



A Partnership between the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles Unified School District

SPOTLIGHT ENTRY # 11

1. Please enter your contact information:

2. Please enter your partner's contact information:

<p>Name: - Jennifer Lynch Company or School: - STAPLES Center Foundation Title - Director</p>	<p>Name: - Stefani Williams Company or School: - Tenth Street Elementary School Title: - Problem Solving/Data Coordinator</p>
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1. How long has the partnership been in place?

This partnership has been in place since August 27, 1999.

2. How did you meet your business or school partner?

Other (please describe) - STAPLES Center Foundation met Tenth Street Elementary School when the Foundation first launched a community ticket program in conjunction with the Los Angeles Unified School District. The program was meant to recognize good attendance in the schools located near the arena by providing tickets to special events at STAPLES Center. On August 27, 1999, STAPLES Center Foundation officially adopted Tenth Street Elementary School. The adoption program was launched during a school assembly, attended by more than 1200 students.

3. What activities does the business partner participate in at the school?

Other (please describe) - STAPLES Center Foundation participates in a reading program every Thursday in which STAPLES Center employees travel to the Tenth Street Elementary School to read with a student partner during their lunch hour. The Foundation has also committed to a \$50,000 donation including cash, in-kind donations and corporate sponsorships. STAPLES Center Foundation granted a \$10,000 award for the purchase of a multi-media projector and computer server. The Foundation has also given cash contributions ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 covering a variety of programs that include yearly contributions to the school's annual toy drive. The Foundation has hosted Tenth Street Elementary School's Culmination every year since 2000. This event serves as the school's graduation, bringing together more than 1000 members of the school's community to celebrate this special occasion with family and friends. The Foundation has provided college scholarships to eleven (11) graduates of the Tenth Street Elementary School, articulating its long and sustaining relationship not just with the school, but also with the families who are part of that community.

4. How often do these activities occur?

- Once a week
- The lunch program takes place every Thursday, so at a minimum, we maintain contact on a weekly basis.

5. How have students benefited from this partnership?

Our partnership has helped the students succeed in their educational goals. During the first Culmination Event on June 27, 2000, AEG President Tim Leiweke pledged a \$10,000 donation to be used as a scholarship fund for students who graduated from the school on that day and later went on to graduate from high school and had gained acceptance to a U.S. college or university. In 2007, twelve (12) students applied for that scholarship with \$15,000 being awarded among the eleven (11) eligible applicants, including one student who was admitted to Loyola Marymount University.

6. How has this partnership helped the educator(s) achieve their instructional goals?

STAPLES Center Foundation supports the Tenth Street Elementary School by facilitating resources that the school needs to provide its students with a first-rate education. The Foundation shows appreciation to the

teachers by being there with them through its difficult moments; including teacher lay-offs . Our partnership gives the school incentives for students to achieve their goals at school including giving the students tickets to an event if they were not absent during the school year. The educators have seen a significant change in the students reading progress after the reading program was establish.

7. How has this partnership benefited the business?

Every Thursday about twenty (20) STAPLES Center employees walk to Tenth Street Elementary School and read with a student partner. Jennifer Lynch Director of STAPLES Center Foundation use to read with a young woman named Hermalinda for four years before she graduated last June. When Jennifer first met, this young girl from Guatemala she was struggling with the English language, like so many of her classmates and was painfully shy because of her challenges in communicating. During the 5th grade, she became vice president of her class and was giving public speeches for her school. She is now attending a special charter middle school because of her academic achievement. Every volunteer that participates in the reading program has a similar story of students who are achieving great things because of the time the volunteers devote to the students in that school. Every STAPLES Center employee is equally committed to those children. They are our neighbors and they are making a measurable difference in their lives.

8. How did you initiate this partnership after initially meeting your partner?

On August 27, 1999, STAPLES Center Foundation officially adopted the Tenth Street Elementary School. The adoption program was launched during a school assembly, attended by more than 1200 students.

9. What have been the biggest challenges you have had to overcome?

One of the biggest challenges that we had to overcome was the teacher's layoffs. A few years back, teacher morale was at a real low point so we invited every staffer to a Lionel Richie concert in STAPLES Center to show our support. Recently when the school's API scores rose dramatically we again invited every teacher and administrator to come see Patti Labelle perform as our guest to acknowledge their hard work and achievement. That is what a good neighbor does – they are there for you when you need them, however you need them, in good times and in bad times – which perfectly defines the purpose of STAPLES Center Foundation.

10. What would you say are the greatest achievements of the partnership?

The greatest achievements of the partnership are when we see students continue with their educational goals and see them being admitted to top universities.

11. What are your short-term and long-term goals for further developing the partnership?

Our short-term goal is to expand the reading program and have more AEG employees commit to read with a student partner during their lunch hour.

12. What steps (if any) have you taken to ensure that this partnership can be sustained beyond the initiating individuals?

No Response

13. What advice would you give schools that want to start a similar partnership program?

A partnership should not be on a once a year basis. While we understand the importance of Principal For a Day-type programs, we feel our partnership is successful because we maintain contact on a weekly basis. STAPLES Center Foundation has found that keeping close contact with the school has helped not only the students realize their educational goals, but also helped the educators feel that they have the full support of the community in their important work.

14. Is there a financial relationship between the parties? (For example, does the school purchase materials, services, professional development, curriculum, etc. from the partner?)

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