



*Karen Kapp with Sara Newell, Sr.  
Vice President of Agency Impact for  
the United Way of Central Alabama.*



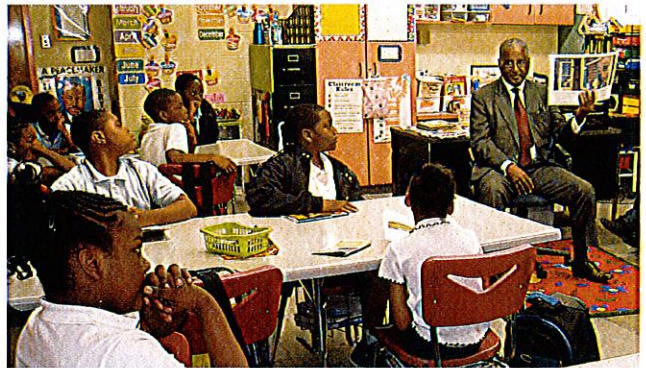
## **Annual Report for the 2009-2010 School Year**

Thank you to the many supporters, donors and volunteers who helped make the 2009-2010 school year a turning point in the education of thousands of area children. **Better Basics programs touched almost 19,000 students**, ensuring struggling readers had the extra support they needed, introducing young readers to a wealth of literature in their classrooms, motivating children to read for pleasure, and providing students a safe and educational place to grow after school. **In fact, Better Basics put more than 49,000 books into the hands of children this year.**

Our programs would not have been successful without the efforts of our **wonderful volunteers who filled more than 1220 volunteers roles resulting in more than 12,000 hours of extra support for area students.**

The 2009-2010 school year was the first year of full operation for our newest program, the HOPE 21st Century Community Learning Center at Fairfield. HOPE stands for Help, Opportunity, Partnerships and Education, and it has proven to be a beacon of education and enrichment for students and their families in the Fairfield community.

Writing Intervention was another new program added in 2009-2010 at the request of the Birmingham City School officials. Better Basics teachers helped fifth grade students improve their writing skills so they would be better prepared for the Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing.



*Birmingham Mayor William Bell reads to a fourth grade classroom at Central Park Elementary School.*

Better Basics joined forces this year with the Literacy Council, the Junior League of Greater Birmingham, and the Children's Literacy Guild of Alabama to put on a reading event in Birmingham City Schools called **Birmingham Reads**. **All 722 elementary school classrooms were provided a volunteer reader on the afternoon of April 14th. More than 13,000 children were read to that day and given a new book of their own to take home.** Several local celebrities joined the hundreds of volunteers who took a moment to show our children how much the community cares about them and their education.

During tough economic times, schools as well as families are finding it difficult to meet all the needs in our community, creating an even larger need for Better Basics programming. Thank you to the many loyal supporters who help us continue to meet the needs of the children in our community each year. We know what a sacrifice it can be in a difficult economy, but your support is changing many lives. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
  
Karen Kapp  
Executive Director



*Birmingham City School Superintendent Craig Witherspoon congratulates a student on his accomplishment at the Intervention Awards Luncheon.*

## **Intervention**

**405 students in 30 elementary schools** participated in Reading Intervention.

According to the Slosson Oral Reading Test (SORT), students participating in Reading Intervention increased their reading performance an average of **1.0 grade level**.

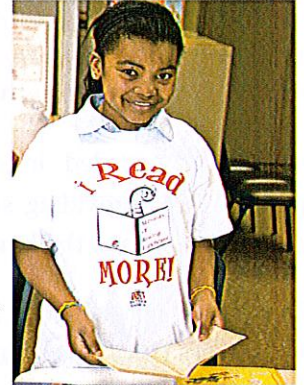
**815 fifth grade students in 32 elementary schools** participated in Writing Intervention.

## **MORE (Motivators of Reading Enrichment)**

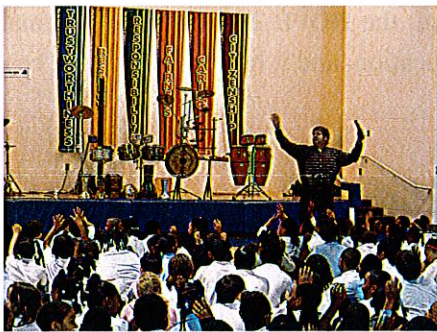
MORE served **97 classrooms in 31 schools** reaching **2,069 students**.

