



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2019–2020**

# **DIRECTIONS NEWSLETTER**

# **POSSIBILITIES**

**NEWS from School to Community**





**URBAN LEARNING**



**DIVERSITY**



**MULTI-AGE**

# **SPRUCE STREET SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Fiscal Year September 1, 2019–August 31, 2020**



## **Marney Zellers, Board Treasurer**

2020 has certainly proven to be a year of firsts. Spruce Street School purchased its Forever Home, a \$15.15 million building into which the school will relocate in ten years. And now we are in the midst of a global pandemic that has reshaped our daily lives as well as the economy. These are new territories with unique challenges.

You may be wondering how Spruce Street School is managing financially given the intersection of these two significant events. Meticulous planning and transparent communication are at the core of managing the school's finances. Let me skip ahead to the conclusion and tell you Spruce Street School is in an excellent financial position and is managing the financial responsibility of the building purchase according to plan.

Here are some financial highlights from the 2019–2020 fiscal year:

- Financial aid as a percentage of tuition was approximately 20%, 3% above average. Financial aid is supplemented by the school's North Star Fund.
- While revenue from tuition, extended day, and summer camp was below projections by approximately \$50,500, giving by our generous community was above projections by \$51,500. The auction netted \$129,000 and the annual fund raised \$136,400.
- Expenses were below budget by \$119,803, partially due to receiving a 100% forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loan from the SBA.
- Net income for the year was above projections at \$171,270.

Spruce Street School is meeting the unique challenges 2020 has brought with success. The Finance Committee continues to monitor the school's financial performance, model possible scenarios, and update its long-term plan accordingly.



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Spruce Street School is a nurturing educational community that instills in a broad range of children the social, emotional, and intellectual skills for lifelong participation in a diverse society.

# LOVELY DAY

By Briel Schmitz, Head of School



*When the day that lies ahead of me  
Seems impossible to face  
When someone else instead of me  
Always seems to know the way  
Then I look at you  
And the world's alright with me  
Just one look at you  
And I know it's gonna be  
A lovely day – Bill Withers*

When Spruce Street School closed in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all classes moved online. The school was quiet and nearly vacant. The phone stopped ringing and the streets were empty. The entire community moved from a close, in-person community to a mosaic of small squares on Zoom. We were in uncharted territory.

We all experienced loss. Birthdays, weddings, and graduations missed. Trips canceled and plans foiled.

We also gained something unexpected: the opportunity to visit classrooms, via Zoom, and share in something magical. The youngest level morning show (yes, it was a show) was one such joy in the midst of a challenging experience. I loved the songs that started each show. *Lovely Day* was a regular as was Daron's Calendar Song. One of the teachers took home the full calendar and hung it up on her bedroom closet: her Zoom background for the rest of the year. Seeing that calendar and hearing the songs was a lovely start to my day.

Our specialist teachers brought moments of joy throughout the week. Teachers, family members and students all learned to draw with step-by-step lessons with Felipe, worked up a sweat in PE with Clint, and sang and danced along with Sheree. Dance breaks got everyone up and reminded us to take a break from our device. We shared these moments together, while apart.

As I reflect on the 2019–2020 fiscal year for this annual report, I feel that it was one of extremes for Spruce Street School. It has taken me many months to fully capture all that happened in one school year. One of my most exciting moments—securing a Forever Home for the school—took place during this year. Making the decision to close the school and face the pandemic via remote learning was one of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make as a head of school. Supporting teachers, families and students as we embarked on the unknown was both powerfully inspiring and completely terrifying. Yes, it was a year of extremes.

Throughout it all, whether in person, visiting our Forever Home with students, families and alumni, or via Zoom while locked down we shared one lovely day after another. Looking to each other to support and guide us through these remarkable events was the way we knew it was gonna be a lovely day.



# DEVELOPMENT 1, 2, 3!

By Megan Schmidt, Development Director



- 1 in-person auction in three years**
- 2 capital campaigns in six years**
- 3 straight years of auction chairing**
- 100% Resilient.**

In the development office the last few years have included tremendous growth and unexpected challenges. One thing has remained consistent: the resilience of this community.

**One auction:** In February 2020 our Beatles inspired auction, Come Together, celebrated our community. 2019 was snowed out and our 2020 auction was right before everything was locked down due to Covid-19. It was the only time in three years that we were able to meet in person. And we enjoyed the music, the clothes, the great auction items and just being with our school friends!

**Two campaigns:** In 2019 we completed our North Star Campaign for financial aid. This campaign helped us provide accessibility and affordability for all families, regardless of family income. In 2020 we were set to embark on a second campaign to ensure a long-term Forever Home for our school. After a short hiatus we are ready to share more with the community soon.

**Three years of leadership:** Thank you, Kay Takano! Kay has voluntarily stepped up to chair the auction three years in a row, helping the school navigate when we were not sure what the event would entail! She created a beautiful vision for the community, full of joy. She worked tirelessly and she is doing it all again next year.

What does this all mean? It means we have come back stronger and each of you are showing up and doing more than your part. How? We see special snacks coming in the door that are extra special; staff meeting treats with notes that have the entire team clapping; auction volunteers wearing aprons and smiles at door duty while promoting the event; committee chairs with inspired new ideas; many happy faces in Family Association meetings sharing fun information about themselves. You are all showing your children what it means to be a part of a community by doing your part from—perhaps—your desk, kitchen, craft station, closet or woodshop.

While the work is not done, we want to share our appreciation. Please take good care of yourselves, along with this community. We can be resilient through these times so we can Come Together again soon.

## STAFF

**Briel Schmitz**

Head of School

**Shannon Orton**

Assistant Head of School

**Jane Davis-Ward**

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**Megan Schmidt**

Development Director

**Capri Arias**

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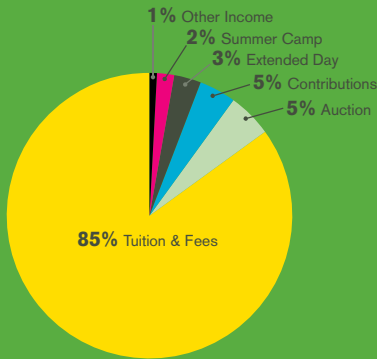
Mark Ruffo

Sharron Starling

SEPTEMBER 1, 2019–AUGUST 31, 2020

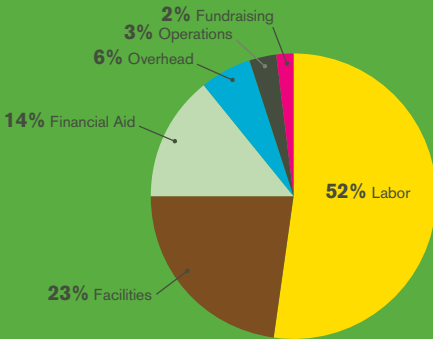
# SNAPSHOT

## FISCAL YEAR 2019–2020 INCOME



2019–2020	
Tuition & Fees	2,747,199
Summer Camp	64,650
Extended Day	105,585
Contributions	145,922
Auction	146,512
Other Income	19,422
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,229,290</b>
Labor	(1,629,291)
Operations	(72,491)
Overhead	(199,285)
Facilities	(588,434)
Financial Aid	(541,823)
Fundraising	(49,733)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(3,081,057)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>148,233</b>

## FISCAL YEAR 2019–2020 EXPENSES



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

DONATIONS RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 1, 2019–AUGUST 31, 2020

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