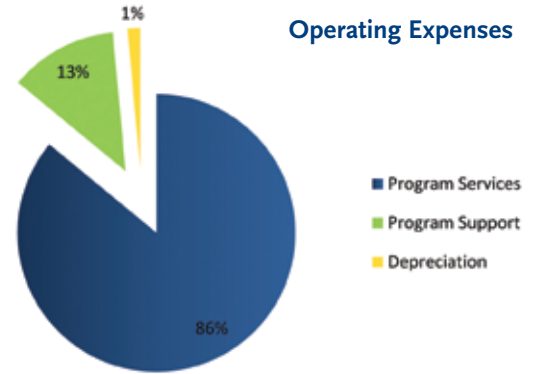
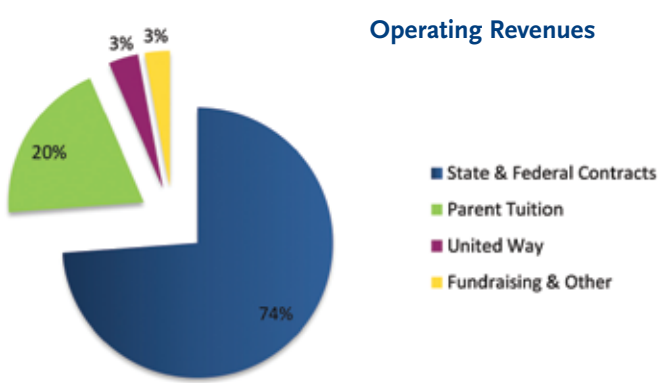
“Policy makers and educators have reached a consensus that the availability of high quality early education and out-of-school-time programs are vital to closing the achievement gap. All Stars programs contain the components identified by research as necessary to resolving this issue.”

Maddy Pope, South Shore Stars President



Financial Report

(for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010)



Revenues

| | FY 2009 | | FY2010 | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| State & Federal Contracts | \$ 5,486,809 | 73% | \$ 5,583,375 | 74% |
| Parent Tuition | 1,574,381 | 21% | 1,488,397 | 20% |
| United Way | 244,943 | 3% | 268,275 | 3% |
| Fundraising & Other | 219,260 | 3% | 223,288 | 3% |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 7,525,393 | | \$ 7,563,335 | |

Expenses

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Program Services | \$ 6,318,035 | 84% | \$ 6,435,000 | 86% |
| Program Support | 1,032,923 | 14% | 940,529 | 13% |
| Depreciation | 140,896 | 2% | 109,884 | 1% |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$ 7,491,854 | | \$ 7,485,413 | |

(All results are audited)

2009–2010 Community Partners

South Shore Stars extends thanks and appreciation to the many people and organizations who contributed so generously to our programs, services and facilities during the 2010 fiscal year: July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010.

Please Note: We are grateful to the many people who contributed to the Stars 40 Under 40 Awards @ 40th Anniversary Celebration, your donations will be recognized in the FY 2011 Annual Report to be published in October, 2011.

Program Support

Randolph Community Middle School STARS:

Haemonetics Corporation
HarborOne Credit Union
Henry Family Foundation
LEGO Children's Fund
The Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation, Inc.
Randolph Savings Peter P. Pastore, Jr. Charitable Foundation
Rockland Trust Company
TJX Foundation

Reading Is So Exciting (RISE):

Edith Glick Shoolman Charitable Foundation
J. Jill Compassion Fund
South Coastal Bank
Storybook Cove

Family Support/ Family Financial Stability:

Harold Brooks Foundation
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

Afterschool Enrichment:

Double Dutch /Science Clubs—United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

Public Support:

Federal Office of Head Start/Region One
Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

General Operating:

United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

Donors:

(July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010)

Up to \$250

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James & Therese Asher
Peter & Celeste Asmar
Brian & Valerie Barry
Joan Barry
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Bill & Earlene Beauregard
Juliana Berte & Diego Arabbo
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Rosemary Wahlberg

John & Julia Wiswall

Ken Wolfe

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In Memory of Ernola Rice
George & Madelyne Pope

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& Claudia L. Sorgi

Karl L. Briggs

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\$500–\$999

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Mass Movement, Inc.

Mike & Judy O'Toole

Randolph Elks Lodge 2130

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\$1,000–\$4,999

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of Massachusetts

Mary & Steven H. Briggs

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White Foundation

\$5,000+

Tom & Cheryl Harris

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Foundation

\$10,000+

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Web Design

Candace Gordon—
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Jess Horton Design—
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Rebranding Consultation

KW Design/Kendall Walker
—Graphic Design

The Results Group/Jennifer
Kauffman—Consulting

Jackie Sliwinski—
Web Design

Corporate and Community Volunteers

These companies and individuals provided significant volunteer time to our programs, facilities, events and administrative tasks. Our Volunteers:

- mentored youth
- read books to preschoolers
- helped with field trips and special days at camp
- assisted teachers with arts and craft activities
- improved our playgrounds and camp facilities
- organized lending libraries for our literacy program, planted gardens
- judged robotics competitions & double dutch tournaments
- coached inter-mural basketball teams
- designed printed materials
- and delivered supplies & smiles to our centers.