Students read over **23,860 books** as part of the MORE program.

Students and teachers received over **28,181 prize and gift books** for their libraries.



*A MORE essay winner practices saying her essay.*



*Schoolwide Enrichment Vendor Mark Seymour gets students involved in his educational musical performance.*

## **Schoolwide Enrichment**

Over **12,888 students** participated in Schoolwide Enrichment (SWE) programs.

**32 schools** participated in the SWE program.

Participating schools received **more than 230 enrichment programs**.

## **Ready 2 Read**

Second grade students utilized **more than 16,000 books** and were awarded **1350 incentive prizes**.

**More than 2,400 students** participated in the Ready 2 Read program.



*Erica Leonardi, Miss Talladega County and a Miss Alabama contestant reads to students at Gresham Elementary.*



*Students learn about Alabama wildlife at the HOPE Center.*

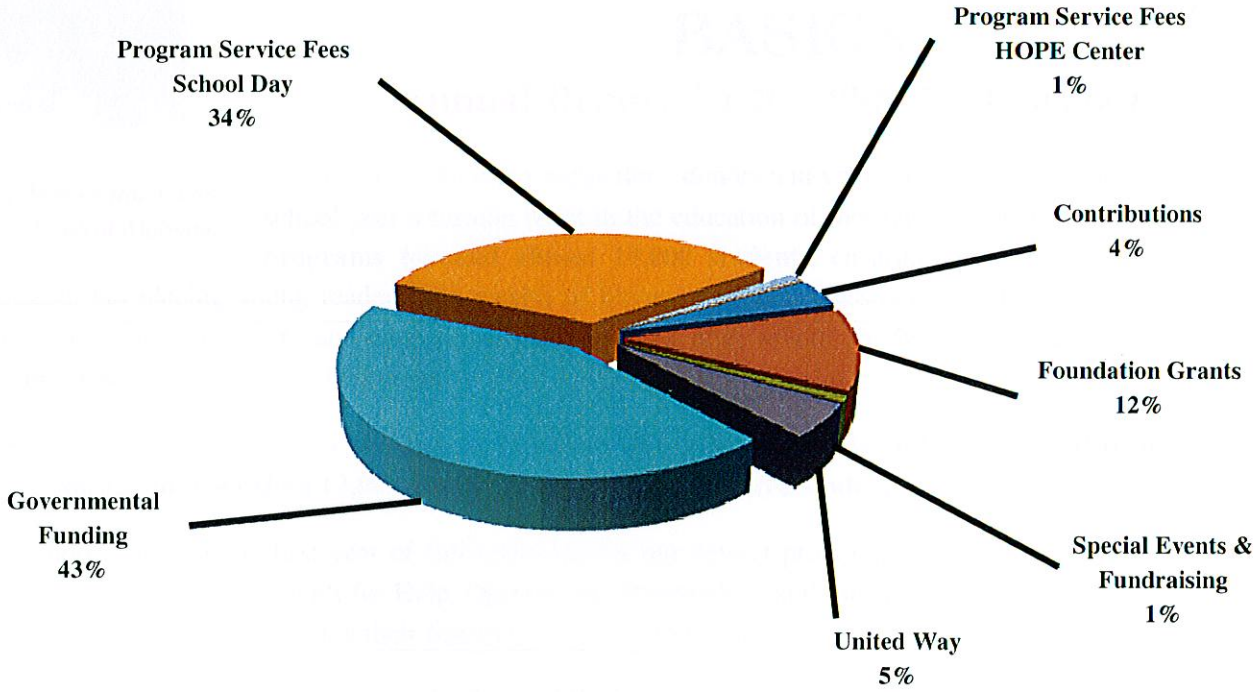
## **HOPE 21st Century Community Learning Center**

Better Basics provided 208 days of a safe, healthy, fun and academically enriching afterschool and summer camp program at Robinson Elementary School and Forest Hills Middle School in Fairfield.

