Foundations for the Future

American School for the Deaf
ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011
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MISSION:
The American School for the Deaf serves the deaf and hard of hearing community as a multifaceted innovative institution dedicated to the development of intellect and the enhancement of quality of life, producing educated and self-directed citizens.

VISION
The American School for the Deaf will be the premier comprehensive center providing education and resources for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, their families and educational partners in Connecticut and beyond.

PRINTWORKS:
This was published by the students, faculty and staff of PrintWorks at the American School for the Deaf, ASD’s full-service print facility providing quality services at reasonable rates to non-profits and small businesses. PrintWorks provides training and experience to ASD students and Adult Vocational clients to enhance their job-readiness and advance their education. For more information about PrintWorks, call 860.570.2365 or visit us on the web at www.asdprintworks.org.

The American School for the Deaf (ASD) complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws prohibiting the exclusion of any person from any of its educational programs or activities, or the denial to any person of the benefits of any of its educational programs or activities because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or disability, subject to the conditions and limitations established by law.

Photo Credit: Christa Bolen, ASD English Teacher
As we look to begin our third century and anticipate our new state-of-the-art education facility, we reflect on what makes us strong and keeps us vibrant...our children. This is a watershed moment in the history of the American School for the Deaf and we are truly building “Foundations for the Future”.

Thank you for your generous support and commitment.
Dear Friends of ASD:

As we prepare for our Bicentennial, ASD is entering one of the most exciting phases in our history. After careful consideration by our Board and administration, and with thoughtful input from all of our constituencies, we have made the decision to build a new state-of-the-art educational facility designed to meet the diverse needs of our students.

As you will see in photographs throughout this publication, the new building, designed by renowned architect Tai Soo Kim, has the potential to be as iconic and meaningful to the fabric of West Hartford and to the Deaf Community as its predecessor.

Through fiscal responsibility and guidance by our Board of Directors, we are in a position to begin work on this project as early as Spring 2012. Part of the funding, $3 million out of the $19 million total, will come from philanthropic support. You have demonstrated your belief in our mission in the past, and for that we thank you. We ask that you continue your friendship by considering a gift to the “Foundations for the Future” Capital Campaign.

Again, we thank you and are grateful to count you among the many people committed to making a difference in the lives of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students we serve.

Warmest regards,

Edward F. Peltier
Executive Director
To the ASD Community and our Friends:

The past year has been one of extraordinary energy and activity at ASD as we took important steps to position the school for its third century of service to deaf and hard of hearing students. Each of us on the Board of Directors recognize that we are stewards of the school’s unique legacy, which has touched the lives of so many families in Connecticut and throughout the region since being founded in 1817. We are truly blessed with a rich history, an admirable mission and - most importantly - an outstanding and dedicated faculty and staff. Taken together, these are the elements that give our school a special “texture” that will serve as the foundation for our continuing success.

During the year, we took decisive action to meet the obstacles presented by a seriously outdated facility and created a viable, long-term solution that will serve the school and its students well. Following decades of starts and stops, we took concrete steps to take control of our future by recommitting ourselves to our West Hartford campus and putting in place a plan to finance and build a new state-of-the-art educational facility. With unanimous local approval for our distinctive new building, we anticipate breaking ground in the Spring of 2012.

A critical part of creating this new facility has been engaging with the community through our “Foundations for the Future” capital campaign. We’ve been fortunate to attract two prominent members of the Connecticut business community to help lead these efforts. All of us at ASD are grateful that Liam McGee, Chairman, President and CEO of The Hartford, and John J. Patrick, Chairman, President and CEO of Farmington Bank have committed their time and attention to helping guide our Capital Campaign.

A new building and an energized capital campaign are only part of the excitement at ASD. Each of us can be proud that the school continues its proud tradition as the oldest continually operating and racially integrated school in the country. Over the past year, we’ve added to our already richly diverse student body by attracting more than a dozen international students. Clearly, ASD’s reputation for excellence and commitment to providing the highest quality educational program in an environment where children can learn and thrive is resonating.

