

TEACH Foundation 2011-2012 Annual Report



The TEACH Foundation takes seriously its role as a catalyst for educational endeavors necessary to impart academic excellence on our students as they become the workforce of the future.

Charles J. Hupfer
Chairman of the Board
TEACH Foundation

Board of Directors

The TEACH Foundation Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from each of the PULSE partners, the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce and three at-large community representatives.



Dr. Abe Areephanthu



Gloria Bell



Dr. Murray Brockman



Chris Frazier



James Hudson



Charles Hupfer



Dr. Rainey Knight



Karen Lee



Barb Steadman

About the TEACH Foundation

The TEACH Foundation is a not for profit, 501(c)(3) organization that serves as the administration arm for the PULSE initiative that includes accelerated learning programs for students living in Hartsville attending Hartsville and Mayo high schools, and the Comer School Development Program in four local elementary schools. It was formed as part of the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce. The Foundation manages the \$5 million funding provided to PULSE by the Sonoco Foundation.

PULSE Vision Statement

The Partnership for Unparalleled Local Scholastic Excellence (PULSE) vision is to provide students with incomparable educational opportunities designed to help them excel.

About the cover:

Hartsville students are benefitting from a five-year, \$5 million donation from the Sonoco Foundation. The money funds the PULSE initiative, which includes implementation of the Comer School Development process in four Hartsville elementary schools, and Accelerated Learning Opportunities for high school students living in Hartsville.

Letter from the chairman



Charles Hupfer, TEACH Foundation board chair

Since February 2011, students in the Hartsville area public schools have been experiencing some new forms of education in a collaboration called the PULSE initiative. PULSE is the acronym for Partners for Unparalleled Local Scholastic Excellence. The partnership brings together public and private educational resources and combines them with private funding to create a

first-of-its-kind opportunity for Hartsville students and the community. This collaboration has been exciting in its formation and all involved have high hopes for major success; some of which has already been experienced.

The idea for PULSE began with conversations between Sonoco Chairman and CEO Harris DeLoach, and the president of Coker College, Dr. Robert Wyatt, as they discussed ways to strengthen the local school system, and prepare students with skills to make them successful in the work force. That initial conversation resulted in a five-year, \$5 million commitment from the Sonoco Foundation. And that commitment was the impetus to create the PULSE partnership that includes Sonoco, the Darlington County

Accelerated Learning Opportunities (ALO) for Hartsville High School students include organic chemistry experiments like these at the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics.



School District, the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, Coker College and the Yale University Child Study Center.

Accelerated Learning Opportunities

PULSE has two major components:

1) Accelerated Learning Opportunities (ALO) and

2) the Comer School Development Program (SDP). ALO offers Hartsville students attending either Hartsville or Mayo high schools the chance to participate in specialized, advanced studies. Some of the course work takes place at Hartsville High School, while other opportunities occur at Coker College. In its first year, 11 students studied Mandarin Chinese I, 10 students enrolled in AP Calculus AB and seven students took applied voice for college credit at Coker College. Throughout the 2011-2012 school year, special workshops were offered in mathematics and organic chemistry. Student AP test results show that participating in ALO classes make a significant difference. In 2012, 50 percent of students passed the AP tests with a score of 3 or higher, compared to only 7 percent who didn't.

Comer Model

The second component of PULSE, the Comer SDP, impacts more than 1,200 students at four Hartsville elementary schools: Thornwell School for the Arts; Southside Early Childhood Center, West Hartsville and Washington Street. The Comer SDP focuses on improving academic achievement and personal development

The **TEACH Foundation** is the administrator of the \$5 million from the Sonoco Foundation that supports PULSE.



PULSE is the partnership among the four entities involved in the initiative (Sonoco, GSSM, Coker and DCSD).



PULSE consists of two components:

1) **Accelerated Learning Opportunities (ALO)** for Hartsville and Mayo high school students.



2) **Comer School Development Program (SDP)** for four of Hartsville's elementary schools.



Letter from the chairman

by emphasizing the whole child in all aspects of curriculum. The Comer model focuses on six development pathways—social-interactive, psycho-emotional, ethical, cognitive, linguistic and physical—to ensure a child’s success in school and in life. The program’s founder, Dr. James P. Comer, is the Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry and associate dean of the Yale School of Medicine.

The Comer SDP, created in 1968, is the first reported intervention program that dramatically improved test scores, attendance and behavior of socially marginalized children. By working with the school teachers, staff and parents, Dr. Comer and his team dispelled the myth that socio economic status was the key factor in education outcome, and have repeatedly proven that it is possible to close achievement gaps with the proper curriculum and instruction. Over the last 50 years, independent research shows that schools using the Comer SDP experience high levels of student achievement and development. Their numerous successes can be found in detail at this website: <http://medicine.yale.edu/childstudy/comer/programs/index.aspx>.

How did it begin?

