



10<sup>th</sup> SYMPOSIUM 2010  
**baeo**  
Black Alliance for Educational Options

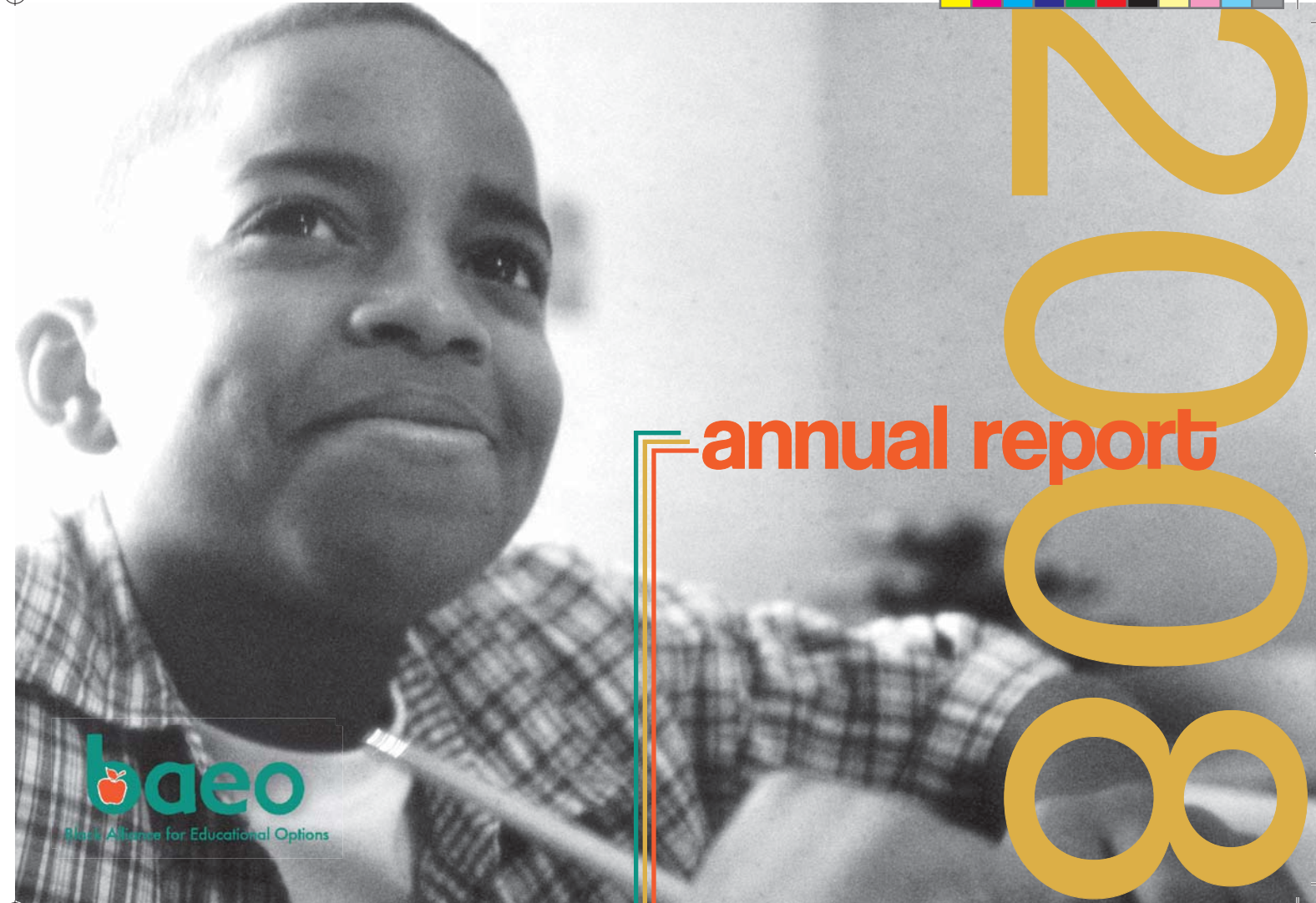
**March 4-6, 2010**  
Hilton Milwaukee City Center  
509 West Wisconsin Avenue

For sponsorship inquiries, please  
contact [Tycely@baeo.org](mailto:Tycely@baeo.org).

