



Cooke: The Road to Independence

The Campaign for the Cooke Center for Learning and Development

Cooke: The Road to Independence. The Campaign for the Cooke Center for Learning and Development is a community-wide effort to raise \$10 million to fund high-priority initiatives for the education of children with special needs.

To date, the Campaign has raised more than \$8 million. The Kresge Foundation has approved a \$750,000 challenge grant to Cooke if we can raise an additional \$1.25 million by December, 2009. **Together, the support of our donors and the Kresge Challenge will bring us to our \$10 million goal.**

There are three Campaign priorities:



The Cooke Center Academy – Breaking New Ground (\$4,000,000)

Donor support will allow us to:

- Complete renovations at the Cooke Center Academy.
- Provide students access to appropriate adaptive equipment and create an arts studio, science lab, and technology lab.
- Complete a transition curriculum that integrates employment and independent living skills with classroom content.

Fund for Diversity (\$4,000,000)

By lessening the cash flow burden that occurs between the receipt of education fees and program outlays, the Fund for Diversity allows Cooke to:

- Accept students who would benefit from our programs regardless of their families' financial circumstances.
- Offer individualized tuition payment plans.

Fund for the Advancement of Inclusive Education (\$2,000,000)

The objectives of the Fund for the Advancement of Inclusive Education are to:

- Foster best practices for inclusive education for Cooke faculty and those in our partner schools.
- Provide consultation and training to parents and teachers in underserved neighborhoods.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of our programs through applied research.
- Seed the funding of new initiatives that have the potential to generate earned income and become self-sustaining.



Cooke Center Academy students working at NewsCorp



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Since the Campaign began, we have:

- Installed an elevator and improved the entrance at 60 MacDougal Street, home of the Cooke Center Academy. The Academy now boasts a Student Center, Daily Living Lab, and new therapy spaces.
- Completed a three-tiered academic curriculum across all of our grades so that we can meet the full spectrum of our students' needs.
- Designed an evaluation plan that allows us to measure student outcomes and demonstrate that Cooke programs work.

The Kresge Foundation praised Cooke's commitment to serving low- to moderate-income families from diverse neighborhoods. The success of this Campaign to date has played a key role in our ability to do so. Thanks to our generous donors and hardworking faculty and staff, we have:

- Established the Cooke Center Institute, through which we are providing long-term consultations to dozens of inner city parochial and charter schools.
- Created a workshop series through which we are helping hundreds of parents and preschool teachers to prepare their preschoolers for a lifetime of academic achievement.
- Expanded our outreach in poor communities through new partnerships with Head Start programs and community-based agencies such as Brooklyn Kindergarten Society, Harlem Children's Zone and the Puerto Rican Family Institute

Kresge also thought that Cooke is strategically positioned to use a challenge grant to strengthen our existing network of community partners, donors, and volunteers. They were impressed that since the start of the Campaign, we have:

- Raised awareness of Cooke's fundraising needs among our parent body and substantially increased their participation in the Campaign.
- Brought in more than \$1.5 million to the Campaign through two successful fundraising dinners honoring Rupert Murdoch, Tom Freston and two of our founding parents.
- Formalized partnerships with dozens of small businesses, corporations, cultural organizations and nonprofits. These partners offer students off-site education, community service and paid internships. Through them, we are demonstrating that inclusive practices in the workforce make good business sense.
- Received significant grants from the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, News Corporation, the Starr Foundation, the Hearst Foundation, the Haas Foundation, and the Altman Foundation, among others.
- Raised more than \$1.7 million from Cooke's Board of Directors and another \$4 million from other individuals and corporations.

The Kresge Challenge presents an opportunity to build on this success but we need your help in bringing us to our final goal.

Won't you please show your support by contributing today?

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