

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOME WORKS!



## 2018-2019 HOME WORKS! REPORT CARD

Home Visits	<b>2,262</b>
Students Visited	<b>1,713</b>
Family Members Who Attended Family Dinners	<b>1,776</b>
Parents Who Attended Parent Teacher Learning Team Meetings	<b>526</b>
Staff Trained	<b>507</b>

## 2019-2020 HOME WORKS! SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Boonville Public Schools  
Francis Howell School District  
Hazelwood School District  
Lindbergh Schools  
Marshall School District  
Mehlville School District  
Parkway School District  
St. Louis Public Schools  
Wentzville School District

### Charter Schools

City Garden Montessori  
Confluence Academies – Aspire Elementary  
Confluence Academies – Old North Elementary  
North Side Community School

## MISSION

To partner families and teachers for children's success

## GOALS & PROGRAM

The goal of HOME WORKS! is to improve the attendance, classroom behavior, homework completion, and academic achievement of struggling students and ultimately to prepare them for the workforce. To help these students, HOME WORKS! trains, supports, and pays teachers to make home visits to get their parents engaged in their education.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

In 2007, when CEO & Founder Karen Kalish first described her vision for what was to become HOME WORKS!, I was hooked. She recognized that the role I played in my children's lives was not the norm for many kids who struggle, and she saw a way to change the norm – train teachers to partner with families for student success. As my time as Board Chair comes to an end, please join my review of the journey since that first conversation.

Districts are embedding HOME WORKS! as the way they do business. Professional staff members are leading implementation in schools, working toward program fidelity in a way that also recognizes a school's unique character.

High quality visits have been made to over 20,000 students since our founding to improve the relationships between home and school, forever changing the dynamic. External evaluation is continuous, helping HOME WORKS! define, refine, and measure impact, including a small-scale randomized control trial that served as a baseline for making future decisions that manage to outcomes. Ever improving resources for teachers and families help students move toward success.

The board and staff are even more effective in the quest to achieve a high-performing organization to support our mission. Each day brings opportunities to improve. The fundamental importance of the HOME WORKS! mission and the teachers who report extraordinary impact on their students and their classrooms make us all want to be more and more effective in this journey. I thank every donor, teacher, board member, evaluator, advisor, staff member, and most of all Karen, for their individual and collective efforts that have brought us to this point. I hope you will stick with us to create a future of promise for the students, families, and teachers we serve.

**Amy Murphy**

*Board Chair*



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### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



*HOME WORKS! Board Member Joe Kraichely gives a presentation to staff on customer service and project management.*

HOME WORKS! is dedicated to learning and growing, and we believe that the nonprofit world can occasionally learn a thing or two from the corporate world. At our April 14th team meeting, Board Member and newly elected Board Treasurer Joe Kraichely of Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. shared his experience improving customer service and project management among the many Enterprise locations in the Western U.S. & Canada that he oversees. We learned that the key to collaborating with our schools is to create an environment built on learning that rewards growth. This environment keeps our team honest about setbacks so that we can problem solve together to get and stay on track to have the deepest impact for students. We look forward to hearing more wisdom from our talented board members in the future.



**Amanda Alton**  
Kindergarten Teacher  
9 years  
*Prairie View Elementary  
Wentzville School District*

**55 Home Visits**

### **How have home visits helped you as a teacher? How have they impacted your classroom?**

I have seen a lot more open communication with parents because of home visits. Parents are more likely to approach me with concerns, and it is now easier for me to contact parents when there is an issue. I've been able to incorporate what I learned about my students from the home visits into my teaching and, as a result, I've been able to motivate my students more in the classroom.

### **Why are home visits so important?**

As I go on visits, I learn about my students' backgrounds and they get to see me more as a real person. Home visits also strengthened my bond with a colleague. Going on visits with her has helped us communicate more and now we support each other and step in for each other when needed.

### **Please offer any other thoughts about home visits.**

When I entered the home, I got to see different sides of my students' personalities. One student who is very shy was much more boisterous when I visited. One student who was loud in class showed me a quieter, more introspective side on the visit. It was fun for me to see my students in their environments!

