



*Continuing Our Path of Success*

Annual Report 2009



## Accreditation

Summit School is fully accredited through the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. We are members of the Council for Exceptional Children.

Summit School is approved by the State of Illinois as a 14-7.02 private special education school, is affiliated with the International Dyslexia Association and is a member of the Learning Disabilities Association.

In addition, Summit School Early Learning Center is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and has submitted to an accreditation process with the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation Commission (NECPAC) of the National Child Care Association (NCCA).



*Summit School*



*Summit School Early Education Center*

Summit School Inc. specializes in teaching children by maximizing individual potential. Our targeted programs provide a caring environment in which children learn and grow. We teach children who are out of the range of standard education, including programs for children with special preschool needs, children with learning difficulties and children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

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

Summit School, Inc. does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.



Leo Flanagan, Jr.

## On a path to Original Roots



Dear Friend of Summit School,

As you look through this year's 2009 Annual Report, you will see significant progress as Summit School continues its path of success.

Summit School, Inc. operates two campuses in Elgin and each successfully meets the unique needs of the students and families it serves.

Summit School serves preschool through high school students who are challenged with identified learning, attentional and/or social difficulties, including children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at our River Road location. The Summit School Early Learning Center delivers early childhood education through a variety of programs, blending children with and without disabilities from birth to age 5 at our McLean Blvd. location.

In 2008 we celebrated our 40th anniversary of empowering children with special needs. We recognized Summit School's accomplishments from our humble beginnings to the international recognition we have received for our innovative programs. We take pride in our founders' vision, our dedicated staff, and our students' success.

A significant change at Summit School, Inc. this past year was the retirement of Dr. Joseph Scime who served as Chief Executive Officer of Summit School, Inc. since 1984. Joe has been an invaluable asset to our board bringing Summit School back to the heart of its roots. We wish him the best and are pleased he will continue to share his experience and wisdom with the school.

The board of directors selected Robert Hansen to assume the role of Chief Executive Officer. Bob has been an active and valuable member of our board for the past six years. With over 35 years of expertise in school administration, Bob is knowledgeable about the intricacies of education and will help lead our strategies for the continued growth and transformation of Summit School, Inc.

One key question we continually ask is: How can Summit School deliver the highest degree of excellence in education that is possible within its available resources? To ensure we take the successful path to growth and that the unique requirements of each campus are addressed, the Board of Directors is in the process of developing a five-year strategic plan to position Summit School today for the wide opportunities of tomorrow.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff and students, thank you for your loyal support. We will continue our journey to ensure excellence in individual student achievement.

Leo Flanagan, Jr.  
Chairman  
Board of Directors

Robert B. Hansen  
President/Chief Executive Officer  
Summit School, Inc.

# Empowering Students



## Program Development and Support

Summit was the recipient of three (3) grants to provide for start-up costs for two new programs several years ago. These grants promote program development and funding start-up activities for the first two years. Following the first two years of new program service, the Illinois State Board of Education will reimburse Summit School.

Start up funds are not available through the state and must be provided through private and corporate relations.

### Family Resource Center

The Grand Victoria Foundation provided funding to open a Family Resource Center available to families that have a child on the Autism Spectrum as well as the staff that serve them.

The program is currently located at Summit School Early Learning Center. The main objective is to assist families in addressing the three main components that impact their child's life: school, home and school.

The Resource Center will be offering case management services to enrolled children to assist in obtaining information, consulting services and collaborating with service providers. The Resource center will host monthly parent group meeting with sibling support groups to follow. The Resource Center will also provide monthly seminars and training on pertinent topics that are of interest and benefit facing the challenge to all families of raising a child with Autism.

### Nursing Services

The Alfred Bersted Foundation and the EFS Foundation gave grants for the development and implementation to provide nursing services to serve children with Learning Disabilities, other health impairment, emotional disturbances and Autism Spectrum disorders.

The chronic health concerns of Summit School students make nursing services a priority for staff, students and their families. Increasingly, students need greater care for more complex health conditions. A full-time nurse with adequate materials and educational supplies will accomplish Summit School's desired outcomes, improving the quality of life for hundreds of children and their families. A school nurse in tandem with Summit School's quality education will help these young people achieve more than they thought possible.





Robert B. Hansen

## Looking Ahead

Special education has been an integral part of my life for the past 32 years both in the public and private sectors. The past six years that I have been a member of the Summit School board of directors has been a very positive and fulfilling experience. We have been set for change and bringing our school back to its original roots of serving children with special needs.

My transition to serve as Chief Executive Officer of Summit School, Inc. has been very smooth due to the solid base of administrative success by former President and CEO Dr. Joseph Scime and the commitment, leadership and support of our board of directors.

