



# Adopt A Class

## AAC Founder/ CEO Reflects on 2007

Dear Friends,

What an exciting 2007 it has been for Adopt A Class! Not only have we experienced tremendous growth (85 Adopter Groups have adopted over 3,000 urban children), Adopt A Class has been chosen as a Leadership Cincinnati Class Project and four individuals have volunteered to serve as Adopt A Class Team Leaders.

While this growth has been exciting, I had the opportunity to experience the real impact of Adopt A Class while attending over 90 Christmas Parties in Cincinnati. It was difficult to tell who was having the most fun

– the Adopters or the children! While it goes without saying the children enjoyed their gifts, it was very evident the conversations and camaraderie taking place was even more special. I was overwhelmed by the ingenuity, creativity and generosity of our Adopters. It was easy to see these parties were “not about a gift” but about having an impact on a child’s life.

In December of 2007 Adopt A Class partnered with WCPO TV with their Holiday Wishes Telethon and Online Auction and received donations of over \$20,000 from viewers. With these donations over 1,200 urban children at schools on the Adopt A Class waiting list received a Christmas gift. All those chil-

dren need now is an adopting company.

As we enter 2008 we have already set our goals to secure Adopters for another 58 classes made up of 1,300 urban children. With that in mind, if you or someone you know might be interested in adopting a class or serving in some other role with our program please give us a call.

Thanks to all of you for the positive impact you are having on our children and Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Bill Burwinkel

## Annual School Year Schedule



Whew! The cookie crumbs have been swept up and the wrapping paper has been put away until next year. But before you can relax, make sure that you’re all caught up with January’s schedule and start to think about upcoming events.

- During the first week of January students should have prepared their thank you letters and teachers should have contacted the Business/ Community Coordinator to schedule a time for the letters to be picked up. The School Adopt A Class Coordinator also should have sent out an email note to all Business/ Community Coordinators thanking them for their participation in the holiday parties.
- During the first week of February, teachers need to contact their Business/ Community Coordinator to discuss ideas for the Spring Outing.

Suggestions include: a company visit, a trip to a museum, a classroom visit, a cookout/ picnic, and a pot luck breakfast or lunch at school.

- In March, the students will write to the Adopters again.
- In April, Adopters will visit the school to announce the Spring Outing.
- During the third week in May teachers and students will enjoy the Spring Outing and say their good-byes until fall.

### Special Points of Interest:

- *Don’t forget to check the website for important information and useful links and tips! [www.aacfoundation.com](http://www.aacfoundation.com)*
- *Adopt a Class is always looking for new **Business/ Community Team Leaders**. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Bill Burwinkel at (513) 244-8075 or Janice Leonetti at (503) 635-0203.*
- *Make sure to use [www.Goodsearch.com](http://www.Goodsearch.com) for your internet searches. You can raise 1.3 cents for each search done with Adopt a Class entered as the charity.*

### Contact Information

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# Business/ Community Team Leader Highlight: Five Questions for Meg Miller

Meg Miller is a Business/ Community Team Leader for Adopt A Class in Portland, Oregon. Meg says that some of the particular challenges facing schools in Portland are overcrowding and a lack of funding for the arts.

## 1. Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am 23, married, and have a cat who acts like a person (Addy). I've worked at Geo. S.

Bush, Inc. & Co. (Customs Broker and Freight Forwarder) since my last semester of college. Upon graduation I decided I would put my Elementary Education degree and teaching license on reserve and continue working for GSB. In the summer of 2006 I was thrilled to hear that GSB would be joining Adopt A Class - a perfect way to integrate my education.

## 2. How did you get involved in AAC?

GSB decided to join, and I decided to be a part of the volunteer crew. At the time of GSB's induction into AAC my co-worker was our Business Team Leader. She left the company to pursue opportunities abroad and thus, I filled her role.



Meg (on the right with the witch hat) is celebrating Halloween with her co-worker Bridget and their buddies in Mrs. Nicholson's class.

## 3. What does your role as Business/ Community Team Leader entail?

I coordinate GSB's volunteers and work with Debbie Nicholson, our teacher, to plan visits and activities. I love it!

## 4. What positive changes do you see the AAC program making?

It's all in the students' eyes. It's pretty clear that they love the visits almost as much as my co-workers and I do. I haven't asked any of the kids directly, but it seems as though they feel extra-special knowing there are adults in their community that care enough to visit, play, and read with them. In addition, the contributions GSB has made to school fundraisers and Mrs. Nicholson's classroom library (and the kids' home libraries) would not have happened had GSB not been involved in AAC.

## 5. Is there anything you would like to say to the adopters/teachers at the beginning of the school year?

I'd like to encourage the adopters to keep up the good work that they are all doing! I'm sure the classroom visits mean more to our buddies than any of us realize. To the teachers - please go home early and take a load off. You have one of the toughest jobs around. Thank you for all that you do everyday.

Each newsletter will feature an interview with an outstanding person or organization who is going above and beyond to make a difference in the Foundation and in the lives of students. To nominate a person or organization for the newsletter, contact Bill Burwinkel at [bill.b@aacfoundation.com](mailto:bill.b@aacfoundation.com)

## Fourth Graders Beat DEI in Soccer!

Kim Rittmeier from DEI, Incorporated and Ms. Dellecave's fourth grade class at Winton Hills Academy enjoyed a friendly game of soccer in September. Kim said that DEI's Rowena Gillam, who happens to be a soccer coach, and her daughter Kayla did an AMAZING job explaining the rules and keeping the kids interested. The fourth graders won—of course!—even though the DEI folks were intense competitors.