### **Advice for Teachers**

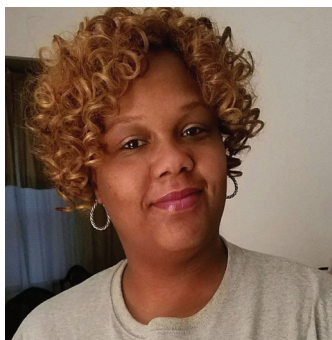
When I first started to make visits, I was scared. I'm not someone who steps out of my comfort zone much. But when I started, I loved it! My advice for new teachers is to do a visit as a co-visitor first – with someone more experienced. I did this and it was a blast! I was wonderfully surprised that some of the parents who seemed a bit more difficult to interact with were actually super welcoming! It was a great feeling to discover this!

I also recommend that teachers block out their schedules. Set up multiple visits in an afternoon or evening (I did three in a day) to maximize your reach in a neighborhood. Once you start visiting, you have such a blast that you lose track of time and you are so glad you took the initiative to plan and make the visits!



**David Bates - Principal** | *Prairie View Elementary, Wentzville*

HOME WORKS! is the best program we've ever gotten involved in to help strengthen relationships with families!



**Erika Johnson**  
Kindergarten Teacher  
22 years  
*Stix Early Childhood Center  
St. Louis Public Schools*

**80 Home Visits**

### **How have home visits helped you as a teacher? How have they impacted your classroom?**

Home visits have given me the tools and confidence that I need to have an open, honest, and effective conversation with my parents which has increased students' academic skills and decreased behavioral issues in my classroom.

### **Why are home visits so important?**

Home visits offer me the opportunity to build a relationship with parents and families. Not only do I have better communication with parents, but I also build trust between the school and the home.

### **Please offer any other thoughts about home visits.**

The bond that I have built with my students and their parents goes beyond just being their teacher. It gives me an amazing feeling as if I am a part of their family. The HOME WORKS! program has afforded me this opportunity, which is priceless!



**Dr. Kelvin Adams - Superintendent** | *St. Louis Public Schools*

Principals have expressed enthusiasm about the increased support for children at home after teachers visited families. The improved communication between family and teacher has fostered strong support networks for many children, which has resulted in noticeable improvements in some children's academic performance and attendance.



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## DONOR SPOTLIGHTS



### OLD NEWSBOYS

*The nearly 150 winners of Old Newsboys grants at the award ceremony.*

HOME WORKS! received a grant from Old Newsboys! The award was received by HOME WORKS! Board Member Jamie Moog and Grants Manager Lizzy Petersen at the Old Newsboys Ceremony on April 16th. The Old Newsboys, a charitable project of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, raises millions of dollars every year for hundreds of St. Louis area children's charities. For 63 years, volunteers have joined together to sell a special edition of the newspaper to help raise funds. This year, the tradition continues on Thursday, November 21, 2019.



### BOOKS FOR STL KIDS

*Vashon students enjoyed the books donated by Books for STL Kids at their second family dinner.*

The HOME WORKS! students at Vashon High School (SLPS) are so thankful for Books for STL Kids' donation of 238 new books. Books were given to students at Vashon's second family dinner on April 22nd. For over 20 years, Books for STL Kids has supplied new books to after-school programs, child care centers, and community events – including their annual event, The Largest Book Party in St. Louis.



### GREATER ST. LOUIS BOOK FAIR

*Greater St. Louis Book Fair Volunteer Recruiter Barb Harris and HOME WORKS! Grants Manager Lizzy Petersen celebrate our great partnership.*

The Greater St. Louis Book Fair has been a generous funder of HOME WORKS! for the last two years. To show our gratitude, two of our employees volunteered at the Midwest's largest charity book fair. Grants Manager Lizzy Petersen and Program Leader Betty Tobler spent a wonderful afternoon organizing books and checking out customers. You can donate your new and gently used books year-round at one of their four book houses in the St. Louis area.

