

THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

Howard Heinz Endowment · Vira I. Heinz Endowment

In the Spotlight on the Endowments Web Site

October 2009

Sarah Heinz House

Grantee Tells Its Own Story from the Inside

In August, the Endowments launched a new interactive section of its Web site, "[In the Spotlight](#)," where grantees have a forum to tell their stories directly as they know best.

Now in the Spotlight: Meet [Sarah Heinz House](#).

The Sarah Heinz House's roots stretch back to 1901 when Howard Heinz, son of H.J. Heinz Co. founder Henry John Heinz started Covode House, a small club on Pittsburgh's North Side that provided recreational and social activities for boys, almost all of whom were first-generation immigrants. Girls were admitted to the club in 1903. When the demand for youth programs at Covode House grew too great for its small facility, a new building was constructed in 1913 and named in honor of Howard Heinz's mother, Sarah Sloan Young Heinz. In the 1930s, Sarah Heinz House became one of the first members of the national Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Today, Sarah Heinz House, a Boys & Girls Club, provides children and teenagers with powerful role models and a safe, fun place to go after school, on weekends and in the summer. Educational, artistic, recreational and community service programs are available to promote healthy lifestyles and offer an environment that is welcoming, nurturing and challenging. In 2007, the facility was expanded with the construction of a "green," energy-efficient, state-of-the-art building adjacent to the original Heinz House structure.

Sarah Heinz House's mission is to develop and strengthen the leadership, character and life skills of children, especially those who need support most, by providing exemplary staff and high-quality recreational, social, educational and mentoring programs designed to help members reach their highest potential. Unlike other Boys and Girls Clubs, to maintain membership in good standing, each young person must attend two core programs every week: "Club" and "Gym-Swim." These programs are divided by age and gender. Members also can take advantage of many other optional programs that fall into 10 categories: sports; fitness and recreation; leadership; education; extra classes; Sarah's Kitchen; Friday Night Specials; special competitions and events; summer programs; and adult fitness.

The Endowments has been a long-time supporter of Sarah Heinz House, awarding the organization almost \$29 million to date, which has provided support for operations, the capital campaign for the facility expansion and summer interns participating in the Endowments youth philanthropy program.

To check out blog entries, videos, photos and links of previous Spotlight participants, click here for the [Spotlight Archives](#).

If you would like to get your organization in the Spotlight, visit our site for the [details](#).

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Expansion of the Sarah Heinz House in 2007 included the addition of Sarah's Kitchen, a café where members can grab a snack and have some fun.