It’s an exciting time at ASD. Thank you for your interest in and commitment to our school. All of us can be proud that ASD has a bright future and will continue to fulfill its mission of educating children and young adults.

Sincerely,

David W. Carter
President, Board of Directors
This is an incredible moment in the history of a Connecticut treasure. The American School for the Deaf, the birthplace of American Sign Language and deaf education in America, will be 200 years old in 2017. ASD was founded when a group of generous, forward thinking people came together to ensure that deaf children had the same opportunities afforded their hearing peers: the right to become educated, independent, self-directed citizens.

Gallaudet Hall, our primary schoolhouse, is 90 years old and can no longer provide an adequate learning environment for the 200 deaf and hard of hearing students who attend the school. With an eye to future generations of deaf and hard of hearing children, the Board of Directors has proposed building a 60,000 square foot state-of-the-art educational facility on the West Hartford campus. American School for the Deaf is counting on help from today’s generation of creative, thoughtful people to make this building a reality.

Our Plan

Since 1817, the American School for the Deaf has enjoyed a strong relationship with the State of Connecticut. The state has provided ASD with ongoing financial support, and in turn, ASD has responded to the state’s need to educate its deaf and hard of hearing children. For nearly two decades, ASD has been in discussions with the State of Connecticut for state funding for the renovation of Gallaudet Hall. Unfortunately, the state is not exempt from the economic downturn, and it has become clear that the state is not in a position to help.

With or without state assistance, something has to be done. Gallaudet Hall is almost a century old, is in a state of serious disrepair, and was designed for a different educational model than exists today. Because of safety and health concerns, students and faculty were relocated from Gallaudet Hall to temporary classrooms in 2009 at a cost of $1.1 million. The ongoing annual cost of these temporary classrooms is $90,000 per year.

After careful analysis in March of 2011, the Board of Directors decided that the best course of action is to construct a new educational facility on our West Hartford campus. This decision allows us to recommit to West Hartford and provide
the children and families we serve with the best educational environment possible. We plan to move the Birth-to-Three program, pre-school through 6th grade, and the high school into this new building. Additionally, it will house a cafeteria, a learning resource center, and meeting space. Constructing this new building, specifically designed to meet the unique learning styles of this underserved population of learners, will be much more cost-effective than renovating Gallaudet Hall.

**Our Need**

Several years ago, in response to the recession and financial market downturn, the board developed a plan to achieve and maintain financial stability. The school, with a $25 million endowment, had observed a 5% spending policy with endowment funds being used for educational programs and capital needs. At that time, the board prudently suspended the spending policy and adopted a plan to meet the school's ongoing financial needs while fully funding its growing pension obligation. For the past four years, we have operated with a balanced budget, our pension plan is now fully funded, and our endowment is back to its pre-2008 level. This responsible financial stewardship has enabled us to develop a plan to fund the proposed new $19M state-of-the-art educational building using $13M of the school's endowment, $2M from the operating budget, $1M from the sale of real estate, and $3M of private support.

ASD is a world leader in deaf education. Our programs serve children throughout the country, the world, and most importantly, Connecticut. Your financial support is vital to our mission. We need you as a partner.

The American School for the Deaf has relied on the generous support of the community since our founding. Since 1817, generous private citizens and community-minded corporations have helped deaf people become educated, independent, self-directed citizens. Supporting ASD is not like supporting the arts or one's school or church where there is a significant element of benefit to the donor. Supporting ASD is unselfishly helping children with a major disadvantage achieve a more level playing field in life. We look to the community to support this vital mission.

*Together, we have a chance to make a “forever” difference by helping generations of children.*

*Will you join us?*
Cost

Current Design - 60,000 Square Feet
Estimated Cost: $18.9 Million

Ancillary Issues:
- Other Campus Improvements: $2.0 Million
- Heating Plant-Gyms/Vocational: $1.2 Million
- Road Repairs: $1.0 Million

Subtotal: $4.2 Million

Estimated Project Cost: $23.1 Million

Funding

Endowment: $10.5 million
Capital Campaign: $3.0 million
"Monetize" Real Estate: $3.0 million
Bank Loan: $5.5 million
Reduced Capital Expenditures/Cash: $1.0 million
Cash Flow from Operations

Estimated Total Funding: $23.0 million
Ways to Give
Since the American School for the Deaf (ASD) qualifies as a public charity under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a gift to ASD is deductible on federal and state income tax returns as a charitable contribution to the maximum extent permitted by law.

