



# Adopt a Class

## Principal Recognizes Success of AAC

Craig Hockenberry has been involved with Adopt a Class from the outset. As the principal of Oyler Community Learning Center in Lower Price Hill he remembers fondly the day that Bill Burkwinkel came to him with an idea that would later become Adopt a Class as we know it today. Hockenberry says, "One classroom became two, and then three, and the next thing you know we had hundreds of kids adopted through partnerships with other organizations. I set Bill up with the first classroom and that snowballed into him bringing in other businesses as partners."

What fuels Hockenberry is a mission to improve the lives of the students he works with. Ninety-six percent of children at Oyler School are classified as "economically disadvantaged," and all qualify for free and reduced breakfast and lunch. Last year, Oyler had approximately 100 students receiving homelessness services. Lower Price Hill, the neighborhood that surrounds Oyler, is a historically Appalachian community that has remained culturally isolated from the rest of the city. In Lower Price Hill, 62% of adults have

failed to complete high school and the 2000 Census showed no adult college graduates living in the community. But in spite of the statistics, good things are happening at Oyler. With grades pre-K through 12 all in the same building, Oyler is one of the largest schools on the West Side and with 950 students it is the largest Community Learning Center in Cincinnati.

Hockenberry credits AAC for helping the students at Oyler learn to build relationships with people and how to interact with people in the business field. He says, "It teaches them to mind their manners and how to behave around adults." He also lauds AAC for giving children a meaningful way to practice their reading and writing skills as they draft and polish their wish lists and thank you letters.

Hockenberry says that the most exciting aspect of AAC is that it has expanded from a party at Christmas into a full year program. The partners that he works with take part in outings with the classes, take them on tours of their companies, and enjoy picnics with students. Many AAC volunteers mentor and tutor students during the school day. Several companies and organizations also make fiscal contributions to the school, providing instructional sup-

plies and book bags. To date Adopt a Class has brought in over \$50,000 in donations, parties, and presents. Oyler's AAC program has a 100% retention rate—every company that has participated continues to take part.

When asked to share a favorite AAC memory, Hockenberry recalls the children who have refused to open their gifts during the Christmas party at school and have instead insisted on bringing their presents home to unwrap on Christmas morning. Hockenberry takes joy in watching mentors build relationships with children. He says that sometimes when the AAC sponsors find out that children have no beds or shoes, they will do separate things to provide for those very specific needs.

Craig Hockenberry and Oyler are a model of AAC success!



## Annual School Year Schedule

Our students are well into their



school year and adopters should have already met with their classes and received their introductory letters. By now all

adopters should have responded to their introductory letters and asked those thought-provoking questions that will help them get to know their students. Soon, the students will be sending their responses and communi-

cating their Christmas wishes. Soon, teachers will contact the Business/ Community Coordinator and School Coordinator to plan the Holiday parties. Now the fun can begin!

### 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 Burkwinkel 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. So far this year we've raised \$20.89!

### Contact Information

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# Business/ Community Team Leader Highlight: Five Questions for Tim Jabin



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

*I was born and raised in West Michigan (Grand Rapids). I attended Albion College where I met my wife, Kay. We were married in 1987 and I enrolled at the University of Cincinnati College of Law the same year. We have resided in Cincinnati the past 20 years and are raising 6 children (ages 2-18).*

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

*One day at lunch, Bill described the mission of the Adopt A Class program to me. After taking time to make sure I could continue to fulfill my existing family and business commitments, I accepted Bill's offer to participate as a Business/Community Team Leader.*

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

*My responsibilities as a Business/Community Team Leader are fairly simple. It is my responsibility to recruit businesses that are willing to commit human resources (and nominal financial resources) for the benefit*

*of our young people enrolled at Riverview East Academy. It is also my responsibility to ensure that the relationship between the businesses, their employees and the staff and students at Riverview East Academy is developing in a manner valued by everyone.*

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

*We know that children benefit from healthy, nurturing relationships with adults. At its core, this is the mission of the Adopt A Class program—to enable a child to enjoy the benefits of spending time with a caring, interested, nurturing adult. We also know that adults benefit when they allow a child to touch their heart. Children are being nurtured and adults are being humbled; Adopt A Class is changing lives for the better.*

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

*Simply, thank you. We may never see all the positive effects of the Adopt A Class program; that's o.k. If one of the children that we all touch reaches out to another in need and offers a hand or an ear or other assistance, then know that our purpose was served. Thank you.*

*\*Editor's Note: Tim also serves on the Board of the Adopt a Class Foundation.*

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)

## Leadership Cincinnati adopts Adopt a Class!

Adopt a Class has been chosen as a class project for the Leadership Cincinnati Class XXXI. Leadership Cincinnati is a program of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. It is designed to increase leadership resources in our community. The goals of this class project are to increase participation in the AAC program and to formulate a successor plan for the Foundation.

## How Does Title I Work?

All AAC schools are also Title I schools. A school can apply for federal Title I status if a certain percentage of the students who attend it are living in poverty. Title I schools receive additional money that must be used for students who are failing or at risk of failing to meet state academic standards. To qualify for free lunch, a family of three must make an income of less than

\$20,900 and a family of four must make less than \$25,100.

