

### GROW TO SUCCEED: WITS HONORS MAYOR DALEY



Mayor Richard M. Daley, WITS Co-Founder Joanne Alter and Jerry Stone



Mayor Richard M. Daley, WITS Co-Chair Ginny Carlson



Mayor Richard M. Daley

More than five hundred guests filled the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton & Towers for the “Grow to Succeed Luncheon” on June 1 to honor Mayor Richard M. Daley, Honorary WITS Chair, for his commitment to education and the Chicago Public Schools.

For the past twelve years, Mayor Daley has been instrumental to both the focus of WITS’ programs and the success of the organization. In a fitting tribute to the Mayor, WITS allowed some of his biggest fans to pay homage to him—Chicago Public School students. Opening the luncheon on a festive foot, the Haines Elementary School Lion Dancers performed a traditional Chinese lion dance on the balcony above the crowd. Next, eight WITS students from four schools—Haines, Truth, Doolittle East and KIPP—recited an original poem for Mayor Daley, proclaiming that

“All WITS volunteers are so special  
Reaching students in 30 different schools.  
There are sixteen hundred volunteers  
Showing kids that reading is cool!”

During a lovely lunch, guests were serenaded by the sounds of the Walter Peyton High School Big Band. As the plates cleared and the music quieted, emcee Bill Kurtis introduced a video about the day’s honoree. Both guests and the Mayor were thoroughly surprised and entertained to be treated to an unusual biographical production—“The Adventures of Mayor Daley.” Illustrated and narrated by students at Jordan School and then compiled by Kurtis Productions, the video highlighted snippets of Richard M. Daley’s career and life including being one of seven children, playing basketball for De LaSalle High School, being elected Mayor four times and encouraging 300 of his own City Hall employees to volunteer with WITS. After the “premiere,” WITS presented Mayor Daley with its annual First Edition Award as well as the plaque from a “surprise” garden planted at KIPP School in his honor.

WITS thanks Mayor Daley again; through the seeds of his ideology and support, WITS continues to bloom, grow and succeed.

### POWER LUNCHING AND NUMBER CRUNCHING



It’s been three years since WITS adopted the Power Lunch program from Everybody Wins, a non-profit in New York. Today more than 1,100 volunteers from corporations and organizations in Chicago participate in the weekly program.

Not only has Power Lunch proven to be a simple and rewarding commitment for volunteers but the evaluation results are astounding. Preliminary findings impressively indicate that Power Lunch students outperform non-Power Lunch students in all of the following areas:

#### ORAL FLUENCY

The number of Power Lunch students with high oral fluency increased by 36% while the oral fluency increase of non-Power Lunch students was 13%, only half as much.

#### READING CONFIDENCE

The number of Power Lunch students exhibiting confidence when reading increased by 11% while the confidence levels of non-Power Lunch students increased by only 1%.

#### ATTITUDES TOWARD READING

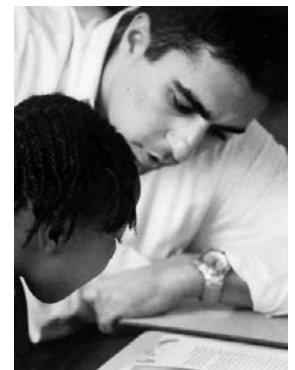
47% of Power Lunch students vs. 36% of non-Power Lunch students improved their attitudes toward recreational reading.

51% of Power Lunch students vs. 43% of non-Power Lunch students improved their attitudes toward academic reading.

In addition, teachers indicated that Power Lunch students improved in the following reading related areas: reading comprehension, vocabulary, reading ability, listening comprehension, attention span and ability to articulate thoughts.

At the end of another successful school year, we find it nearly impossible to count the number of stories read and shared between volunteers and students.

However, the evaluation statistics seem to jump off the page. Look for a complete evaluation at [www.witsontheweb.org](http://www.witsontheweb.org) by November 15th.



## GIFT REPORT

WITS is deeply grateful for the generous contributions of our donors. Your support of the WITS tutoring and mentoring programs is critical to our success in serving children in the Chicago Public Schools.

