



Beyond Basics Newsletter

October 1, 2010

New This Week

- [Build-On Event](#)
- [Comerica Event](#)
- [Books & Authors Event](#)
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Beyond Basics Open House

Join us for a visit to two of our school sites.
Wednesday, October 6
Thursday, October 7
Thursday, November 4
 10 am - 1 pm

To RSVP or for questions, please contact Sharla at stable@beyondbasics.org

For more information about our organization please visit <http://beyondbasics.org>.



Dear Friends and Supporters of Beyond Basics,

Speaking on the "Today Show's" coverage of "Education Nation," President Obama said of the country's education system, "You can't defend a status quo in which a third of our kids are dropping out." In Detroit the dropout rate is even higher. Clearly the status quo needs to change, and many decision makers are considering solutions that can address the education problems in our region.

Beyond Basics has a multi-faceted solution that is already producing significant change in the achievement rates of our students. The key is improving literacy. President Obama talked at length about our education system's shortcomings in science and math, and yes, those are major problems. But if kids can't read, if they can't understand the material that is being presented, they will fail in every subject, not just reading. We not only provide one-on-one reading tutoring, but also, through our support programs, give kids opportunities to write, to show their artistic talents, and, perhaps most importantly, to learn about the world outside their neighborhoods, and to stimulate their curiosities. It all adds up to a love of learning that improves literacy scores and carries over into every subject at school.

Please consider taking a school tour (at left) or visit our web site to see how you can expand our efforts in local schools. With your help we can change the status quo!

Sincerely,
 Pamela Good, Executive Director
 Beyond Basics

buildOn Event Promotes Beyond Basics

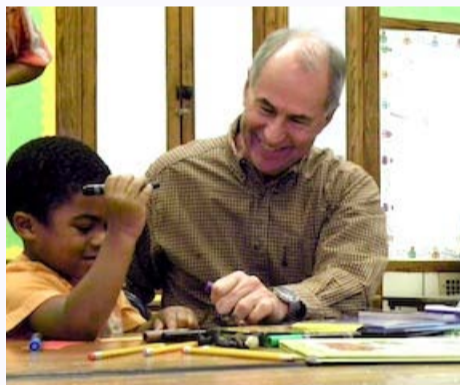
Beyond Basics will participate in a three-day event produced by buildOn, a national non-profit organization that empowers urban U.S. high school students, on Saturday, October 9. Twenty to thirty high school students from Michigan Health Academy in Detroit and International Academy in Bloomfield Hills will be volunteering at the event. The October 9 event is just one of five that will take place at service sites that day.



United Way, Comerica and Beyond Basics Team Up for Comerica's Day of Service



United Way of Southeast Michigan facilitated the partnership of Comerica and Beyond Basics which came together at Mae C. Jemison Academy on Saturday, September 25. Comerica's president of Michigan Markets, Tom Ogden, was among the volunteers who helped make book covers for our Publishing Center, and worked with students to create cool bookmarks. Volunteers read to students and helped some write their first stories of the year.



Tom Ogden, President, Comerica Bank-Michigan, works with Kellan Dennard, 3, of Detroit.



Brian Griffin of Comerica helps Payton Dennard, 7, prepare a story for the Publishing Center.



Sharla Stable, Beyond Basics; Kira Putt, United Way for Southeastern Michigan; Pat McCann, Comerica Vice President and National Civic Affairs Manager; Pamela Good, Beyond Basics; Tom Ogden, President, Comerica Bank-Michigan.

Leon & Lulu's Books and Authors Event Will Benefit Beyond Basics

Leon & Lulu, a store that features an eclectic mix of upscale furniture, gifts and accessories, will host their 2nd Annual Books & Authors event on Sunday, October 10, from 11 a.m to 5 p.m. The event is a fundraiser for Beyond Basics. Beyond Basics will receive 10% of all sales made on that day. The store is located at 96 West 14 Mile Road Clawson, MI 48017. Visit www.leonandlulu.com for more information.



Nearly 40 Michigan authors will be on hand to sell and sign books, and help promote literacy. Admission is free.



ICU Eyewear is the official sponsor of the event. All proceeds from the sale of their "fun and fancy reading glasses" will benefit Beyond Basics.

Did You Know?

According to the The Youth ARTS Development Project, exposing at-risk school kids to arts programs greatly decreases the likelihood they will have problems with the law. A study of kids in several cities showed that those without arts training faced a 47% chance of court referral, while only 22% of those who participated in an arts program faced the same outcome.

Beyond Basics' [Art with the Masters](#) program not only introduces at-risk kids to the world of art, it helps build their self-esteem by encouraging their creative talents. This is one of the most profound ways to keep kids in the mainstream and away from legal troubles.