



Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation

helping children make all the right moves

ANNUAL REPORT - YEAR ENDING JUNE 2009



Renaissance Knights at a glance

2021 students

45 schools

9 school districts

21 tournaments

15 CPS teachers trained

Chess is an excellent tool to teach kids how to make good decisions

From the Executive Director

Sheila Heiser

The past year has been another successful one and we are looking forward to the coming year. I am constantly reminded of the value of Renaissance Knights and how important our work is for the children we serve. Many of the students in Renaissance Knights schools have been pegged for failure - yet they succeed in ways no one could have imagined. Your investment in our work has made their success possible. Thank you. Our partnership is helping children in need find success in school and life.

Renaissance Knights PO Box 1074 Northbrook, IL 60065
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Our mission is to help children develop skills necessary for success in school and life

From the President

David Heiser

It has been another great year of chess: we offered 45 clubs in 9 school districts in Chicago and the suburbs. More than 1300 students had the opportunity to learn the skills they will need to be successful now and in the future. The state of the economy challenged us, but we remained focused on our goals and because of that focus we were able to continue fulfilling our mission every day.

Renaissance Knights has seen some changes this year, the sorts of changes that will help the organization continue to evolve and deliver on its mission of motivating, challenging and inspiring underprivileged school children. A big change was our partnership with Galileo School to implement a pilot Chess-in-the-Classroom Program in Mrs. Lassis's 5th grade class. This pilot program led to grant from the new President of Chicago Public Schools, Michael Scott, to train and equip a group of CPS teachers to expand the program.

We continued to provide chess activities at Chicago community events to include The Taste of Chicago, African Festival of the Arts, Chicago Toy and Game Fair and Mayor Daley's Holiday Sports Festival.

Our staff, coaches, instructors, volunteers and board are all committed to meeting the needs of the students in the schools we serve as well as putting the pieces in place to continue to grow. On behalf of everyone involved with Renaissance Knight, thank you for your commitment this past year to helping students make all the right moves to succeed.



Prevention is better than detention

Renaissance Knights Statement of Financial Position 2008 – 2009

ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 22,222
Accounts receivable	<u>7,882</u>
Total Current Assets	30,104
Fixed assets	
Furniture and fixtures	2,288
Machinery and equipment	<u>7,494</u>
	9,782
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(5,691)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	4,091
Intangible assets	
Organizational Costs	500
Less: Accumulated amortization	<u>(483)</u>
	17
Total Intangible Assets	\$ 34,212
TOTAL ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities	68
Accounts payable	4,168
Credit card payable	3,750
Due to Wright College	<u>1,037</u>
Payroll liabilities	9,023
Total Current Liabilities	25,189
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 34,212
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	

Renaissance Knights Board

Founders

David & Sheila Heiser

Board of Directors

David Heiser, President

Sheila Heiser, Vice President /Executive Director

GM Sam Palatnik

Participating Schools

Agassiz*
Alphonsus
Better Boys
Belding*
Boys & Girls Club
Burley*
Canty*
Chicago Lights
Fenghua
Diamond Lake
Edison*
Emerson
Gift Homeschool
Greenbriar
Henry Clay*
Henry Puffer
Hunting Ridge
Isaac Fox
Jane Addams
Jahn World Language*
Kimball Hill
Marion Jordan
May Whitney
Meadowbrook
Montessori Music
Academy
Murphy*
Niles West
Northbrook Junior High
Northside Catholic
Academy
Onahan*
Pershing West*
Plato
Quentin
Solomon*
Spencer Loomis
St Catherine
St Juliana
St Margaret Mary
St Norbert
Thomas Jefferson
Thorp*
Washington
Westmoor
Wiildwood*

* Denotes CPS Schools

All of Renaissance Knights programs are made possible by the extraordinary generosity of individuals, foundations, corporations, and government funders. Renaissance Knights is grateful for their contributions and continuing belief in our mission.

Renaissance Knights Mission

Renaissance Knights is a nonprofit educational organization that engages and empowers at-risk youth by utilizing the many educational benefits of chess to develop skills necessary for success in school and life among inner-city public school children.

Renaissance Knights History

Renaissance Knights was founded in 2005 by David & Sheila Heiser to bring the many benefits of chess to Chicago's underserved students. For the past five years we have taught, inspire and empowered thousands of students in Chicago Public Schools and surrounding communities. We utilize chess as an educational tool to promote learning and help young people improve their academic abilities, intellectual performance, and social skills.