Most importantly, they had fun while helping us make a difference for South Shore children and families.

A Tasty Bite Catering

Valerie Russell

ABCD Foster Grandparent Program

Yasha Khibkin

Wei Sen Luo

Boston College High School

Manuel Walsh

Blue Cross Blue Shield

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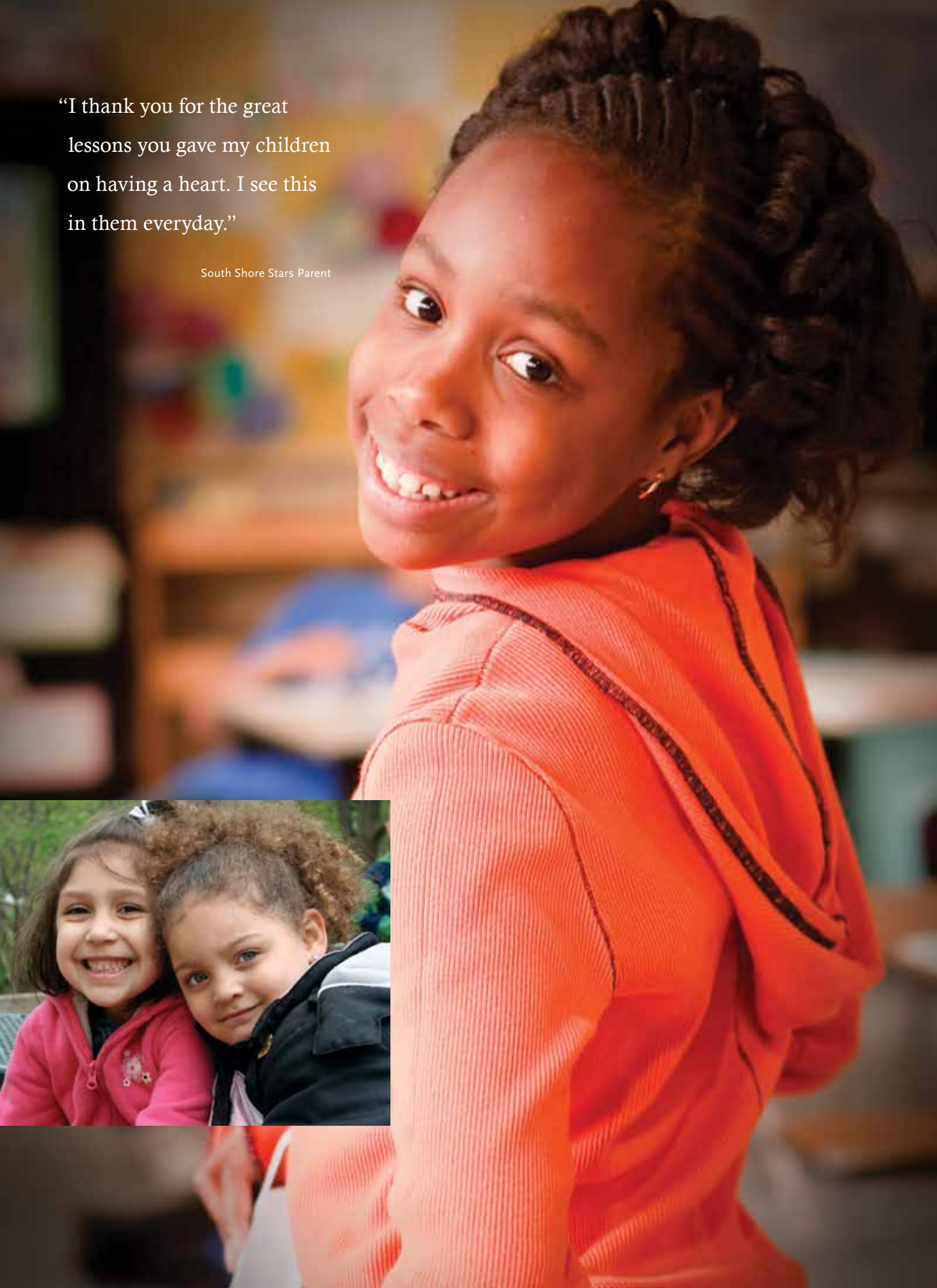
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“I thank you for the great lessons you gave my children on having a heart. I see this in them everyday.”

South Shore Stars Parent





200 Middle Street
Weymouth, MA 02189

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2010 Annual Report

www.southshorestars.org



United Way
of Massachusetts Bay
and Merrimack Valley

Nonprofit Org.
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Mission Statement

Stars provides comprehensive early education and youth programs, using a family support approach, that enhance the development of children from economically and culturally diverse families through collaboration with parents, schools and communities.



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SAWYERDESIGN.NET

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