The ASD “Foundations for the Future” campaign is a campaign of personal solicitation designed to interest all who share the mission of the organization. Although unrestricted gifts are preferred, the scope of the campaign affords the donor an opportunity to direct a gift to a particular area of interest and can be discussed with campaign leadership and the Director of Institutional Advancement. All gifts given or pledged in support of the campaign purposes will count toward the campaign goal.

Pledges:
Pledges need to be made in writing using the pledge letter. Each gift will be considered on an individual basis and every effort will be made to accommodate a donor’s circumstances and wishes. Although the preferred pledge period is three years, five year pledges will be accepted.

Gifts of Cash:
Checks should be made out to the American School for the Deaf and mailed to Marilyn Rettig, Director of Institutional Advancement, 139 North Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities:
It is essential that appreciated securities are sold in the name of ASD. The most common practice is to place the securities with the donor’s broker, bank or other agent with a request that Marilyn Rettig be notified by telephone: 860.570.2353.

Other Gift Options:
Our campaign consultants are available to assist donors and their advisors in any form of giving and to explore appropriate naming, commemorative or endowment arrangements. Gifts-in-Kind can be discussed with campaign leadership and the Director of Institutional Advancement.

For more information on supporting ASD, please write, call or email:
Marilyn Rettig, Director of Institutional Advancement
139 North Main Street • West Hartford, CT 06107
860.570.2353 (Voice / TTY) • marilyn.rettig@asd-1817.org
Established in 1817, the American School for the Deaf has educated Deaf and hard of hearing children for 195 years. ASD is fully accredited by the Connecticut State Department of Education, Massachusetts Department of Education, New York State Education Department, as well as the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD).

ASD serves children ages 3 to 22 from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont and New Jersey. Infants; 0-3 years of age are also served through the Birth-To-Three Program.

Instructional programs include: Preschool, K-8, 9-12, Career Academy Transition Services (CATS), Physical Education, Positive Attitudes Concerning Education & Socialization (PACES), Transitional Applied Vocation (Work Readiness Program) and Work Study Group (off-campus employment). Instructional support includes speech, audiological services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling and transition services, evening tutorial services, After-School Language Enrichment Program (ASLEP-Elementary and Middle School Program) and outreach services.

The American School for the Deaf (ASD) is a Total Communication and multicultural program that emphasizes proficiency in English Literacy, content standards and core curriculum, transition services and curricular activities. Our professional development training provides teachers with tools needed to promote language development and other content areas conducive to deaf learners. Visual supports as well as technology are critical elements to teaching and learning in the 21st century. Classrooms are equipped with interactive boards as well as multiple computer labs which are available for larger group sessions. The average age of admission is 12 years. Students often arrive with delayed language. Measuring progress and demonstrating mastery of state standards and compiling evidence of learning requires multiple perspectives and a variety of assessments. State mandated testing is just one of many assessment tools. Additional tools include: teacher observations, project-based learning, student portfolios, student showcases, homework, and teacher-made tests. Teachers in all departments develop rubrics to assess mastery of learning objectives.
ASD serves both residential and day students. Most residential students go home on Friday and return Monday morning. Supervision is provided by the Residential Life Staff. Day students also have opportunities to participate in after school and evening activities.