## IN THE NEWS



*From Left, Diane Dymond, Lisa Pines, and Karen Kalish appeared on St. Louis on the Air to discuss HOME WORKS! in St. Louis Public Schools.*

### ST. LOUIS ON THE AIR, ST. LOUIS PUBLIC RADIO

On April 15th, HOME WORKS! CEO & Founder, Karen Kalish, spoke with St. Louis Public Radio talk show host Jeremy Goodwin on St. Louis on the Air about the impact of HOME WORKS! in St. Louis area schools. Kalish was accompanied by Diane Dymond, Principal of Stix Early Childhood Center (SLPS), and Lisa Pines, the school secretary at Vashon High (SLPS). The whole interview is available on the St. Louis on the Air website and the HOME WORKS! website.

"I talk to my teachers when they come back from home visits. One of the teachers commented that [the visit] helped her connect the dots for the student. By going in the home and seeing how the child

interacted with the parents and how the parents handled the child, she was able to come back and be more successful with the child." – **Diane Dymond, Principal, Stix ECC, SLPS**

"We had a student, on a second visit, actually say, 'I am fed up with school. I don't want to do school anymore.' And we told him, 'Let us work with you. What is it that you need? We are willing to offer tutoring. If you need a class change, we are willing to make that adjustment. Although you have your teacher and your principal, you also have other people in the building who are go-to people.' This student now comes and speaks to me every day. Every day. And doesn't want to leave school." – **Lisa Pines, Secretary, Vashon High, SLPS**



From left, Mike Ferguson, Karen Kalish, and Dr. Curtis Cain discuss parent and family engagement in the Wentzville School District.

### MISSOURI VIEWPOINTS LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY

This past March, HOME WORKS! CEO & Founder Karen Kalish and Wentzville School District Superintendent Dr. Curtis Cain sat down with Mike Ferguson on Missouri Viewpoints to share the positive role home visits have in improving student success. The whole interview is available on the Missouri Viewpoints Vimeo page and the HOME WORKS! website.

"Time after time, it's all about the relationship. That is what is most important. In our district, we are enrolling 400, 500, sometimes 600 students every single year, and these are new families just becoming integrated into what we do in the Wentzville School District. It makes all the difference in the world when that teacher and that family have a very clear understanding of each other. It makes all the difference in terms of how we wrap around that support for what is in the best interest of students." – **Dr. Curtis Cain, Superintendent of the Wentzville School District**

## BUILD. MEASURE. LEARN.

From the beginning, HOME WORKS! has used evaluation results to inform program changes that impact more students and families, increase our program's accountability, and strengthen our processes. As a result of our goal to be the highest performing nonprofit that we can be, HOME WORKS! has seen a 25% increase in teachers making home visits and a 16% increase in students reached over the last four years.

As part of our continuous improvement efforts, HOME WORKS! partnered with external evaluator Concentric Research to conduct a randomized controlled trial (RCT) – the gold standard of evaluation – that was funded by the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education. The low-cost, short-duration RCT measured the impact of HOME WORKS! in elementary schools in St. Louis Public Schools during the 2017-2018 school year.

The study involved a small sample of classrooms from high-need schools: 56 teachers and their 1,132 students in grades 1-3 in 11 Title 1 schools, with half of the students receiving the intervention. As part of the study, no new data could be collected and only one year of implementation could be observed.

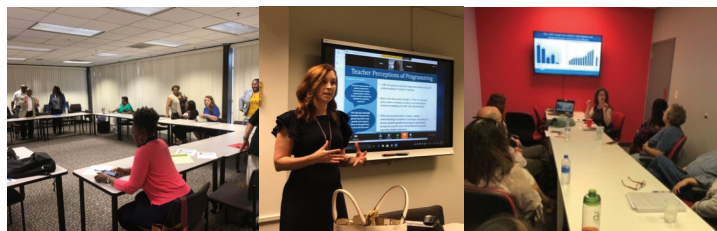
And still, we saw encouraging results. Teachers overwhelmingly reported positive benefits to making home visits. For a subgroup of high-risk students, HOME WORKS! students had more positive academic outcomes than comparison students and HOME WORKS! showed potential for impacting chronic absenteeism. We learned how difficult program implementation is in low-income schools. As a result, HOME WORKS! has increased our support to new and high-need schools going forward and developed a more flexible model to accommodate each school.