I think it’s worth just a moment to reflect on how the SDP became part of the PULSE initiative. In October 2010, business and education leaders visited the Yale Child Study Center to discuss ways to improve Hartsville schools. That group included Harris DeLoach, Sonoco chief executive officer and chairman of the board, and champion of the PULSE initiative. Also attending that October meeting were Dr. Robert Wyatt, president of Coker College and colleague of Dr. Comer; Dr. Rainey Knight, superintendent of the Darlington County School District and Dr. Murray Brockman, president of the South Carolina Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics.

Sonoco Chairman and CEO Harris DeLoach (left) speaks with Dr. James P. Comer.



Teachers at the Comer schools focus on the whole child. Above, reading time with students enhances the linguistic, cognitive and psycho-emotional pathways.

Dr. Comer later said, “When I listened to Mr. DeLoach talk, it was clear that having a well-trained workforce was an important motivation. He also said something I will never forget: ‘It’s just right that all of the children get an education that will prepare them to function well.’” At that same meeting, Dr. Comer recalled that Dr. Knight succinctly summarized the purpose and goal of the Comer SDP: “I see what you are trying to do. You’ve pulled all the pieces together. You’re giving kids the middle class skills necessary to function well in society.”

Dr. Comer believed at that first meeting that the Hartsville community could “put together a program that supported the culture that would allow all children to develop and learn well.”

PULSE Program is born

Just a few months after that pivotal meeting in Connecticut, the PULSE program was born. The TEACH Foundation was created to administer the \$5 million funding provided by the Sonoco Foundation. TEACH stands for Teaching, Educating and Advancing Children in

Letter from the chairman

Hartsville. Because PULSE is a community initiative, the TEACH Foundation was formed under

the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. We brought Sharman Poplava on board as our executive director, believing that she could bring the same administrative excellence she demonstrated in her previous role as Chamber president. Additionally, Tara King was named Comer facilitator for the Darlington County School District, Dr. Jerome Reyes was hired by the Governor's School as its PULSE coordinator and instructor, and Barb Steadman, media relations director at Coker College, was named PULSE coordinator for the college. This go-to team is responsible for working with our teachers and educational institutions day-in and day-out, spearheading the successes we have achieved in our first year.

We are seeing results

Let me share some quick highlights of what has happened since the February announcement of the PULSE initiative and some of our most impressive results to date. It's no surprise that the first few months of summer were a whirlwind of activity, identifying classes to be offered, communicating with students and parents, training teachers and staff, creating the TEACH Foundation and getting ready for the 2011-2012 academic year. The level of commitment necessary to achieve our successes is a credit to the many teachers who embraced the PULSE program and its fundamentals of improving educational opportunities.

Expanded parental involvement

The majority of our success, I believe, centered around Tara's efforts to engage the parents of our Comer school students. Historically, after-school events are not well-attended. That changed dramatically this year. Using some techniques she learned from the Comer team at Yale, Tara worked with administration and faculty at each school to make every parent



Sharman Poplava



Tara King



Dr. Jerome Reyes



Barb Steadman

night a special event. For example, she and the teachers at West Hartsville put

together a Zumba night. Parents learned about a Comer pathway and then participated in a free Zumba class. That night, more than 50 families attended the event, and many of them stayed after to help clean up. The previous parent night had just over 10 families in attendance. In support of the language pathway, more than 200 families participated in Thornwell School for the Arts' Bingo for Books event. By engaging parents in events as simple as Donuts for Dads to the mother/son dance, the Comer SPD provides the framework to focus primarily on the development of our children.

Teachers, administrators collaborating

We have seen unprecedented collaboration since the PULSE program began. Working together within schools, as well as among schools (Hartsville High School, Coker College, Mayo High School and the Governor's School), our teachers and administrators are doing everything possible to expand learning opportunities for our children. It's not easy to coordinate college course work within a high school student's schedule. But our teachers have been incredibly flexible and innovative in finding ways to enable students to enrich an already robust curriculum that includes Advanced Placement (AP) classes and the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

At the elementary school level, our teachers are on the front line of learning. They developed reading lists aligned with the Comer pathways, designed their classrooms to enable interactive education focused on understanding and communicating issues relative to the experience of each and every child. They met during the year to talk about what was working at each school and how to improve or implement solutions that will make a difference. And we are already seeing those changes take place.

Letter from the chairman

School climates are improving

There was less disruption at the Comer schools, largely in part to improved student morale. Bus referrals dropped significantly as did office referrals and the number of students being tardy. Attendance was up slightly at three of our four Comer schools. As the word about the PULSE program traveled through Hartsville, we saw children become the focus from within all aspects of our community. Many of our churches expressed interest in helping students at the Comer schools, as did other education institutions, small businesses and large industries. When Tara announced a mentor program, more than 40 people signed up and attended training. We currently have 44 mentors assisting 48 students, and expansion plans for the 2012-2013 school year are underway.