Summit School is a highly respected private special education school in the State of Illinois and is accredited by the North Central Association. It successfully fulfills the unique needs of our children who have learning differences, including those diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, through a very dedicated faculty and staff.

The assistance we gratefully receive from our donors allows us to continue providing excellent programs and related services for our students, such as work study programs and job training, to give them the necessary academic and interpersonal skills to lead productive and meaningful lives.

Our board of directors has formed a Strategic Planning Committee under the direction of co-chairs Darlene Ziebell and Mike Polchopek, with board chair Leo Flanagan, long-time board member Dave Dattilo, former Summit School CEO Dr. Joseph Scime, Summit School principals Johanna White and Karen Mundt-Romano and myself. Guided by the inspiration of our founders in 1968 and leadership of Ruth Tofanelli, we remain committed to continuing the foundation of our strong roots. We will evaluate the:

- Programs we are offering now and what new programs will be needed to serve our students in the future.
- Physical needs of our organization and the dreams of serving all of our students under one roof.
- Expansion of our pre-school and two-three year old early childhood learning programs.
- Success and growth of our Autism Spectrum Disorder program.

I look forward to creating strong partnerships and continue to have a positive impact on what lies ahead to build an even stronger Summit School.



# Summit School



<b>Summit School Children Served</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Learning Disabled</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Other Health Impaired</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Emotional Disorders</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Autism Spectrum Disorder Program</b>	<b>25</b>

Summit School educates youth in preschool through high school graduation, who are challenged with identified learning, attentional and/or social difficulties, including children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Our well trained staff of 50 professionals include new and seasoned teachers, counselors, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, para professionals, and nurse. In 2009 104 students from 40 different school districts were served. They all have one thing in common — each student has had their lives affected by learning differences.

Summit School is approved by the State of Illinois as a 14-7.02 private special education center and is accredited by the North Central Association. Summit School is highly regarded and offers services to support students' educational experiences. Each student program is guided by an individualized education program (IEP).

Summit School academics include all core subjects contained in the Illinois State Goals and Learning Standards. Students receive additional support, in the areas of computers, pre-vocational work program and transition planning. Related services include speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and counseling.

The Secondary Transitional Experience Program (STEP) for high school students supports post-secondary transition plans for life after high school.

The Summit School daily schedule gives middle and high school students the opportunity to mainstream back into their home school.

The Curriculum Regarding Everyday Social Themes Program (C.R.E.S.T.) organizes school days into integrated time sequences to help students apply and generalize information. These are students who are not successful in typical 40 to 50 minute class periods per day and need their education organized thematically.

The Summit School Autism Program meets the needs of young children with specific communication and social skills difficulties. Class size is limited to six students to give each student individual time to deliver the instruction and related services called for by their IEP.

Some Summit School elementary students are participating in an important ongoing research study for social skills by Rush Neurobehavioral Health Center.



# Summit School Early Education Center

Summit School Early Learning Center serves several different populations of children, blending children with and without disabilities. This caring atmosphere is best suited to help children within a range of educational needs. Children are assessed each quarter to evaluate their progress in literacy and readiness skills. We offer four separate early education instruction programs.

## Program for Two Year Olds

- Children of all abilities two hours per day, two or three days per week.

Teachers are highly qualified and certified as developmental therapists. Programs are designed to develop cognitive, adaptive, motor, language and social/emotional development. Children unable to voice their needs through spoken words are encouraged through peer communication as well as sign language to reduce their frustration with verbal skills. Children build readiness skills, using colors and shapes, numbers and counting, as well as art experiences.

## Program for Three and Four Year Olds

- Unique developmental program to help children reach their maximum potentials and to succeed in school.

Developing children and children with special needs are combined to create a natural environment. Staff utilizes Early Learning Standards to build lesson plans designed with incremental learning. Teachers implement

curriculum, which focuses on child involvement and hands-on experiences. Children develop at their own pace under the guidance of teachers who build upon each child's current development, recognizing individual differences and supporting each child to reach planned goals.

## Program for At Risk Children

- Children ages 3-5 years at risk of academic failure.

The Illinois State Board of Education funds this preschool at no cost to families and children. Children and families are screened to ensure eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, Summit School Early Learning Center provides all preschool services, including parent education and special programs.

## Preschool for All Program

- Children ages 3-5 years are screened to determine eligibility.

Eligibility is determined for children who are not progressing at a rate anticipated for potential success in kindergarten. Examples of at risk areas include: English Language Learners, socialization skills, peer interactions, family systems, teen parents, attending skills, behavioral concerns, and family income. Summit School Early Learning Center provides a quality preschool program that includes parent education, resources, family activity nights and special programs. Teachers complete home visits with families to ensure continuity between home and school.



