



A Touch of Understanding[®], Inc.

5280 Stirling Street, Suite 102, Granite Bay, California 95746
Phone (916) 791-4146 • Fax (916) 791-4134
www.TouchOfUnderstanding.org



Report of Activities 7/1/12-6/30/13

Watching our young people take their place in our community...

A Touch of Understanding (ATOU) has been a part of my life for almost as long as I can remember. I saw the program for the first time when I was in 2nd grade.

That's when I first met Mike and Maggie and heard



Courtney, who has hemiplegia, in second grade

Mike, who lost both hands in a race car accident, talk about his disability. I remember being amazed that even though he'd lost his hands, he was still able to drive, and even fly airplanes again.

Through ATOU, I've met many successful people with disabilities over the years. I think that has had a

big impact on shaping my feelings about having a disability, and made me see very early, that it didn't have to limit what I could do.

When I was 13, I started volunteering as a speaker with ATOU myself. I loved speaking with students and answering their questions. I even got my best friend Paige to become a speaker too. Now there are lots of kids speaking.

You hear a lot about bullying these days, and sometimes I'm asked if I was ever bullied at school. I never was, and I think that having ATOU presenting to students at the schools I went to is largely the reason.

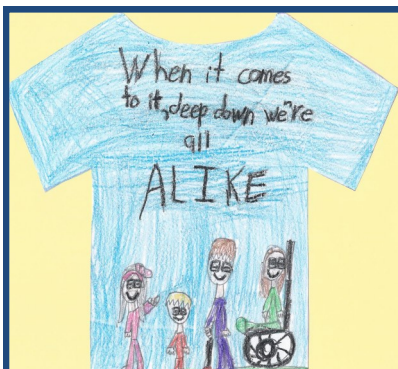
While ATOU most certainly positively impacts the lives of kids with disabilities at the schools they present to, I've also seen the dramatic ways in which it shifts the perceptions of kids without disabilities. As an ATOU speaker, I've seen that being able to participate in the sessions and hear and ask questions of our speakers, helps all kids understand that we all have strengths and we all have weaknesses, and that these differences are what make each of us who we are. I think it helps them see whatever difficulties they may be having differently, and helps empower them in their own lives.

I see this same empowered attitude in the kids that participate in ATOU's Youth F.O.R.C.E. I love being part of the Core Planning Group for the Youth F.O.R.C.E., helping plan and participate in all the activities. The cross country ski trip was one of my favorites!

I'm in college now and started an internship with the Roseville Police Department last January, so I'm not able to volunteer as a speaker with ATOU or help out in the office anymore. I still feel like part of the ATOU family though, and the experiences I've had and friendships I've made at ATOU will be with me forever.



Courtney and her service dog, Fern



Founder and Executive Director, Leslie DeDora, was honored as the recipient of the "2012 Putting Kids First Award" by Kids First, formerly Child Abuse Prevention Council of Placer County and

The National "2013 Characters Unite Award." by USA Network (<http://www.charactersunite.com/initiatives/characters-unite-award/award-winners>)

A Touch of Understanding is *“Building Empathy ~ Igniting Respect”* on school campuses and beyond!



Hunter showing his brace to his class

It's hard to put into words the magic that happens at ATOU events - the connections made, the insight gained and the “aha! moments.” As our tagline states, empathy is built and respect is ignited. After a school workshop, the mother of a fifth grade student who uses hearing aids put her experience in the following words, “*I found myself laughing,*

crying and every emotion in-between, including a great appreciation for you and your organization. My daughter and I had great discussions today after school and I have no doubt that today made a positive impact on her for the rest of her life...and me too. Thank you again so much for today.”

During the 2012-2013 school year, 6,196 students participated in our disability-awareness workshop, more than in any previous year! This brings the total number of students who have participated in our disability-awareness workshop to approximately 58,000 since A Touch of Understanding was incorporated in 1996. This year's students included children and young people at sixty-one schools in the Greater Sacramento Region, as well as staff members of the Sacramento Children's Museum, guests at the Discovery Museum Science and

“I found myself laughing, crying and every emotion in-between, including a great appreciation for you and your organization.”

Space Center of Sacramento and executive level managers from Safeway, Northern California. Participants used wheelchairs and white mobility canes; they handled braces and artificial limbs. They took part in activities helping them become familiar with the experiences of having invisible disabilities such as learning disabilities and autism. An eighth grade girl wrote, *“Before this presentation, I really didn't think much about autistic people. They were just kind of there and very loud. I would stare a bit when I saw an autistic person, and I knew it wasn't the*

right thing to do. Now I realize that they are people too, they are just a little different. It showed me that autistic people shouldn't be left out. I hope that you continue this program at St. Michaels and do it for Red Ribbon week or other occasions, for years to come.”

