

# Elizabeth Ely Education Foundation

## 2010 Annual Report

It has been a busy and productive time for the Foundation over the past year. The Board made a decision to review and refine the mission of the Foundation in greater detail. We knew that originally the mission was to continue Elizabeth's legacy and to ensure that her special contributions to the world of education were not lost. We often heard the testimonial, "Elizabeth saved my life," that we knew our mission was to "save" whatever it was that Elizabeth did that was so powerful and had such a profound impact on so many of your lives. We also knew that students who were in Elizabeth's programs achieved at a level above what would have been predicted based on their previous educational successes.

We also are aware from our experiences that organizations do not have consistent outcomes unless they also have consistent operational aspects. So, we asked ourselves, "Could we document what Elizabeth, and the schools Elizabeth worked in, had as operating principles in sufficient detail to recommend them to other educators who want to replicate her outcomes?" We understood that there was a chance it would not be possible to do this. If so, we would have to define our mission differently. But, at the same time, we heard from a number of teachers and students who were using her approach in their schools/programs they were having success.

I am pleased to provide you with this report of our activities and projects over the past year and to share our plans for the future. We have had a full agenda of activities and continue to share the work of Elizabeth to as wide an audience as possible.

### **Executive Director Appointment:**

I am pleased to announce that we engaged David Kushner, President of the Kushner Companies, LLC to serve as the Foundation's first Executive Director. David has more than 35 years of experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, with the extra benefit for us that he began his career as a classroom teacher. He has served as CEO for two national foundations and is an advisor to several foundations through his consulting work. David is the past treasurer and current board member of the Association Foundation Group, a membership organization for staff of association-related foundations. Formerly, he was the Chairman of the Board of the Binghamton University Foundation, a \$150 million organization serving the needs of faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students at the institution. We encourage you to contact David by telephone or email if you have any questions or to share your ideas for the Foundation.

### **Update on Board Member Judy O'Hara:**

In September 2010 our founding Board member and dear friend, Judy O'Hara suffered a stroke. Several of us have visited Judy and I am pleased to let you know that she is doing well in her recovery process. She misses attending meetings of the Board, as we miss her sage advice and wonderful sense of humor. We look forward to her continuing participation and suggest that if you wish to send her messages of good will, please send them to our office and we will give them to Judy.

**Elizabeth Ely Education Foundation, Inc.**  
**111Newlands Street - Chevy Chase, MD 20815**  
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**[www.elyfoundation.org](http://www.elyfoundation.org)**

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## **Research Project:**

The Foundation is engaged in an ongoing education research project that has included holding two investigatory sessions; one with current and former Field School teachers and a second with former Field School students, in an effort to better understand the principles, philosophies and successful applications that form the basis of the educational model that Elizabeth and her team used so successfully. The sessions were facilitated and videotaped and we have carefully analyzed the results as part of the process for creating new programs, templates and related materials based on Elizabeth's educational philosophies. Work is underway to draft templates incorporating the fundamentals of Elizabeth's principles for teachers and schools to use in their programs. There is much to be done to complete this project and we will keep you posted on progress through updates on the Foundation website, [www.elyfoundation.org](http://www.elyfoundation.org).

## ***The Stuff of Joy***

Our thanks to those of you who have purchased copies of *The Stuff of Joy*, the wonderful book about Elizabeth's life by well-known author Phyllis Theroux. The Foundation has additional copies of the book for sale at \$35 plus shipping. You can order your own copy or ones to share with friends, by emailing [davidkushner@elyfoundation.org](mailto:davidkushner@elyfoundation.org).

## **Successful Cafritz Foundation Matching Grant:**

We are most grateful to The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation for providing The Calvin and Jane Cafritz Matching Grant of \$20,000 to the Elizabeth Ely Education Foundation. The Foundation was quite successful in nearly doubling contributions for the challenge grant through your generosity as supporters of Elizabeth's work and legacy. Those funds were used to underwrite our research efforts and the writing of *The Stuff of Joy*.

We extend our thanks to the Cafritz Family for their commitment to sustaining the principles that framed Elizabeth's philosophy of education. "Mrs. Ely was a unique educator who had a remarkable ability to discern the potential in prospective students. Upon the first meeting, she knew whether the Field School could help them gain self-confidence and whether it would provide the right environment to nurture their abilities and talents to their fullest capacity", commented Calvin Cafritz.

## **Recent Activities:**

The Foundation Board recently met with the leadership of the Center for Innovative Teaching (CIT) located here in Washington, DC. As part of our ongoing research and outreach to like-minded education organizations, we investigated the CIT and realized they were providing Washington area teachers with innovative solutions and models for improving success with students of all levels of educational success. The Board held discussions with the leadership of the CIT to learn more about the organization and had the opportunity to observe and participate in a teacher training session held at their facility. The Board is considering next steps for potentially collaborating with CIT on various projects.

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Executive Director David Kushner earlier this year met with James Woodson, Director of Alumni Relations at The Field School for an orientation visit and tour of the facility. This visit helped David to learn about Field's ongoing educational programming and to meet several long time Field teachers who worked with Elizabeth.

## **Donor Support:**

The Elizabeth Ely Education Foundation depends on your generous contributions to complete ongoing work and to launch new initiatives for sharing the educational model and underlying principles that Elizabeth created and successfully used throughout her career. Contributions can be made by check to The Elizabeth Ely Education Foundation, or by using our donation link on the Foundation website [www.elyfoundation.org](http://www.elyfoundation.org). On behalf of the Foundation Board, I want to thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Laura Henderson  
Foundation Board Chair

## **Elizabeth Ely Foundation Board Members**

Ann Holladay – Treasurer  
Sharaine Ely – Secretary  
Clay Kaufman – Director  
Judy O'Hara – Director  
David Kushner – Executive Director

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