Below is a list of WITS supporters from February 1, 2004 through August 31, 2004. Due to space limitations, we are listing contributions above \$200. Please know that all donor's names will appear in the WITS annual report and accept our heartfelt gratitude.

WITS sincerely regrets any omissions or misspellings. In the event of an error, please call us at 312.751.9487 to allow us to make the necessary correction.

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## BATTLE OF WITS CREATES SPELLING BUZZ

A h C d f x S



From left to Right: Scott Turow, Donna LaPietra, Stephanie Averill, Robin Robinson



Bill Kurtis and UBS team



LaSalle Bank Team

K T C  
r



Chicago Tribune Team

What wears black and yellow stripes, totes a Blackberry and spells "sucedaneum" with ease? The first annual WITS Corporate Spelling Bee, sponsored by UBS. For the first time in city history, nine local organizations spelled off to benefit WITS on March 8th, raising \$30,000. When the buzz shushed, however, the Chicago Tribune was the last hive standing.

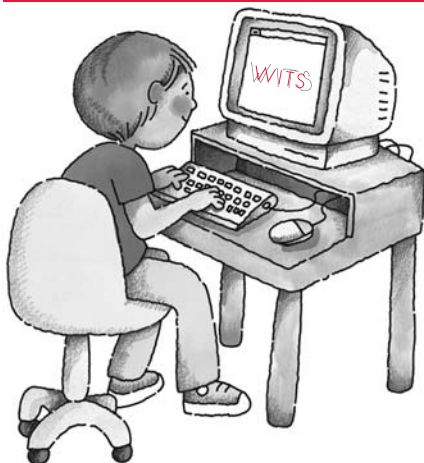
Competing at the Harold Washington Library to win a year's worth of supplies for a Chicago Public School classroom, nine corporate Bee Hives battled before Pronouncer Bill Kurtis. Celebrity judges including producer and our very special "Queen Bee", Donna LaPietra, best selling novelist Scott Turow, Channel 32 anchor Robin Robinson and City of Chicago Beekeeper Stephanie Averill, however, had the last word. For moments of alphabetical uncertainty, each three-speller hive was allotted three lifelines—Ask the Audience, Helpful Hint and Phone My CEO—for a price. Since all proceeds went to WITS, teams like the LaSalle Bank Stingers, CBOE and the Mayor's City Hall "Bees in Horto" didn't hesitate to put their bosses'

spelling on the spot by giving them a "buzz." Ironically however, as the CFOs' and Directors' spelling attempts were broadcast throughout the auditorium, not a single team accepted upper management's suggestions. Bee teams also included UBS, Equity Office Properties Trust, Ariel Capital Management, Humana, Chicago Tribune and Goldman Sachs.

Guests cheered on their favorite teams, taking breaks between rounds to swarm a sophomoric buffet of crustless PB&J, mini cheeseburgers and homemade baked desserts. Students from Byrd Academy were also busy bees, staffing the event and watching adults squirm in the spelling hot seat for a change. "Onychophagia," the act of fingernail-biting? G-o-o-d l-u-c-k.

Next year, Chicago celebs, suits and volunteers will spell off again as WITS plans on making the Corporate Spelling Bee an annual event.

Check out our newly renovated website:



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

### TOP 10 According to Shore Bank volunteers here are the reasons to volunteer for the Power Lunch program

**#10** You get to ride in a yellow school bus.

**#9** You get to know other ShoreBankers as you commiserate on reading about tornadoes or the latest Junie B. Jones adventure.

**#8** You get your schedule for the entire year, enabling you and your supervisor to plan months in advance.

**#7** You get introduced to the top sellers for 8-year olds!

**#6** You get training, some useful tips on reading with a student and a Name Badge.

**#5** The requirements are easy – show up on time, be yourself and read to and with a 3rd grader.

**#4** Some volunteers will already know their student from last year.

**#3** The student will make you a neat craft at sometime during the school year.

**#2** If you volunteer every week, it's really only 28 Thursdays; if you share a student, it's only 14 Thursdays; if you substitute, it's as needed.