**We look forward to conducting more rigorous studies of our program and its impact in the future!**



**HOME WORKS! Teacher** | *Beasley Elementary, Mehlville*

I was a co-visitor with Lara for a home visit. Lara brought her student one of my favorite books *The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog* by Mo Willems. While Lara was talking with his mom, I was showing the student the book and telling him that it was one of my favorites. He then climbed up in the chair next to me, put his arm around me and asked me to read it to him. It was a very sweet moment. The interactions that take place within our students' homes can't be recreated in the classroom. For each visit I have been on, I see the students in a whole new way.



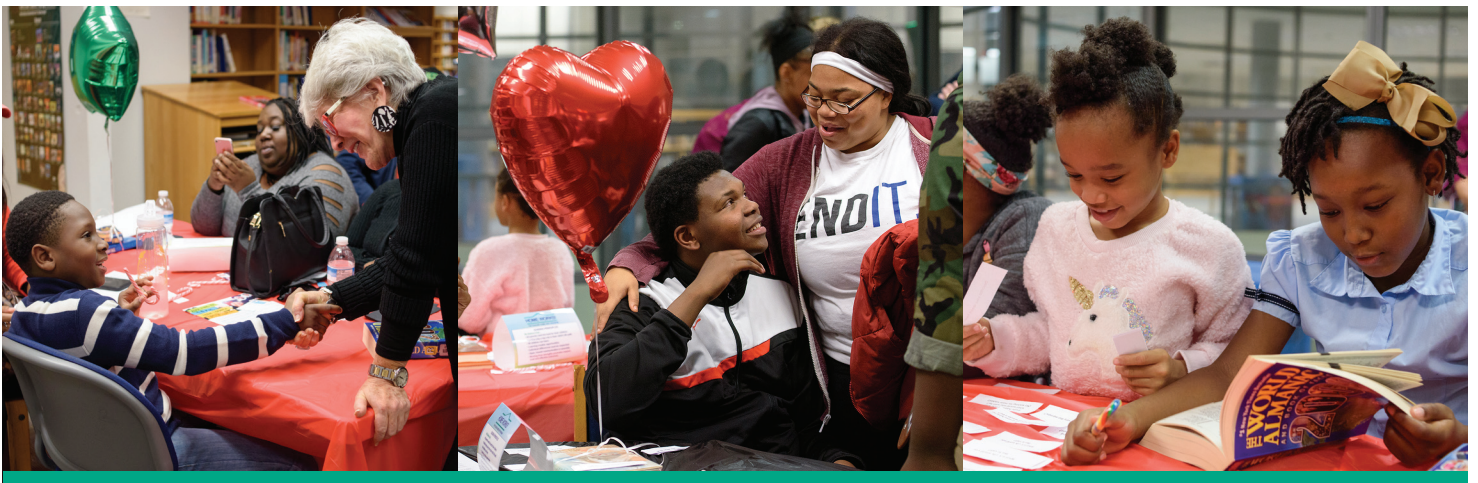
This May and June, Dr. Lauren Scher of Concentric Research and Dr. Sherri Lauver of Synergy Enterprises visited St. Louis to present the findings from their recent rigorous study of HOME WORKS! for the HOME WORKS! board and staff and the St. Louis Public Schools participating principals and staff.

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**Ms. Alexander - HOME WORKS! Parent** | *Vashon High, SLPS*

In the beginning, I thought the visit was just to be nosy and that the teachers just wanted to see what my house looks like. I learned, though, that the teachers really care. Ms. Hurd told me what she could do to help my daughter to do better in school. As a result, my daughter's GPA went from 0.9 to 3.5, all because of home visits.

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*Families and teachers join together at a HOME WORKS! family dinner at Vashon High School (St. Louis Public Schools) in December 2018.*