*Anniversary*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**baeo**  
Black Alliance for Educational Options  
888 16th Street NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20006



**baeo**  
Black Alliance for Educational Options

**annual report**

2008



## Dear BAEO Family and Friends,

On behalf of the board of directors, staff and members of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO), we submit to you our 2008 Annual Report.

BAEO was founded December 3-5, 1999. Since that time we have remained firm in our commitment to our mission, which is to **actively support parental choice to empower families and increase quality educational options for Black children.**

During this decade of struggle to fulfill our mission we've learned many lessons about the challenges of implementing, protecting, and expanding parental choice programs across our great nation. We know because of the dedication and hard work of so many people who support our organization and our movement we have made progress. New programs like the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence in Louisiana have been created; the tax credit programs in Florida and Pennsylvania have been expanded, and the idea of chartering schools has gained support from President Barack Obama and his administration. At the same time, the programs in Ohio and Wisconsin face challenges. The DC Opportunity Scholarship Program in Washington, DC is in great peril. There are still caps on opening new charter schools in various states.

So, we are clear that the reason why we organized in 1999, is the reason why we must **STAY** organized in 2009 and beyond. The forces aligned against parental choice are as relentless and focused as ever, and therefore, we must maintain our vigilance and our commitment to do whatever it takes to be true to our mission.

We have been blessed to not only have supporters who will lift their voices and present their bodies as needed but also to have the financial support of foundations, corporations and individuals. Without these precious dollars we could not do the work that we do each and every day.

This year's annual report highlights our work and gives you a look at the finances of our organization. We are proud of what has been accomplished in 2008, but we are sobered by the road that lies ahead. It is this recognition of how much more will have to be done for our movement to be successful that will keep us vigilant and active in 2009.

The Struggle Continues,

**Howard Fuller, Ph.D.**  
Board Chair

**Gerard Robinson**  
President





# our contributors

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Alliance for School Choice  
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation  
Eli and Edith Broad Foundation  
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School Choice Ohio  
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The Walton Family Foundation

## Individual Contributors

All board and advisory board members made contributions to the organization

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James Leininger

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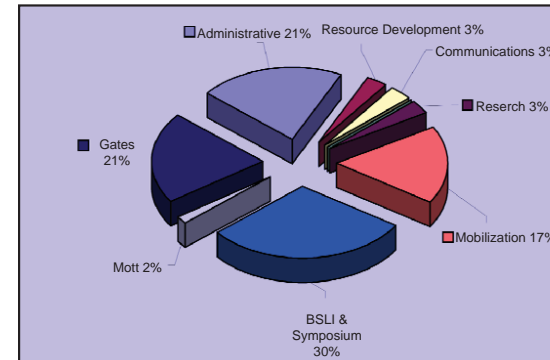
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Rodney Jones  
Jacqueline Joyner Cissell  
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Jacqueline Y. Pelzer  
Dan Quisenberry  
Robert Rauh  
Sheila G. Roberts  
Craig A. Robinson  
Sande Robinson  
Jacqueline Robinson  
Barbara Sandifer

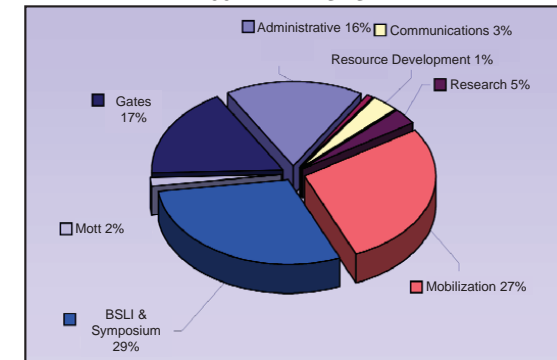
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Velalee Wiley  
Anthony H. Williams  
Martha C. Young

**join, renew or upgrade your membership** Please support our efforts to protect, expand and enact legislation for parental choice programs for low-income and working-class families across the nation. [www.baео.org](http://www.baео.org)