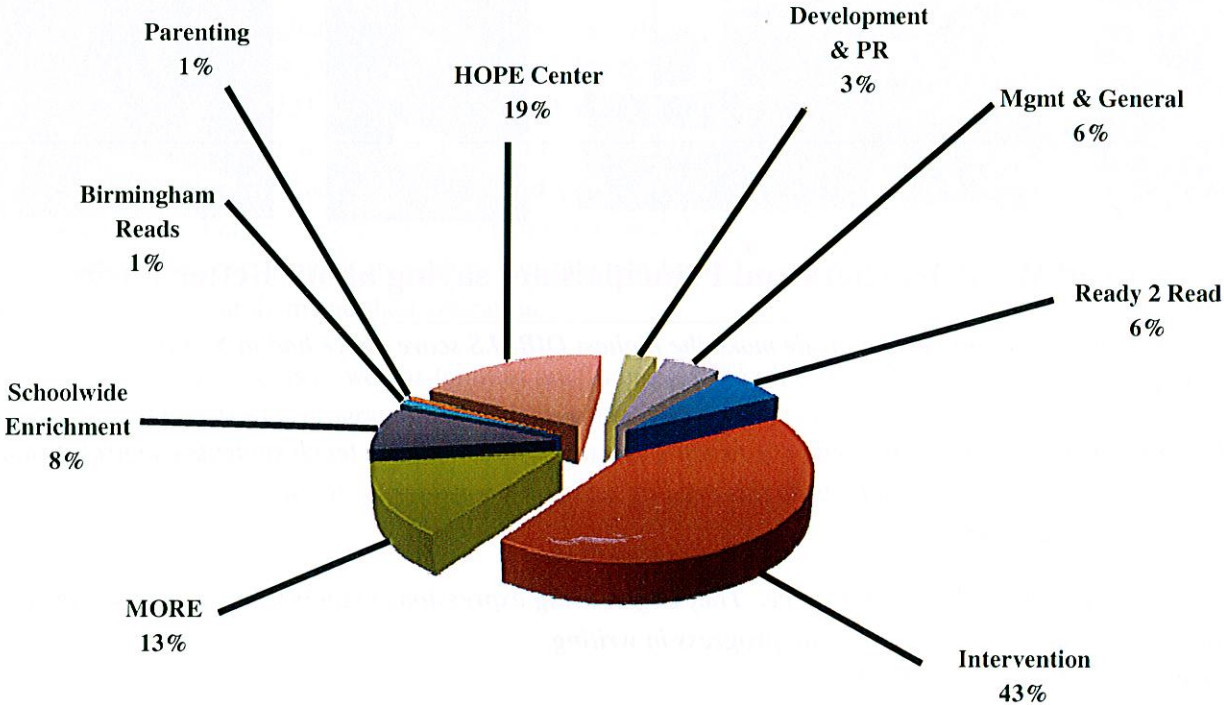
# 2009-2010 Income By Source

**\$1,667,199**

(unaudited)



# 2009-2010 Expenses by Department

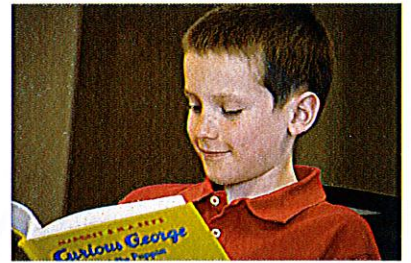
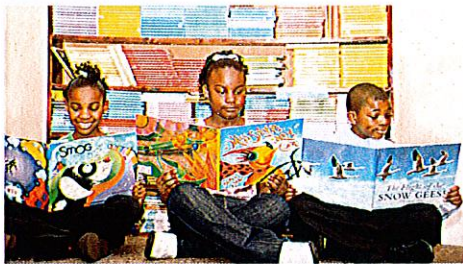
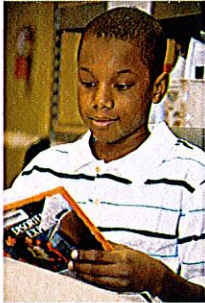




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### Read What Teachers and Principals are saying about Better Basics

*I think this program helped our second grade make the highest DIBELS score we've had in 5 years.*  
Teacher at Brighton Elementary

*The MORE program is excellent to use with our reading program. It is a way to teach students comprehension as well as improving reading ability. The students do this reading and don't consider it "learning."*  
Teacher at Lineville Elementary

*I saw my students blossom with self confidence. They began using expressions in their writing and putting in more and more detail. All my students made significant progress in writing.*  
Teacher at Whatley Elementary School.

[www.BetterBasics.org](http://www.BetterBasics.org)