<b>Summit School Early Learning Center Census</b>	<b>134</b>
Two-year-old Early Intervention Program	60
Three-and-four-year-old Program	14
Prekindergarten At-Risk Program	20
Preschool for All Program	40



# Sustaining Superior Education at Summit School

The Financial Statements for 2008-2009 reflect the Board of Director's commitment to ensuring the financial sustainability of Summit School, Inc.

Through a strong financial base, Summit School's children are ensured that they will continue to receive a challenging, meaningful educational experience that encourages them to succeed and will last a lifetime.

The information on this page represents the audited financial statements for Summit School, Inc., prepared by Eric J. Fernandez & Co.

**Summit School, Inc.  
Statements of Financial Position  
Year ended August 31, 2009**

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<b>Current Liabilities</b>	2009
Current portion of notes payable	\$ 60,000
Current portion of deferred compensation	7,749
Accounts payable	21,639
Accrued Interest	1,306
Accrued compensation	10,860
Other current liabilities	1,835
Total current liabilities	103,389
<b>Long-term Liabilities</b>	
Notes payable	491,115
Deferred compensation	35,434
Total long-term liabilities	526,549
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	4,739,404
Temporarily restricted	—
Total net assets	4,739,404
	\$ 5,369,342

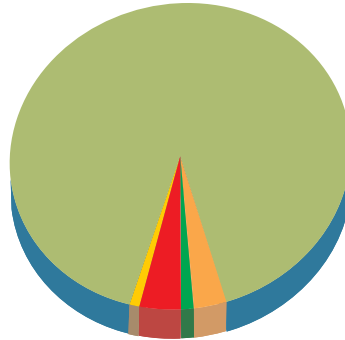


# Financial Summary

	2009 Unrestricted Funds
<b>Revenue and Support</b>	
Program revenue	
Tuition, net	\$ 3,848,862
School activities	43,895
Grant revenue	294,439
Total program revenue	4,187,196
Support contributions	
Public support	132,577
Investment and other income	
Investment income, net	19,226
Net gain (loss) on investments	(96,157)
Other	—
Total investment and other income	(76,931)
Net assets released from restriction	3,600
Total revenue and support	4,242,842

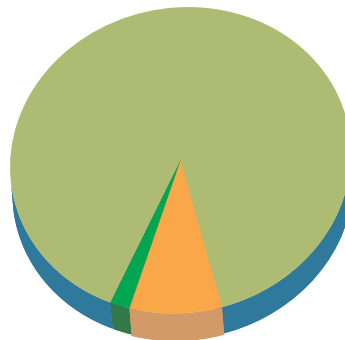
## Expenses

Program services:	
Learning disabled	1,888,025
Summit Center - Early Learning	465,073
Autism intensive	425,597
Autism	492,905
Total program services	3,271,600
Supporting services:	
Management and general	240,115
Fundraising	—
Total expenses	3,511,715
Change in net assets	731,127
Net assets, beginning of year	4,008,277
Net assets, end of year	\$ 4,739,404



## Support and Revenue

<span style="color: green;">■</span> Tuition Net	91%
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Public Support	3%
<span style="color: green;">■</span> School Activities	1%
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Grant Revenue	7%
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Investment Income	(2%)



## Functional Expenses

<span style="color: green;">■</span> Sub Total Salaries and Related Expense	79%
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Operating Expense	19%
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Depreciation	2%