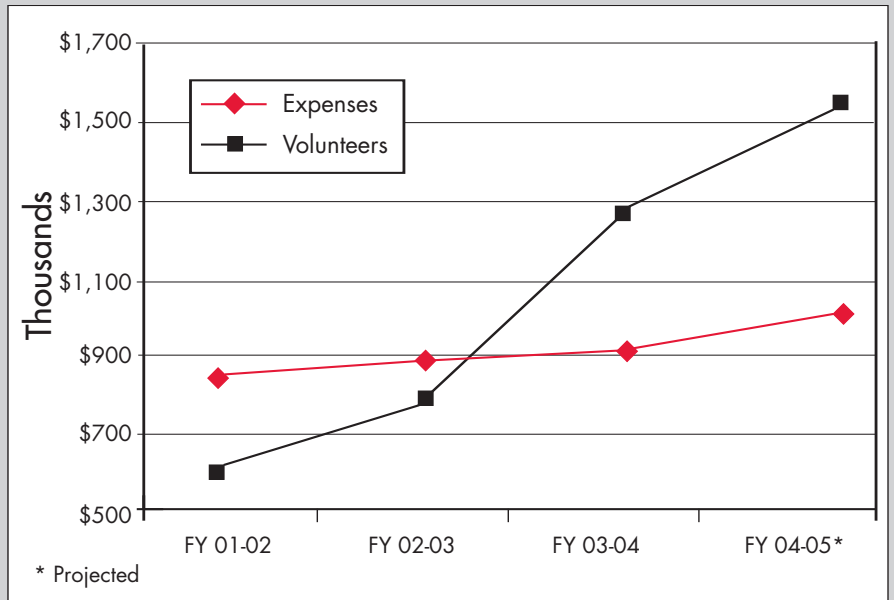
### And the **#1** Reason to Volunteer for Power Lunch:

You touch the life of a child in the most amazing way. Often this hour is the only one-on-one time the student has with an adult all week and it's the only time dedicated solely to literacy. The rewards are tremendous.

## WITS VOLUNTEER GROWTH VS. EXPENSES

WITS has increased the number of volunteers serving students in the Chicago Public Schools each year for the past four years. However, the organization's expenses have remained virtually unchanged. This accomplishment is due in large part to our successful Board of Directors and management team at WITS. We are proud of our efficiency and pleased to share our achievement with you.

## EXPENSES (N THOUSANDS) VS. # OF VOLUNTEERS



## WITS BITS:

# of Volunteers: 1,586

# of Partnering Organizations: 44

# of Schools: 29

# of Bus Routes: 33

# of Students: 5,000

## New Board Members:

We would like to welcome Beth Sussman and Elaine Weinberg as the most recent additions to our Board of Directors. Thank you for your commitment.

## AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER



On May 7, the scene at the WITS Junior Board Fourth Annual BlackBoard Affair proved that youth is not wasted on the young. Three hundred young Chicagoans appeared fashionably at Kaleidoscope, 800 W. Superior, to rake in nearly \$36,000 for WITS programs.

evening's luckiest guests, however, were Mark Agnew and Carolyn Stephan, a couple who met at the inaugural BlackBoard Affair. Four years later, WITS celebrated its matchmaking success by announcing Mark and Carolyn's recent engagement.



Left to right: Co-Chair J.C. Goodrich, Co-Chair Phoebe Stone, Honorary Co-Chair Zach Zisook

While DJ Martin "Boogieman" Luna set the mood, guests bid on 79 fabulous silent auction items including a private sunset sail and getaway in San Fran, a Salt Lake City ski trip, an afternoon of racing Italian sports cars, Cubs and Sox tickets and spa packages galore. One lucky guest even took home the grand raffle prize of a \$1,000 Abt Electronics gift certificate. Two of the

Between bidding, dancing and mingling, BlackBoard guests whetted their international appetites with mini-cheeseburgers, sushi and pasta at the American, Asian and Italian Levy food stations.



Mark Agnew and Carolyn Stephan

The 2004 benefit was co-chaired by Junior Board members Phoebe Stone & J.C. Goodrich and Honorary Co-Chair Zach Zisook. For more information about the WITS Junior Board, contact Lauren Weiner at (312) 751-9487.