COUNSELING AND SUPPORT STAFF

It is the goal of ASD to assist students with personal goals as well as transition goals. ASD employs:

- two Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- three School Social Workers
- one School Psychologist
- three Full-time School Counselors
- one Part-time School Counselor

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

- one Cochlear Implant Specialist
- one Audiologist
- one Coordinator of Reading Programs
- two Full-time Nurses (part-time for 2nd shift / weekends)
- one Coordinator of Library Services
- six Communication Teachers
- two Speech/Language Pathologists
- one Occupational Therapist (out-sourced)
- one Physical Therapist (out-sourced)

LIBRARY

The school’s library is staffed by a full-time librarian; one library teacher and one cataloger. The facility provides an extensive variety of reference and special interest materials. There are two library facilities on campus.
In 2010-2011 a total of 206 training opportunities were offered:

150 out of 206 (73%) of the professional development activities took place on campus.

56 out of 206 (27%) of the professional development opportunity took place off campus.

All staff participating in professional development earns Continuing Education Units in accordance with the Connecticut State Department of Education Continuing Education guidelines. Professional development for staff includes:

- Content area development
- Curriculum development
- Technology
- Literacy
- Assessment
- Educational conferences
- Organization participation

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

ASD ranks parent involvement as a high priority. Every effort is made to maintain a high level of communication with families. The school has an open door policy for parents to visit. To minimize disruption to students, parents are asked to contact their child’s department principal prior to visiting classrooms.

Parents are encouraged to participate in Curriculum Night, Parent Open House, Individualized Education Plan meetings and school-sponsored events.

PAC meets bi-monthly to review school related matters that impact the school and dormitory programs. PAC assists with school functions by welcoming families to scheduled events.
Support the School

Like non-profit organizations everywhere, the American School for the Deaf (ASD) depends upon contributed income. Following are a few of the many ways gifts and contributions enhance the lives and educational experiences of our students:

Early Childhood Services
After School Language Enrichment
The Technology Center, including PrintWorks
Culinary Arts Center
Camp Isola Bella
French Exchange Program
ASD’s History Room

You may also make an unrestricted gift to ASD. Unrestricted gifts are the lifeblood of ASD as they allow us to use your donation to support the school’s most critical needs.

Planned Gifts

Planned gifts provide an opportunity for the donor and the Institutional Advancement staff to work together in developing a mutually beneficial strategic plan for charitable giving. To learn more about planned giving, visit the website of Leave a Legacy. www.leavealegacy.com

Donate Online:

You can also make secure online donations by going to our website: www.asd-1817.org and clicking on “support”.

Be sure to include your name, address, and email on the form when you make your online contribution so that we can send you an acknowledgment of your contribution to the American School for the Deaf.

For more information on supporting ASD, please write, call or email:

Marilyn Rettig
Director of Institutional Advancement
139 North Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107
860.570.2353 (Voice / TTY)
marilyn.rettig@asd-1817.org
ASD offers the following educational and social opportunities to qualified foreign high school students ages 15 and older.

- Intensive study of English language for future study at a U.S. university
- Concentrated program leading to a high school diploma or equivalency certificate
- Advanced technical training
- Campus housing
- Full-time international liaison
- Cultural sensitivity
- Weekend supervision including cultural experiences and trips
- Exposure to and tutoring in American Sign Language
- Speech and audiology services

ASD is approved by the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System which enables the school to issue I-20’s to qualified international students.
Who We Serve:

ASD provides a comprehensive menu of services and resources to 110 school districts in Connecticut and throughout the region, both on our West Hartford campus and in the students’ home school districts.

Birth-To-Three Program: 73
Core/Campus Program: 191
Outreach Program: 49
Audiology Services: 390
Adult Vocation Services: 31
Family Education Services: 115

(Students served)
Community Support

From District Governor, Bob Cormier, of Lions Club 23B The following is an excerpt from the District Governor’s End of the Year Report

“A Real Gem in our Midst”

We have an institution in our District, whose daily duties and responsibilities many people never hear about. The American School for the Deaf in West Hartford has carried out its duties to care for and teach children who are born deaf [or hard of hearing].

Since 1817 this school has been doing what we all dream of doing in our daily lives: look after someone else to try and enrich their lives; and make them better citizens once they leave and go out into the world.

This school was the birthplace of American Sign Language and of deaf education in the United States. They first began their quest almost 200 years ago in Hartford on Asylum Avenue. The building was later purchased by The Hartford Fire Insurance Company.