Along with our in-school workshop, more than 100 children and young people have been active in our ATOU Youth F.O.R.C.E. activities. F.O.R.C.E. stands for “Friends Offering Respect ~ Creating Empowerment” and this is exactly what our members have been doing. At their monthly meetings members feel a sense of belonging and friendship. This builds self-confidence and independence. Marcia, mother of 9 year-old Chris, wrote, *“The ATOU Youth F.O.R.C.E. provides a safe, productive, and fun venue for my child to interact with peers and neuro-typical youth. We can attend interesting events in a socially safe and accepting environment. The Youth F.O.R.C.E. provides a great forum of role models and diversity for my son to learn from. Important life skills such as socializing, initiating, taking turns, attentive listening, etc. are all part of the ATOU Youth F.O.R.C.E. experience. We greatly appreciate the opportunities and the organization that goes into putting these events together. The ATOU Youth Force is a new-found treasure for us.”*

In addition to providing school workshops and Youth F.O.R.C.E. events, ATOU:

- Hosted an Autism Seminar featuring Dr. Glenn Elliott.
- Provided internship opportunities for students at California State University, Sacramento and the University of Phoenix.
- Collaborated with Progressive Employment Solutions to have their clients, who have disabilities, volunteer with ATOU to build their social and employment skills.
- Hosted the AccessToCare Fair which included 86 Exhibitors of services and products and two seminars.

Thanks to the support of our donors, and the effort of our ATOU team, 2012-2013 was yet another year of building empathy and igniting respect on school campuses and beyond.

Leslie J. DeDara
Executive Director

Members of the ATOU Youth F.O.R.C.E. live their mission...

"Making a difference and having fun while doing it."

Each month children and young people, with and without disabilities, gather to have fun and make friends. They build social and leadership skills and serve our community. For many this is the first time they experience full inclusion. The past year's activities included the following:

- Card making for injured service members
- T-Shirt Tie-Dye party
- California State Fair
- ATOU Volunteer Appreciation Picnic
- Sky Zone
- Campfire and Scavenger Hunt
- Bowling
- Laser Tag
- Holiday Party
- Game Night
- Cross-Country Ski Trip
- Valentine's Day Dance
- Science Exploration Night
- Disability Dinner
- Dreams to Goals Workshop
- Attending a Community Theater production
- Day at the Lake

"My son loved the Science Night! I've never heard him say 'Wow!' so many times before. The ATOU Youth F.O.R.C.E. is a new found treasure for us."
Parent



ATOU Youth F.O.R.C.E Comments:

"Being at school, you see bullying happens every day. It happens frequently. It really changes people's lives. I feel like being in ATOU, which really is an awesome organization, is great. You get to help people that are being bullied and help people who are bullying. And help people see that what they are doing is wrong. Afterwards, once you see the dramatic change that it makes, how much it affects people, it makes you feel good about yourself."

Kayla

Following the ATOU Dreams to Goals Workshop:

"I had so much fun. There is a quote that goes 'Go ahead and tell me I'm not good enough, tell me I can't do it, because I will show you over and over again that I can!' I see how that talks about Dreams and Goals."

Sydney

"I'm walking away with confidence because of being here."

Michaela

ATOU is improving the climate on school campuses in the Sacramento Region and beyond...

Calaveras County

Vallecito Union School District

El Dorado County

Buckeye Union School District
El Dorado Union High School District
Rescue Union School District

Marin County

Mill Valley School District

Placer County

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District
Eureka Union School District
Loomis Union School District
Newcastle Elementary School District
Rocklin Unified School District
Roseville City School District
Western Placer Unified School District

San Joaquin County

Manteca Unified School District

Solano County

Dixon Unified School District

Sacramento

Elk Grove Unified School District
Folsom-Cordova Unified School District
Natomas Unified School District
Robla School District
Sacramento City Unified School District
San Juan Unified School District
Twin Rivers Unified School District

Yolo County

Davis Joint Unified School

Our thanks to our Program Sponsors/Donors

INDIVIDUAL DONORS:

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 John and Doris Adams
 Sonya Adamson
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 Maninder and Ritu Atwal
 Andrew and Susan Baldonado
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 Fred and Lorraine Burgess
 Jane and Max Cargay
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 Madaline Caswell
 Carol and Harrison Clark
 Juleen and Daniel Clift
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 Michael and Vicki Curran
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 Adam Pettey
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 Tamara Ranta
 Scott Reeves
 Jennifer and Brad Rexroad
 Jeffery and Carol Robinson
 Ruby and John Rodina
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 Michele, Scott and Nicholas Stanford
 Reve Taylor
 Joan Tesio
 Rosa and Kenneth Umbach
 William Walker
 Lorayne and Salvatore Vasile
 Jinnie and Dennis Welsh
 Jeanne Wexler
 Susan and Monte Whitefield
 Barbara and Michael Wilson
 Vina Woodland
 Richard and Mary Wurster
 Charlene and Rod Yamanaka
 Debby and Michael Ziegler
 R. Zimmerman and Karen Morelli-
 Zimmerman

IN MEMORY OF: BY:

Callahan, beloved, guide dog of Darlene O'Brien	Deborah Foster Susie Glover Stanford and Heather Hirata Michael Wilson John DeLury Leslie DeDora
All our family members who have gone to Heaven	Lyn Johnsen Erskine
Carol Arrant	Mrs. Joyce Arrant and George Arrant
June Daley	Joyce Beeman
Patricia Covey	Carolyn Torgerson/Staff Dev. Carolsue and Stanley Acres Jackie Osborn Obie and Betty Scott Peter and Diane Filice Susan Bell Teresa Heitmiller-Olea and Derek Olea James and Pamela Drennon Ann Casagrande Leslie & Richard DeDora Ruby Rodina Sue Gilbert
Lauris Ennis	Erik and Grace Stavrand
Donald Johnson	Erik and Grace Stavrand
Maribeth Stavrand	Ed Ennis
IN HONOR OF:	BY:
Pam Gehrts Meta Stavrand Ed Ennis Wesley Shore Laura Beeman Erik & Grace Stavrand Jennifer DeDora	Dorothy Abercrombie Erik & Grace Stavrand Erik & Grace Stavrand Wes Shore Richard and Suellen Beeman Meta Stavrand Jackie Callahan

IN-KIND:

Dan Adragna	Susie & Jim Glover
Bratkovich Family	Marasso Family
Jackie Callahan	Seagraves Family
Julie Davison	Michele Skinner
Leslie & Richard DeDora	Stephanie Solomon
Paul DeDora	Rosa Umbach
Amy Ellis	Erik Urias

IN-KIND COMPANIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

Alpha Graphics
 Avalon Printing & Graphics
 Bayside Church
 Bella Toscana Salon
 California State Fair
 Christine Karr
 Classic Impressions Awards & Trophies
 Denio's Roseville Farmers Market
 Disneyland Resort
 Fresh Market
 KB Services
 Microsoft
 Nestle Waters
 Noah's Bagels
 Olive Garden Restaurant
 Raley's
 Sacramento Music Circus
 Safeway
 Southwest Airlines
 Starbucks
 WebFeet Creations



Nicholas Bratkovich
 speaking about his stroke at
 the ATOU Youth F.O.R.C.E.
 Disability Dinner 2013

CORPORATE GIFTS-CONTINUED:

Mechanics Bank
 Mickie's Many Moors
 PG&E Corporation Campaign for the Community
 Wendy's International, Inc.

FOUNDATIONS/GRANTS:

Carmichael Emblem Club #355
 Community of Christ
 Freda B. Runyon Foundation
 Hagar Family Foundation
 Jonas Family Foundation
 PASCO Foundation
 Placer Community Foundation, Mental Health
 Services Act
 Mikuni Charitable Foundation
 City of Roseville Citizens' Benefit Fund
 Ronald McDonald House Charities, Northern California
 City of Roseville Citizens' Benefit Fund
 Safeway Foundation
 Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Alliance
 State Farm Youth Advisory Board
 Wells Fargo Foundation
 Yocha Dehe Community Fund

SERVICE CLUBS:

Active 20/30 Club of Greater Sacramento #1032
 Roseville Host Lions Club

CORPORATE GIFTS:

America's Tire, Driven to Care
 Anheuser Busch Companies
 AT&T United Way/Employees Giving Campaign
 Dream Quest
 Grancell, Lebobiz, Stander, Reubens & Thomas
 JP Morgan Chase
 JR Putman, Inc.
 Julia's Tax Service
 L.E.R.A., Citrus Heights Police Department
 Loomis Basin Brewing Company

