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## **BERWYN C.A.R.E.S. CONGRATULATES PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH THE 2009 BERWYN CHALLENGE ON DONORSCHOOSE**

**February 10, 2010 (Berwyn, IL)** – Earlier this year, Berwyn C.A.R.E.S. (Citizens Aligned to Renew Education for Students) announced the 19 local classroom projects funded through the 2009 Berwyn Challenge on Donors Choose.

Berwyn schools are underfunded compared to the public schools in surrounding communities. However BerwynCARES has found local residents are willing to contribute. DonorsChoose.org is an online service that allows individuals, organizations and businesses to learn about teacher inspired classroom projects and to make donations to support them.

Each fall at the start of a new school year, BerwynCARES launches a new Challenge to request proposals from local teachers and to raise fund to make these projects a reality.

“The 2009 Challenge was our most successful to date. Thanks to generous contributions from our community and from around the United States and an additional \$4000 in grants from BerwynCARES, 19 projects were funded and thousands of students were impacted, said Shelley Titzer, president and founder of Berwyn C.A.R.E.S.

Newly Funded Projects Include:

- **Caudill Up & Read:** A wide selection of novels nominated for the Rebecca Caudill literary award will be the basis of a reading contest for eighth grade students.
- **Choir Can't Be Seen. Only Heard:** An expanding show choir with 40+ students received choral risers for performances and will benefit the school for years to come.
- **A Long Way Gone & Modern African Politics:** An Honors Legislative Government high school class will learn about modern African politics in order to spark interest in global issues. This project received matching funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- **Writing is Fun:** Children from kindergarten through third grade who are considered below grade level received a new activity center to help enrich the creative process.

A fall family concert featuring local bands The Boogers and The Atomic Gumdrops helped BerwynCARES raise money to support some of these projects, but this year money came from other sources too, including a local resident John Chrastka who grew a mustache as part of the nationwide Mustaches for Kids challenge through Donors Choose.

“The breadth of the donations, from residents here in Berwyn to matching funds from the Gates Foundation reinforces to us that there truly is an enthusiasm and passion for education in our community and around the country”, said Mrs. Titzer.

*Berwyn C.A.R.E.S. (Citizens Aligned to Renew Education for Students) is an organization created to unite residents interested in renewing and sustaining an enthusiasm, interest and passion for the education system in Berwyn. More information is available online at [www.berwyncares.org](http://www.berwyncares.org).*