Community is taking notice

Community interest kept the buzz about PULSE going all school year. In early 2012, Mayo High School students that live in Hartsville became eligible to participate in ALO classes and workshops. The workshops were based on needs identified during ALO classes and specific student interest. Individually and collectively, ALO students achieved numerous accolades. All Applied Voice students participated in Coker College's Spring recital, and many of them earned superior ratings in the state Solo and Ensemble Competition. And, the Mandarin Chinese I students from Hartsville High School participated in Coker College's annual Celebration of Academics.

PULSE enhances our quality of living

This is my first year as Chair of the TEACH Foundation. I readily accepted this role after more than 30 years with Sonoco, a Hartsville-based company that supports education globally through its people, resources and materials. It is an honor and privilege to work with my fellow board members who give of their time and talents to improve education in the Hartsville community. Although he won't want any recognition, I must thank Harris DeLoach, whose leadership and vision led to the



Hartsville High School students earn college credit for classes, like Music/Voice, taken at Coker College.

implementation of these educational efforts. Harris, and those of us on the TEACH Foundation board, truly believe Hartsville is one of the best places in the world in which

to live. We dedicate our services to the community with the hope that we can continue making positive educational changes here that will enhance the quality of life for generations to come.

A caring community, committed to children

As we complete the first phase of our five-year program, I reflect on the words Dr. Comer shared at our year-end celebration in May: "What is so important here (Hartsville), is that the entire community has committed itself to children." I hope you remain as excited about the PULSE initiative as the TEACH Foundation board. We take seriously our role as catalysts for educational endeavors necessary to impart academic excellence on our students as they become the workforce of the future. We look forward to the 2012-2013 school year, and to fostering the kind of character that makes Hartsville such a special place to work and live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles J. Hupfer".

Charles J. Hupfer
Chairman
August 2012

The Year in Review

Listed are some of the key events in the first year implementing the PULSE initiative.

October 2010

- Sonoco team visits Yale University to meet Dr. Comer

February 2011

- PULSE initiative announced

June 2011

- TEACH Foundation formed
- Sharman Poplava named executive director of the TEACH Foundation

July 2011

- Tara King hired as Comer facilitator for the Darlington County School District
- Barb Steadman is named Coker College PULSE coordinator
- 13 teachers from Comer elementary schools travel to New Haven, Conn., for training

August 2011

- Dr. Jerome Reyes joins the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics as PULSE coordinator and instructor
- School year kick-off luncheon at Hartsville High School
- Comer 101 Leadership Development training for teachers in Hartsville

September 2011

- Mandarin Chinese I classes begin at Hartsville High School
- AP Calculus AB classes start at Hartsville High School
- Comer 101 Leadership Development training for teachers in Hartsville

October 2011

- Comer 101 Leadership Development training for teachers in Hartsville

November 2011

- Hartsville hosts the Whole Child–Whole Village Comer Conference for Comer teachers and faculty
- More than 200 families participate in Bingo for Books at Thornwell School for the Arts, an after-school event
- More than 100 donors help West Hartsville raise \$500 for a book swap so children can have books to read over Christmas break



December 2011

- Tara King, Comer facilitator, travels to New Haven, Conn., for ongoing training
- Communication meeting with Comer team; planning begins for 2012-2013 school year

January 2012

- Pedal to the Metal, a supplemental math course, is offered at Hartsville High School
- Mentor program launched at Comer schools, yielding 44 mentors for 48 elementary school students
- Hartsville students attending Mayo High School allowed to participate in ALO classes

February 2012

- Organic Chemistry workshop conducted for Hartsville High School and Mayo students at the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics
- Two-day Comer training program conducted for Darlington County School District bus drivers serving the Comer schools



March 2012

- Mentor training sessions held
- Comer training for bus drivers

April 2012

- Mandarin Chinese I students, under the direction of Dr. Ye Li, participate in Coker College's annual Celebration of Academics
- Mentor training

May 2012

- Dr. Comer is keynote speaker for Darlington County School District's year-end celebration at Coker College in Hartsville
- Mentor/mentee celebration dinner held at Jerusalem Baptist Church

June 2012

- Collaboration with Coker College and the college's 2012 Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom School, a summer enrichment program for rising students in grades 1-5



2012-2013 school year initiatives

Based on our successes in the 2011-2012 school year, ALO continues to expand. In the fall, Hartsville residents attending Mayo High School or Hartsville High School will be able to participate in an expanded course offering. For the four Comer elementary schools, we will continue to expand the mentor program and collaborate with other organizations to help develop the whole child.

ALO

- New classes for 2012-2013
- Mandarin Chinese II
- Advanced chemistry
- Environmental science
- Beginning modern dance (held at Coker College campus)
- Ballet technique 1 (held at Coker College campus)

Comer SDP

- Collaboration with the Pee Dee Scouts, Boy Scouts of America, to implement a scouting program in the Comer schools
- Collaboration with Florence Darlington Technical College to provide student mentors to the Comer Program through its early childhood and human services departments



TEACH Foundation

214 North Fifth Street

Hartsville, South Carolina 29550

www.teachfoundation.org