The School moved from Hartford to West Hartford on August 4, 1917 where they purchase 92 acres of land for $30,000. The first building to be erected on the present campus is the magnificent structure, which came to be known as Gallaudet Hall.

Time, weather and many other obstacles, safety codes, hazardous asbestos, as well as spiraling energy costs, have taken their toll on the building. (School staff estimate the building’s utility costs at approximately $450,000 per year.) To bring it up to code and make all the other necessary building upgrades required, the cost is somewhere in the neighborhood of $45 million.

So, the question is, what to do. The administrators are launching an effort to replace Gallaudet Hall with a state-of-art, new 60,000 square-foot building to be erected right in front of the main building. They hope to begin construction this year.

The plan is to move their birth-to-three program, pre-school through 5th grade, and the high school into the new building. Additionally, the building will house a cafeteria, a learning resource center, and meeting spaces. The cost of this project is estimated at about $24 million.

To raise the capital needed to fund this new building, the school will use about $13 million from their endowment, about $1 million from the operating budget, about $1 million from the sale of real estate on their own campus, and a capital campaign will raise monies from the private sector.

For many, many years, Connecticut Lions clubs have supported this institution in meeting their goal to love, care for, and teach these children how to become responsible citizens of their own communities as well as instilling the value that we so cherish—MAKING A DIFFERENCE. The Staff of this institution has really one goal, and that is “to serve”. Where have we heard that before? I believe the Lions of Connecticut can respond.

New technology is improving literacy and learning skills for deaf and hard-of-hearing students

Students at the American School for the Deaf participate more in the classroom because of new interactive technology.

By using handheld devices called ActiVotes, students at American School for the Deaf respond to material presented on the ActiBoard, enabling teachers to assess student progress immediately.

“Learning to read, and to read easily, is critical to progress in every step of the education process, but deaf and hard-of-hearing students face complex challenges,” said Edward F. Pelletier, executive director of the school.

With help from $390,000 in grants from the Hartford Foundation, ASD has purchased the interactive equipment, provided staff with additional training in teaching reading, and has added a full-time reading coordinator to provide ongoing support and guidance to all staff.

Anne sees marked improvement in the classroom as a result. “We have many more resources available to us to provide information for the students,” she says. And, “the students are more involved in guiding their own learning.”

The students are enjoying the new technology and all it enables them to accomplish. As one student explained, “There’s more interaction with learning and — it’s fun!”

It is all about engaging students and providing a platform that’s both fun and instructive.
Third Century Circle
Gifts of $10,000 or more

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New England Air Museum  
Newington Bicycle  
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Carol and Edward Pettier  
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Playhouse on Park  
Rennie Polk  
The Preservation Society of Newport County  
Quota International of New Haven  
Emily Rankin  
Fern and Charlie Reisinger  
Relax the Back Store  
John Renjilian  
Reuben’s Delicatessen  
Richter Park Golf Club  
Rizzuto’s Wood-Fired Kitchen & Bar  
Shish Kebab House of Afghanistan  
Super Cellar Warehouse Liquors  
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Maria Marino Szopa  
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Maxine Thumim  
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Governor Malloy with three ASD Graduates of 2011.
Financial Statements  Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Operating Expenses by Major Program

- Educational Services 51%
- PACES Program 29%
- Fundraising 1%
- Management 5%
- Outreach & Support Services 9%
- Adult Vocational Services 3%
- Printworks 3%

Total Operating Revenue $31,795,000

- Tuition $25,626,000
- Contributions & Grants $849,000
- Outreach Fee For Service $3,907,000
- Miscellaneous $1,413,000

ASSETS
- Cash & Cash Equivalents $342,700
- Accounts Receivable $1,908,900
- Investments $27,204,600
- Buildings & Equipment (Net) $13,788,500
- Other Assets $2,110,100
- Total Assets $45,354,800

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
- Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses $1,521,600
- Accrued Payroll Liabilities $2,254,100
- Net Assets $41,579,100
- Total Liabilities and Net Assets $45,354,800

** Per Audited Financial Statements **