Volunteers served nearly 10,000 hours for ATOU!
 34 volunteers received the President's Volunteer Service Award
 contributing 100 hours or more—



Joyce Beeman
 2012-2013 Recipient
 of the
 Ed Ennis Award

John Adams	Greg Elie	John Kennedy	Tukey Seagraves
George Arrant	Pam Gehrts	Cathe Moody	Nicholas Stanford
Joyce Beeman	Paula Henry	Darlene O'Brien	C.C. Stevens
Jackie Callahan	Doris Hernandez	Courtney Osio	Rosa Umbach
Byron Chapman	Stanford Hirata	Mandeep Panglia	Erik Urias
Amber Davis	Anna Hoban	Karen Parsegian	Anna von Wendorff
John DeLury	Amanda Husa	Mike Penketh	Michael Wilson
Suzie Dobbs	Felice Husa	Sandy Puleo	
Lyuba Dubinets	Greg Husa	Bob Schultz	

Comments tell “aha!” moments....

Student Survey Responses (16% response rate)

- 100% of students feel that ATOU helped them learn more about the tools used by individuals with disabilities.
- 97% of students reported that A Touch of Understanding helped them feel more comfortable with individuals with disabilities.
- 94% of students said it would now be easier to make friends with someone with a disability.



Student reading in Braille

“After going through all the stations today, I realize how much I take for granted every day. I know how lucky I am to have good eyesight, all my limbs, and be healthy. I understand how it takes so much courage for the disabled to overcome their disability and that they never give up. Also, I thought this was a great experience for the 5th-8th graders to learn about how disabled people feel when someone stares at them and the things they had to go through to learn how to speak, or walk, or just deal with life. I also was amazed by all the new inventions people have come up with to help them learn and get through their disabilities in their lives. I am so astonished by all of the stories these people shared with us about their life and how they overcame these difficult times. I learned they can do any sport they want, develop writing skills, and even have photographic memorization. I think as an 8th grader we should carry on this program with the younger kids so they will understand what to do and how to act when they are with someone that looks or acts different than them. It would help them to understand that it's okay to be different.”

Eighth Grade Boy

I know how to act and to help out. I have a feeling I'll be making new friends soon, that's how confident I am. I pledge to be a buddy not a bully!”

Sixth Grade Boy

“Just because there is a bump in life's road, doesn't mean life ends. I could see you can still do so much more. Until A Touch of Understanding, I was missing out on a lot.”

High School Student

“I saw a girl being teased because of the way she talked. I did nothing. Now I know I should have stood up for her and stopped it.”

High School Student

“Thank you so much! You have taught me to accept my ADHD and appreciate more!

Fifth Grade Girl

From Workshop Student ➡ ATOU Volunteer ➡ Adult Donor: by Mathew Chalmers

“What I have seen A Touch of Understanding, Inc. doing ever since I became aware of Leslie DeDora and her incredible, dedicated, determined, warm and welcoming staff (long ago, in my sixth grade classroom) is something that the world desperately needs. The message of compassion and understanding that this team takes directly to the classroom and the community is critical to forging a new generation that fights intolerance and prejudice with hope and empathy. But flowery words aside, these people are committed to making things happen. The discussions I've had and the projects I've worked on have all been well thought out, practical, and designed to actually *do* things in the community. I've seen first-hand people associated with this organization overcome *incredible* odds pull through, excel, and go out to do things that are incredible by *any* standard. ATOU's message is strong and compassionate, ATOU's people brim with a quiet strength and heart, and ATOU's leadership is rock solid. These are *good* people who know what they're doing.”

Volunteer Comments:

From Paul Mitchell, who sustained a traumatic brain injury: “Thank you for providing the means for me to get back in the motion of life.”

From Sandy Pulio, who has spina bifida: “It took about ten minutes to realize I belong in ATOU. I have been disabled my whole life and was teased and judged when I was young. If I can stop one person from being teased or bullied it makes my day!”



Sandy at workshop

Teacher Survey Responses (41% response rate)

- 100% of teachers considered the ATOU workshop to be a valuable experience to improve respectful relationships and communication.
- 90% of teachers reported increased student awareness/sensitivity to others.
- 86% reported improved peer interactions following the workshop.

To each of you very special human beings at A TOUCH OF UNDERSTANDING...

Another life-changing day for all of us...Thank you for all that you do!!! Our heartfelt thanks always!