African Festival of the Arts



Canty Summer Camp



CPS K-8 Championship

We teach kids to strategically think about their future one move at a time

The School Program

The Renaissance Knights School Program is a vital initiative that brings chess with its academic benefits into the classroom and provides after-school chess clubs for students. The chess clubs provide training and lessons in chess in a safe setting particularly in schools and neighborhoods where few good after-school alternatives are available. Participants enhance their mathematical and logical thinking skills, build self-esteem and develop discipline, good sportsmanship and character plus empowering the children to succeed while having a great time in the process!

School Program Goals:

1. teach students to play chess
2. teach students the skills associated with chess that can lead to success in school and life

During the 2008-2009 school year (September through June), there were 45 schools in the School Program. That means 2,000 students learned to play chess in this program last year.

Thanks to generous supporters, many of our schools and students are not charged for the program. If funding can be procured this year, Renaissance Knights will again serve 45 schools through the School Program during the 2009-2010 school year.

Chess -in-the-Classroom:

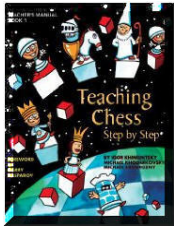
Renaissance Knights implemented a pilot chess program in a 5th grade classroom at CPS Galileo Math and Science Academy - a Title I school. This program provided regularly scheduled chess lessons during the school day and incorporated chess into the core curriculum for the 31 students in the classroom. We provided all the chess equipment and materials needed for the students to learn and play chess. Several of the students went on to win trophies at local chess tournaments.



Teacher's Training Workshop

With the success of the pilot program, we received a grant to expand the program from Michael Scott, CPS President.

Renaissance Knights held a 6-hr workshop lead by the author, FIDE Senior Trainer Michael Khordarkovsky, and included a segment by Mrs. Catherin Lasisi, the Galileo 5th grade teacher whose classroom hosted the pilot program. The work shop was attended by 15 CPS Teachers, 1 Assistant Principal, 1 Literacy Coach and 4 Renaissance Knights Teachers.



Instruction:

Using the highly respected Teaching Chess Step by Step curriculum, a Renaissance Knights instructor teaches chess to students one day a week with each class lasting approximately one hour. The curriculum teaches students advanced strategic and critical thinking.

Summer Camps:

Through our summer programs we operated multi-day chess camps throughout the Chicagoland area during school breaks. Summer Camps offer students the opportunity to learn in-depth with other campers at the same level while having a fun time. In partnership with Chicago Public Schools camps were held at Coles, Canty and Stewart Schools. We also held camps at Wright College and at the beautiful Lake Zurich Chalet.



Summer Camp at Canty School



Working together to solve problems

Chess Tournaments:

We organized and directed 21 chess tournaments that range from novice tournaments to the highly competitive Knights Quest series and included the Regional Playoffs and K-8 Championship tournaments for Chicago Public Schools. These competitive chess tournaments are held on the weekend or school holiday and draws between 70 and 450 players from kindergarten through high school. Renaissance Knights organizes and directs these exciting events ensuring that students are challenged and encouraged throughout the tournament.



Chess Tournament at Henry Clay School

Tournament Program Goals:

1. engage students in chess on the weekends
2. provide students the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have learned while building their confidence
3. develop students focus and concentration, deal with winning and losing in a safe environment, and experience the dynamics of teamwork
4. help students form lasting bonds with fellow students and chess coaches

During the 2008-2009 school year, Renaissance Knights presented 21 chess tournaments at various venues throughout Chicagoland. We hope to present the same number of events during the 2009-2010 school year.

Community Chess Program

The Community Chess Program focuses on promoting the academic and life skills gained through learning and playing chess by sponsoring chess at community events in Chicago. Renaissance Knights sponsored chess pavilions at The Taste of Chicago, Kennedy King College Back to School Festival, The African Festival of the Arts Festival, Mayor Daley's Holiday Sports Festival and the National Teen Test Day at the South Shore Cultural Center. Over 5000 children, adults and seniors participated in chess activities at these events.



Mayor Daley's Holiday Sports Festival



Six Corners Cornucopia



Every move counts

The greatest gift we can give our children is the ability to make good decisions

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Thank you for supporting Renaissance Knights!

Annual Statement 2008 – 2009