## WITS BOARD MEMBER PROFILE: RON SONENTHAL

### Why did you decide to join the WITS Board?

I've always had an interest in helping children. For years, I have been involved with various charitable organizations that focus on education, parent and childcare centers, summer internships for inner city kids, and college funding for those in need. About seven years ago, I had the opportunity to act as a Principal for a Day for a Chicago Public School. It was a terrific time and the individual who arranged the event told me about the great organization that came up with the idea, WITS. The rest, as they say, is history.

### Now that you are the new President of WITS, what about the organization gives you the most pride and what are some of your goals?

I'm proud of the history of WITS. People of vision, like Joanne Alter and Marion Stone, took it upon themselves to fulfill a need. Many people saw a problem, but these two did something about it. Since they founded the organization, we've been lucky to have great leadership from people like Bud Lifton and Ginny and Roger Carlson. We also have a very strong and involved Board of Directors. I'm not sure that there are many organizations that can show the commitment of their Board as well as WITS.

I take the responsibility that the Board has granted me very seriously. My goals, however, are fairly simple. We need to increase the number of children we help. We will accomplish that by increasing our partnerships with businesses in the Workplace Mentoring and Power Lunch programs, and by recruiting more outstanding Board members.

### What is your education/background?

I'm a hometown boy. I grew up on the border of Skokie and Evanston and attended Evanston High School. I have a degree in Accountancy from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and a graduate degree in Taxation from DePaul University here in Chicago. I'm a partner with Deloitte, a global accounting and consulting firm.

I met my wife in college and we've been married more than 16 years. Kathy is a physician, specializing in Allergy and Asthma. We have three daughters; Lindsay (13), Haley (11), and Mallory (8), and we live in Highland Park.

### What advice would you give children today?

Read, read, read! Read anything! Read everything! I grew up reading comic books and to this day, I credit Superman and Spiderman for my love of books.

## CORPORATION PROFILE: DELOITTE

In the fall of 2003, Deloitte joined forces with WITS. 42 employees participate in the Workplace Mentoring program where students from West Park Academy travel to Deloitte every Wednesday.



From the first day when students gasped at the sight of the downtown office building to the intensely focused tutoring sessions to the final hugs and goodbyes for the summer, the program at Deloitte was magical.

Katie Krone recalls, "It was amazing to see the relationships between the students and the tutors build throughout the year. The program is really a two-way street: For 90 minutes a week, the students get to practice and enhance their reading skills while also being exposed to professional, adult role models. And for us—we're able to focus our time and energy to children who not only need our academic help, but really appreciate the time we give them."



Now, as they begin their second year volunteering with WITS, we thank you Deloitte. We look forward to a rewarding relationship of working together to help West Park Academy.



## CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR

The following is a list of days the students will not be in school.

November 2	Teacher Institute Day	November 25, 26	Thanksgiving Holiday
November 11	Veterans Day	December 15	Early Dismissal
November 12	Professional Development Day	December 20-31	Winter Break

# BNSF



On May 17, 2004 WITS honored our Board of Directors and Corporate and Government partners. Our guests experienced a unique luncheon on a private rail car courtesy of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.



## WORKING IN THE SCHOOLS

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### WITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marion Stone, Co-Founder	Dorothy Brown	Roz Supera
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### WITS STAFF

Executive Director, Mary Ellen Guest	Program Manager, Rachel Hutter
Deputy Director, Lauren Weiner	Program Associate, Alexis Ashley
Development Director, Jen Davis	Program Evaluator, Nelson Portillo
Director of Training, Liz Smith	Office Manager, Toya Maddox
Program Director, Robyn Strauss	

A NEW MUSICAL  
**WICKED**  
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ

WITS Announces Chicago's  
First Performance of Wicked on  
Friday, April 29th 2005 at the  
Ford Center for the Performing  
Arts. Please visit our website  
at [www.witsontheweb.org](http://www.witsontheweb.org)  
or call 312-751-9487 to  
purchase tickets today!

*Working In The Schools (WITS), a tutoring and mentoring program involving community members, area businesses and local high school students, provides volunteers to support the education and development of children in the Chicago Public Schools.*

### WITS News

Managing Editors Jen Davis &  
Lauren Weiner