

# FY2009 Phillips Brooks House Association Annual Report



*students & communities partnering for social change*



# PBHA @ Open House





## A Message from PBHA President Richard Kelley and Class of 1955 Executive Director Gene Corbin

*Gene Corbin (left) and Richard Kelley with the new PBHA banner*

### **PBHA – A Lean, Mean, Social Justice Machine!**

PBHA's fiscal year 2009 (February 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009) began with a great deal of conversation about the challenges our organization was facing in the faltering economy. We could not be prouder of how the PBHA community responded (and continues to respond) to those concerns.

Many of our community-based partners are struggling and have been forced to eliminate vital programs. When we discussed the financial challenges confronting us all during the Board Retreat, a common theme emerged: PBHA is intent on not reducing programming in the Boston and Cambridge communities we serve. After the retreat, a new set of student officers met with the directors of all 84 programs (Cabinet) and adopted a new moniker for the year: "PBHA, a lean, mean, social justice machine."

"Lean" because there is a shared commitment at PBHA to tightening our belts in ways that do not impact the people that need our programs more than ever. The reality is that nonprofits are often

able to provide the least when they are needed the most. We are proud that – in spite of our financial challenges – PBHA is not shirking its responsibility to serve others and has diligently sought to allocate funding in ways that do not impact the community. We are incredibly appreciative of our alumni and supporters who are continuing to give in such an economically uncertain climate.

"Mean" seems like a misnomer – PBHAers are typically nice people! We understand, however, that serious times require an aggressive response. FY 2008 was a time for recognizing the importance of what we do and renewing our commitment. In FY 2009, we dedicated ourselves to ferreting out the fluff while remaining fervently focused on our mission.

"Social Justice Machine" because such times as ours remind us that it is the truly vulnerable among us who suffer the most during economic downturns. They need not only services, but allies. Perhaps more than ever, direct service programs are finding ways to join their voices with others to ensure that those with the least power in society do not bear

the brunt of the economic crisis.

With people losing jobs, essential programs shutting down, and the government cutting funding – the work that our students do is indispensable. We hope that the glimpses this annual report provides convey that the PBHA community remains passionately committed to its social justice, social action mission.

***Richard Kelley '10,  
PBHA President***

***Gene Corbin, MPA '01,  
Class of 1955 Executive Director***



# PBHA Annual Donors – FY09 (2/1/08-1/31/09)

Thank you to our donors who helped support PBHA operations and term-time programs\*

\* Gifts of \$250 or more to support PBHA annual operations and term-time programs. Summer donors were acknowledged in the SUP Newsletter. (Please let us know if we inadvertently omitted your name).

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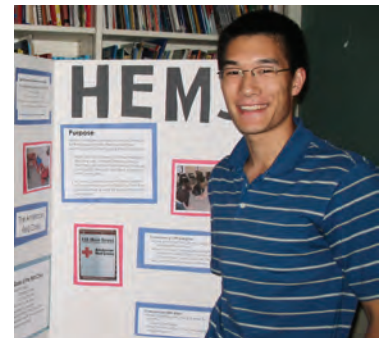
Chinatown Big Sib participants pose with their guide during a historic Boston walking tour field trip funded by a Memorial Church grant.



Student leaders and staff celebrate at PBHA's Auction for Summer Urban Program, held every spring.