## 2007 REVENUE

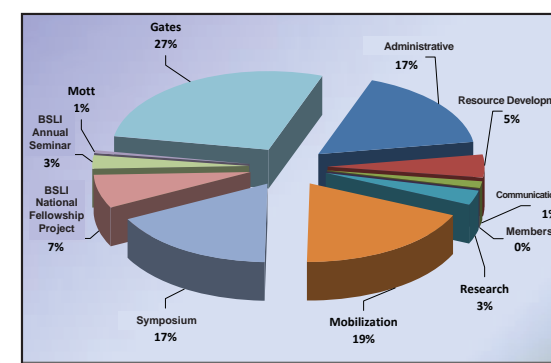


## 2007 EXPENSES

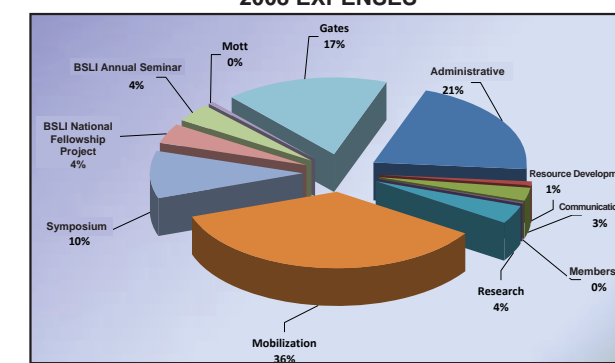


Thanks to the generous donations and grants from our corporate, foundation and individual supporters BAEO remained financially secure in 2008. Total revenue for 2008 was \$4,238,332. A 22 percent increase from 2007. Expenses in 2008 totaled \$3,151,321. A seven percent decrease from the year before. We obtained the financial support necessary to carry out our major events, programs and mobilization activities.

## 2008 REVENUE



## 2008 EXPENSES



In-kind support for this report was provided by the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice.



## news and information

BAEO board and staff were featured in several local, state and national media throughout the year. Board members joined new organizations to support quality education options and the organization continued programs that advanced the movement.

**KEVIN CHAVOUS** was a guest on C-Span during the African Americans and School Choice segment, and had op-eds published in *The Washington Times*, *Indianapolis Star* and *The Washington Post*.

**HOWARD FULLER**'s message "Obama Should Challenge Status Quo," appeared in the *Oklahoma News*.

**SHREE MEDLOCK**, Director of Louisiana BAEO and **GERARD ROBINSON**, President, were in-studio guests on radio station WBOK in New Orleans.

**BERTHA GILKEY BONDS**, Director of Missouri BAEO, received local coverage in the *St. Louis Argus* and the *St. Louis Sentinel* for her boldness to stand up for low-income families in hard to serve communities.

**TRACIE CRAFT**, Director of Ohio BAEO was on radio station WULM 1600, and a public television access channel, to educate Dayton and Springfield residents about the EdChoice

and Autism scholarships.

**MASHEA ASHTON** joined the fight for quality schools in Newark, NJ, as a partner at the Newark Charter School Fund.

Newark Mayor **CORY BOOKER** defended his support for education reform at the Diversity Series at Butler University in Indianapolis.

**DEBORAH MCGRIFF**, Symposium Planning Committee Chair, joined NewSchools Venture Fund as a Partner.

**VIRGINIA WALDEN FORD** was honored with the John T. Walton Champions for School Choice Award, the highest accolade bestowed by the Alliance for School Choice. The award recognizes Walden Ford's contributions to education reform in Washington, DC.

**GERARD ROBINSON**, and **EDWIN CHANG**, KIPP WAYS Academy published *The Color of Success: Black Student Achievement in Public Charter Schools*.



This year, BAEO completed its Bailey and Sullivan Leadership Institute (BSLI) **NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**. The goal of the part-time fellowship was to educate a cadre of Black advocates to support the parental choice movement at the local, state and national level. The Walton Family Foundation and the Joyce Foundation funded the fellowship.

For more information about BAEO news and information log on to [www.baео.org](http://www.baео.org).

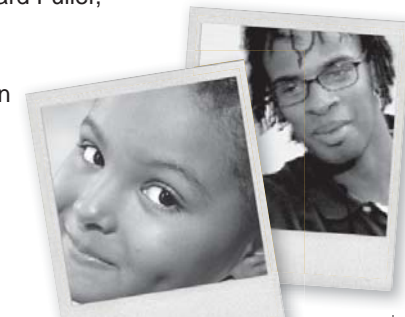
## symposium 2008

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Black Alliance for Educational Options was held in New Orleans, LA, in February. The theme, *Parental Choice: The Voice of Our Future* provided the organization with another opportunity to inform, inspire and empower more than 600 parents, educators, youth, donors, and, education reform allies.

