

# GRANT REPORT

## PCC Students4Giving

### October 2008

*Friends of the Children – Portland* has made initiatives for educational success a high priority for the vulnerable children and adolescents we serve. The addition of supportive math curriculum to meet the individual learning needs of each child in our program was greatly needed to help our organization address the achievement gap our children experience due to the challenges in their lives. *FASTT (Fluency and Automaticity through Systematic Teaching with Technology) math* is a computer-based, research validated, and classroom tested program for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students that personalizes instruction based on each student's individual math fluency levels. We felt the program would be an important addition to our education initiative as it gives those who are engaged by computer-based learning an option for targeted support in mathematics.

The *Fastt Math* program budget for 2007-08, including software licensing and IT Support has been fully funded through the Students4Giving program and a Community 101 Grant from Robert Farrell High School in Salem. We are honored to have this important math program for our students funded entirely by student giving programs and are grateful for your support.

Thanks to your commitment, *Friends of the Children-Portland* was able to pilot the *Fastt Math* program with a small group of youth in the *Friends* program during spring of the 2007-08 school year. *Fastt Math* software and licenses were purchased and installed on ten (10) computers that are accessible to our program youth at our NE *Friends Center* as well as two *Friends Houses* located in NE and SE Portland. A small group of six (6) *Friends* (mentors) were selected to train and begin using the program with their youth. Ten (10) of our program youth participated in the program pilot, practicing basic math skills and beginning to gain fundamental proficiencies in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. One of our youth that received math support this year says, **“I do better in school than I did before. I was bad at math and now math is my best subject.”**

Now that a new school year has begun, *Friends of the Children – Portland's* Education Program Leader will take steps to increase the number of our youth who use this important resource. Structured training for all *Friends* will be conducted to enable them to effectively use *Fastt Math* with any of their youth that need extra help with math and we will continue to monitor the progress of those that participate in all of our education focused programming.

*Friends of the Children – Portland* is beginning to see the impact of focused educational support for our youth. Data provided by Portland Public, Reynolds, and David Douglas School Districts (where the majority of our program participants attend school) shows that of our children and adolescents who had state reading and math test scores in both 2006-07 and 2007-08, more than 25% moved to a higher performance category in both subjects this last year. The majority of this improvement occurred in youth that were in the very low and low achievement quintiles in 2006-07, which is a very encouraging sign!

The grant through the Students4Giving program has also played a key role in our effort to expand and diversify the *Friends of the Children – Portland* funding base by building our overall education initiative. This is opening new doors to funding organizations that have a specific interest in supporting academically-based activities. Developing our resources in this way will allow us to sustain the 12 ½ year commitment we make to each of our program children, while giving us the stability to expand our program each year and to offer new and innovative programming opportunities to the children we serve.

Thank you so much for your support of *Friends of the Children – Portland*. Together we are helping to change children's lives for the better...one child at a time.