## Communities We Serve

City	School District	City	School District
1 Arlington Heights	Comm. Cons. S. D. #59	21 Lombard	Lombard S. D. #44
2 Barrington	Barrington S. D. #220	22 Maple Park	Kaneland Comm. S. D. #302
3 Belvidere	Belvidere S. D. #100	23 Marengo	Riley Consolidated Com S. D. #18
4 Bloomingdale	Lake Park S. D. #108	24 Marengo	Marengo-Union S. D. #165
5 Burlington	Central Comm. Unit S. D. #301	25 McHenry	McHenry S. D. #15
6 Carol Stream	Comm. Cons. S. D. #93	26 McHenry	McHenry Comm. H.S.-Dist. #156
7 Carpentersville	Community Unit S. D. #300	27 Mundelein	Mundelein High S. D. #120
8 Cary	Cary S. D. #26	28 Naperville	Naperville Community S. D. #203
9 Crystal Lake	Crystal Lake S. D. #47	29 Naperville	Indian Prarie S. D. #204
10 Crystal Lake	Comm. High S. D. #155	30 Northbrook	Northbrook Elementary S.D. #27
11 Elgin	Elgin S.D. #U46	31 Northfield	Sunset Ridge S. D. #29
12 Elmhurst	Elmhurst S. D. #205	32 Oak Park	Oak Park S. D. #97
13 Fox Lake	Grant Comm. High S. D. #124	33 Park Ridge	Park Ridge - Niles S. D. #64
14 Geneva	Geneva Comm. S. D. #304	34 Plano	Plano Community Unit S. D. #88
15 Glen Ellyn	Glenbard S. D. #87	35 Richmond	Nippersink S. D. #2
16 Glencoe	Glencoe S. D. #35	36 Rockford	Rockford S. D. #205
17 Hebron, IL	Alden-Hebron C.C.U. S. D. #19	37 Schaumburg	Comm. Cons. S. D. #54
18 Huntley	Comm. Cons. S. D. #158	38 South Beloit	South Beloit S. D. #320
19 Ingleside	Big Hollow S. D. #38	39 St. Charles	St. Charles Comm. S. D. #303
20 Lake Zurich	Lake Zurich S. D. #95	40 Wauconda	Wauconda C.U.S.D. #118

# Board & Staff

## Board of Directors

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**Leo Flanagan, Jr.**  
*Chairman*  
*Attorney, Brittain & Ketcham, P.C.*

**David Dattilo**  
*Treasurer*  
*Retired*

**Jeanette Mihalec**  
*Secretary*  
*Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce*

**Dr. Joan Fedota**  
*National-Louis University*

**Barbara Ferguson**  
*Community Representative*

**John Ostrem**  
*First Chicago Bank and Trust*

**Michael Polchopek**  
*Business and Process Consultant*

**Dr. David Scarpino**  
*Community Unit School District 300*

**Darlene Ziebell**  
*Ziebell Enterprises, Inc.*

## Honorary Lifetime Board Members

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*Co-Founders of Summit School*  
**M. Ruth Tofanelli**  
*Executive Director Emeritus*  
**James R. Williams**

*Longest Serving Former Board Members*  
**Mary Galvin**  
**Beatrice Wilson**

*Ex Officio Board Member*  
**Conrad C. Peacock**  
*Retired*

## Administrative Staff

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**Robert B. Hansen**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

**Johanna White**  
*Principal, Summit School*

**Karen Mundt-Romano**  
*Director, Summit School*  
*Early Learning Center*

**Judy Lovett**  
*Coordinator of Business Operations*

## Touching Students' Lives

Summit School is more than bricks and mortar. Our schools are integral to the healthy development of children and families. We partner with parents to resolve the challenges, which have halted or disrupted their child's progress. We help children maximize their potential in a caring and engaging environment.

Scholarships, reading programs, therapies, equipment, buses and special projects are made possible by the generous contributions of community members, just like you.

## Thank You

Summit School's successes are a direct result of the generosity and support of many friends. Thank you to all of the individuals, organizations, foundations, and corporations who contributed to our programs during the last fiscal year. Your dedication and support is meaningful and significant in helping Summit School's children achieve their individual potential.

# Donor Support

Mr. & Mrs. William Altenberger  
Althoff Industries  
Mr. Sheldon H. Altman  
American  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Beck  
Mr. & Mrs. James Bell  
The Bersted Foundation  
Brittains Express Oil and Lube  
Brittitan & Ketcham  
Citizens for Judge Golden  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay L. Cope  
Custom Promotions & Incentives  
Corporations  
Mr. David A. Dattilo  
EFS Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Felder  
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Fergus  
Mrs. Barbara Ferguson

Mr. Eric J. Fernandez  
Fideliter Club  
First Chicago Bank & Trust  
Mr. Leo Flanagan, Jr.  
Fox Valley Club of Alpha  
Gamma Delta  
George M. Eisenberg  
Foundation For Charities  
Good Search  
Grand Victoria Foundation  
Hanover Township Mental  
Health Board  
Mr. Bob Hansen  
Heritage-Crystal Clean, LLC  
Mr. Brian Hoeft  
Marvin Holdren  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Hopp  
IHC Group Foundation

Ms. Janet Kalbhen  
William Marquardt  
Ms. Gretchen Matthews  
Anonymous  
Mrs. Jeanette Mihalec  
Mrs. Margaret Nessel  
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Mr. Michael Polchopek  
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Rotary Club of Elgin  
Benedict Schwarz II  
Joseph Scime, Ed.D.  
Seigle Family Foundation  
Ms. Julie Simpson  
Mr. Frank Transue  
Mrs. Beatrice Wilson





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