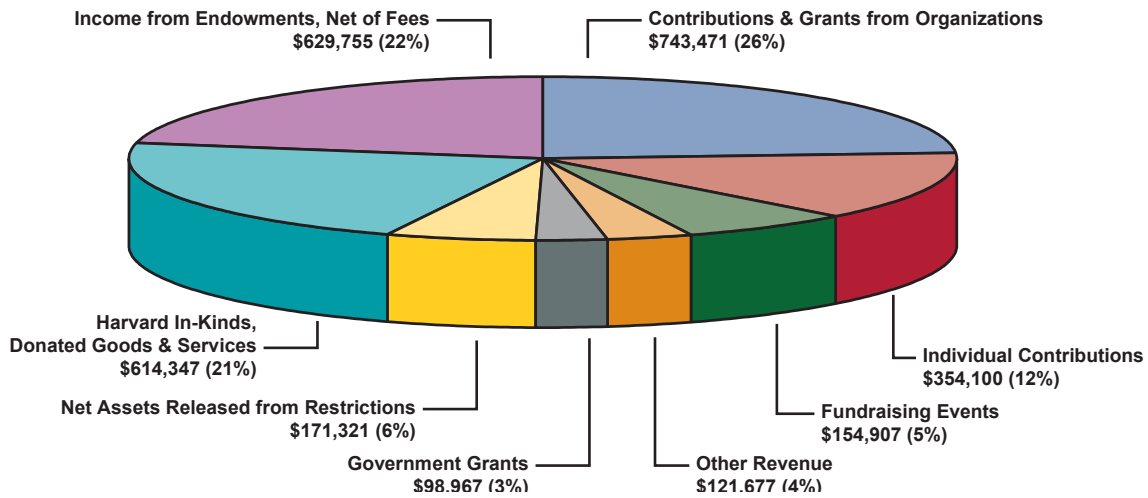


PBHA volunteers take a break on one of PBHA's several "Rebuilding the Gulf Coast" Alternative Spring Break trips.

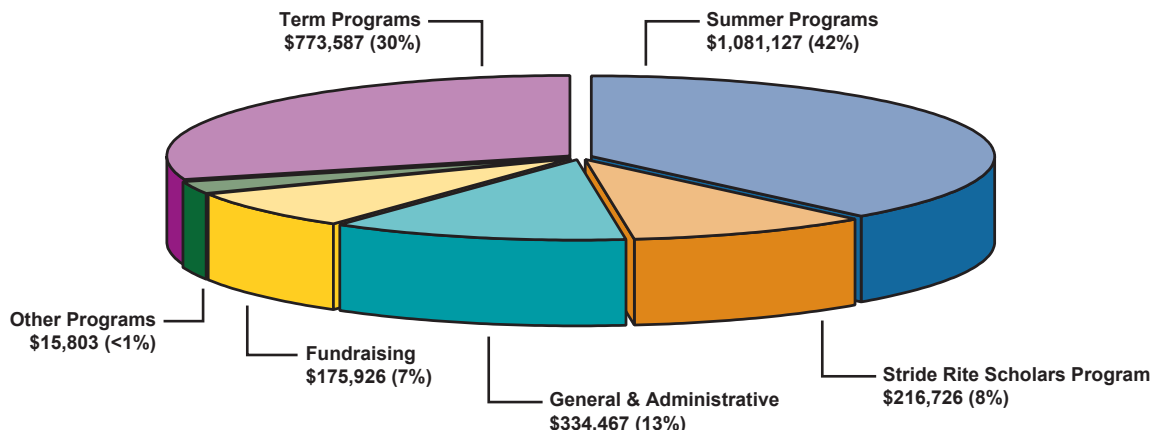


Many donors gave in FY09 to support a scholarship fund in memory of Peter Cai '10, who directed PBHA's Harvard Emergency Medical Service with conviction and passion. Donors to that fund are noted with \*\*.

## Operating Revenue FY09: \$2,888,545



## Operating Expenses FY09: \$2,597,636



### Condensed Statement of Financial Position for the Year Ended January 31, 2009

Current Assets:	\$904,487
Temporarily Restricted Assets:	\$6,942
Endowments & Investments:	\$2,178,056
Net Property & Equipment:	\$49,629
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Total Assets:	\$3,139,114
Total Liabilities:	\$78,068
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Net Assets:	\$3,061,046

### Condensed Statement of Activities for the Year Ended January 31, 2009

Total Operating Revenue & Support:	\$2,888,545
Total Operating Expenses:	\$2,597,636
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Change in Net Assets from Operations:	\$290,909
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Total Net Assets, Beginning of Year:	\$3,262,327
Total Net Assets, End of Year:	\$3,061,046

Note: Fundraising expenses have been kept to only 7%, so your donations go further!  
Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

# An Open Letter: Impact of PBHA After School/Mentoring

## Program Highlights

### IOP Collaboration

PBHA collaborated with the Institute of Politics on a voter registration and get-out-the-vote drive in communities served by PBHA programming. MassVOTE, a nonpartisan nonprofit, provided valuable training to our student leaders to help this effort succeed.

### SUP & Term-Time

In 2008 the groundwork was laid to ensure that all of PBHA's Summer Urban Program camps had complementary term-time equivalents. At the request of parents and teachers, PBHA launched the highly-anticipated Native American Youth Enrichment Big Sibling/Little Sibling Program, South Boston After School, and RYIT, an after-school program serving Roxbury Youth Initiative campers.

### Marshall After School

The Marshall After School Program is an exciting new program offering academic support to the students at the John Marshall Elementary School in Dorchester, MA, one of the lowest performing elementary schools in Boston. After Mayor Menino's "Step Up Initiative" identified the Marshall School as a priority for educational intervention, PBHA piloted a program there in the spring of 2008 and rolled out a full-scale program that same fall.