Mary Manner, Fourth Grade Teacher

We want to thank you again for another outstanding program at Tamalpais Valley Elementary School. Your excellent speakers and well thought out activities have helped to build a tremendous amount of empathy and disability awareness. We have many guest programs at our school and I say with all sincerity that yours is the most effective. We plan to have you return to present to our fourth graders for as many years in the future as you are willing to come.

Gail van Adelsberg Principal

Thanks again to you and your team for helping us learn, grow, and expand our knowledge of others today to make us better people!

Kelli Hanson, Ed.D.,Principal

"Having this exposure to people with disabilities definitely "opens our students' eyes" to differences. ATOU impacts each student differently. Whether they make a connection of a family member with a disability or someone they have seen at the store, it breaks the barrier down of being scared to approach or smile at someone who is different in some way. This program sends my students home with a different perspective at the end of the school day, and I thank you for a program that can teach awareness, inspire kindness, and provide an understanding that we all have something that is different about us that makes us unique."

Tracy Nelson, Third Grade Teacher

Parent Comments:

Parent Survey Responses (15% response rate)

- 99% feel the ATOU experience will help their child accept and include individuals with disabilities in their life..
- 96% anticipate the workshop leaving a lasting positive impression on their child.

"He talked about having compassion for people with disabilities, their mobility and accessibility to building entrances and such. He said more people need to be patient with people with disabilities."

"My daughter was really positively impacted. She told me about each activity, each speaker, shared their stories, and showed me their pictures in the booklet. This program really pulled at her heart strings! Amazing program, so glad the kids get to experience it. Thank you!"

"My daughter will now have a lasting impression of what it feels like to have a variety of disabilities. It has had a very strong impact on her."



Doris, a stroke survivor, showing how to tie shoes with one hand

Financial Statements

Statement of Income

July 2012-June 2013

Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2013

INCOME

Community Service Program	13,230.30
Corporate Donations	13,159.44
Fundraising	6,671.94
Contributions Income	25,511.41
Government Grant	38,634.00
Grants	92,379.23
United Way Contributions	836.94
Program Fees	73,950.00
Interest/Dividend Income	<u>232.15</u>

TOTAL INCOME

264,605.41

EXPENSE

Youth Force Program Expenses	7,755.39
Advertising / Promotion	215.00
Automobile Expense	1,080.84
Books & Publications	253.58
Copy/Duplication/Printing	8,357.57
Depreciation	723.04
Dues and Subscriptions	84.49
Equipment / Furniture	2,898.46
Filing Fees - Business Taxes	85.00
Insurance	6,573.17
Licenses and Permits	22.00
Payroll Expenses	147,415.74
Postage and Delivery	1,190.32
Professional Fees	6,030.80
Rent	11,598.40
Service Charges	246.70
Supplies	8,216.45
Telephone	5,691.71
Travel & Meals	9,758.28
Workshops/Seminar/ Membership	<u>1,106.90</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE

219,303.84

NET INCOME

45,301.57

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Folsom Lake Bank	<u>25,043.42</u>
River City Bank	<u>20,010.90</u>
Bank of America	<u>147,158.82</u>
Total Checking/Savings	192,213.14

Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable, Program	<u>800.00</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>800.00</u>

Total Current Assets 193,013.14

Fixed Assets	
Durango	24,076.62
Equipment Trailer	3,428.50
Accum. Depreciation	-38,205.28
Furniture & Equipment	<u>10,700.16</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>0.00</u>

TOTAL ASSETS 193,013.14

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	<u>2,917.58</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>2,917.58</u>

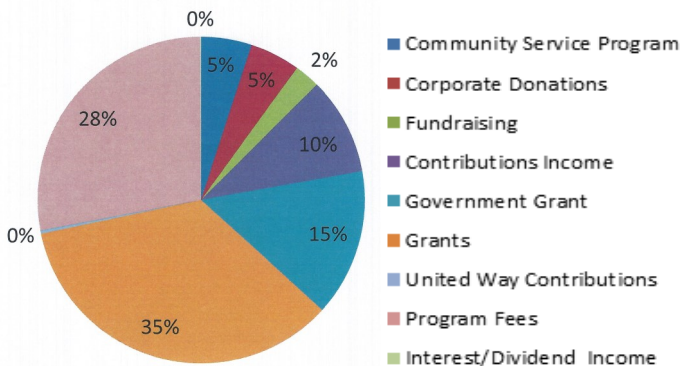
Total Current Liabilities 2,917.58

Total Liabilities 2,917.58

Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	144,793.99
Net Income	<u>45,301.57</u>
Total Equity	<u>190,095.56</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 193,013.14

INCOME



EXPENSE