Dear PBHA Alumni, Friends & Supporters,

I would like to relate a story dear to my heart and would love for this story to be relayed to the amazing volunteers (past and present) at PBHA and the Mission Hill After School Program (MHASP) in particular.

Bessie of Mission Main/Roxbury, an alumna of MHASP and the Mission Mentoring program, just graduated from the John D. O'Bryant High School of Mathematics and Science and will be entering Virginia State University this fall!

I met Bessie during my first year at Harvard - I was a homesick freshman from Los Angeles who hated the cold weather and the long walks from Pennypacker to Annenberg, and Bessie was the toughest, funniest, and strongest eight-year-old I had ever met. We instantly bonded during our Wednesday MHASP sessions, so much so that the next year I also joined the Mission Mentoring program in order to spend more time with her.

Over the course of four years, Bessie's and my outings evolved from trips to the Boston Children's Museum and face painting at SpringFest (where she met Larry Summers and suggested some improvements he could make to the College) to listening to Bill Clinton speak at the IOP (she was one of the few who was able to shake his hand) and spending time in the Eliot House dining hall where she held her own during mealtime discussions on the economy, the war on terror, and what my classmates wanted to be when they grew up.

Bessie's mother had given birth to her when she was very young and granted custody of Bessie to her grandmother, who lives in Mission Hill. Bessie was familiar with life's hardships at eight years of age, but

she was never embittered or angry. Instead, the obstacles in her life made her all the more more determined to achieve the goals she had set for herself.

Ever since I had met her, Bessie planned to be the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend a four-year college. Although she admired Harvard and was especially fond of Eliot House, she wanted to go to an out-of-state school to study business and become an entrepreneur. In the 10 years that I have known her she has not strayed from her dreams, working hard to make them a reality.

Bessie will be going to VSU with an almost full scholarship. She applied for grants and has worked part-time since she was 13 to make this happen. This weekend she and I will be taking our first road trip together down to Petersburg, VA for freshman orientation, and we will repeat this journey in August for freshman move-in. She has a summer job and is still looking for additional grants, funds, or donations for some of the expenses that financial aid will not cover such as books, travel costs, and a laptop.

I sat next to Bessie's family and watched her graduate with immense pride for her accomplishments and her great sense of adventure. Sitting next to me were the next generation of Mission Hill After School Program participants, her cousins Troy and Jeremy. It made me smile to visit Mission Main and see how far Bessie has come, and how far she will be going. It is hard to believe she is still not in "Green Group" with MHASP.

There have been many moments in my life when being a Harvard graduate has made me proud (including my own graduation). However, nothing made me as proud to be part of the Harvard/PBHA network as watching Bessie walk up and receive her diploma.

Bessie is an inspiration to me, our families, and the many people who knew her in Eliot House and beyond. I thank her for being such an important part of my life, and letting me be part of hers. Here is to many more years and to the next milestone - college graduation!

Sincerely,

Meg Scheduling '03



*Meg and Bessie at Bessie's graduation from high school*

# 2nd Annual “Robert Coles ‘Call of Service’ Lecture” and Alumni Weekend

PBHA teamed up with President Drew Faust and Harvard’s Office for Sustainability to invite Al Gore to deliver PBHA’s second annual “Robert Coles ‘Call of Service’ Lecture” in Tercentenary Theatre on a cool October afternoon. Attendance at the outdoor event numbered in the tens of thousands, with many PBHA alumni joining us from across the country. The PBHA Alumni Weekend followed the lecture, with our annual bike auction, sustainability workshops, an alumni panel discussion, and an awards dinner. The Memorial Church Grants Committee received the PBHA Outstanding Supporter Award for decades of support of our term-time and summer programs, and Rosa Ehrenreich Brooks ’91, Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Human Rights Institute at Georgetown University, accepted the Outstanding Alumna award. Both Rosa and The Reverend Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in Memorial Church (far right, second from bottom) spoke to the assembled dinner guests. Rosa is shown at right with Lee Smith, who continues to be actively involved in PBHA despite her retirement.



**PBHA-A President Walter Birge '61 joins PBHA President Frances Tompkins '09 and PBHA-A Secretary Grace Hou '06 in honoring Rosa Ehrenreich Brooks '91 (holding award) as the PBHA Outstanding Alumna at a celebratory awards dinner during Alumni Weekend.**





PBHA Board and Staff Retreat, December 2008

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### The Arthur Liman Press

The Arthur Liman Press at Phillips Brooks House is an endowed fund established by the efforts of the Liman family in honor of Arthur C. Liman '54 to support publications that honor public service and his memory.



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