Special recognition was given to William (Bill) Oberndorf, Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for School Choice and Advocates for School Choice. "Bill's consistent and continued friendship has made a huge difference for our organization," Howard Fuller, Board Chair said. "He is a sincere friend and strong supporter."

Last year, BAEO honored Pennsylvania State Representative Dwight Evans. Previous honorees have included John Walton (posthumously), a true champion for parental choice, and Former US Secretary of Education Rod Paige.

For highlights of the event check out the Symposium 2008 Documentation Report available on the web site.



# chapter and mobilization news

BAEO is committed to expanding educational options for all families—regardless of income—but our focus is on helping low-income and working-class Black families.

The financial support BAEO received from the Alliance for School Choice helped the organization educate, inform and organize hundreds of low-income and working-class Black parents, students, educators, clergy, and civic leaders to support parental choice programs in various states.



The **MILWAUKEE** Chapter of BAEO was active in the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce and School Choice Wisconsin Community Education Campaign to increase awareness about the importance of parental choice programs in the city. Members also continued their work to increase the pipeline of first-generation college students. The chapter extended its outreach to Black elected officials to gain support for quality educational options.

The chapter also received support from the Institute for The Transformation of Learning at Marquette University.

In **FLORIDA**, BAEO partnered with the Carrie Meek Foundation to support an aggressive advertising campaign using urban radio, major statewide and Black newspapers, and other media outlets to inform Black families about the Florida Corporate Tax Credit Program. This program has made it possible for more than 1,000 Carrie Meek Scholars to attend school.

The **GEORGIA** BAEO team took its message to the airwaves to inform parents about the statewide Special Needs Scholarship Program. Radio ads about the program aired on 258 radio stations around the state. Allies also created the BAEO Atlanta Schools Fund—as part of the



Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program—to provide scholarships to low-income families in Atlanta.

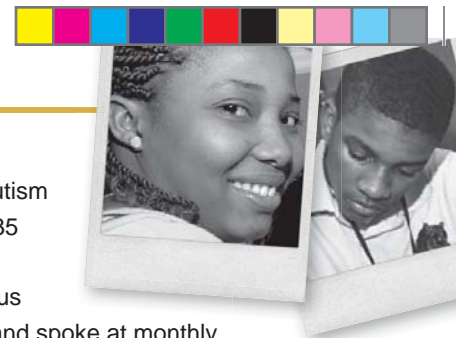
The **LOUISIANA** mobilization team in collaboration with national and local allies supported an effort that resulted in the creation of the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program.

During its first year about 640 students enrolled in 31 private schools. Special applause goes to **STATE SENATOR ANN DUPLESSIS** and **STATE REPRESENTATIVE AUSTIN BADON** who sponsored the scholarship bill.

LA BAEO also conducted three Black Education Roundtable discussions to educate Black business owners, community leaders, clergy and school owners about parental choice programs. In addition, they held two clergy luncheons in Shreveport and Baton Rouge that were attended by more than 100 participants.

The **MISSOURI** BAEO mobilization team brought 300 people to a state capitol rally to support parental choice options. The team also hosted information sessions in St. Louis and Kansas City for Black business and civic leaders, and helped enroll 1,000 students in charter schools.

Nearly 1,500 families in Dayton, Springfield, and Columbus, Ohio, received assistance from the **OHIO** mobilization team on how to



enroll in the EdChoice and Autism Programs. The team hosted 35 school tours for parents and community members at various private and charter schools, and spoke at monthly meetings of the International Ministers Alliance, a group of African-American clergy in the Dayton area. During the third annual Membership Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Program special honors went to the Hooper Family for their outstanding volunteerism and support for advancing educational options.

The **PHILADELPHIA** Chapter of BAEO organized 900 parents to attend a rally at the state capitol. More than 2,000 parental choice supporters participated in the rally. The chapter held 24 Parents With POWER sessions, and awarded more than \$119,000 in scholarships to 88 Philadelphia families.

In our nation's capital, BAEO members worked with DC Parents for School Choice and the Alliance for School Choice to spearhead a community wide grassroots effort that demonstrated wide public support for DC Opportunity Scholarship Program. Several thousand DC parents and supporters rallied at the U.S. Capitol to urge Congress to continue funding for the program through 2010.





# partnership news

Throughout the year, BAEO participated in numerous community events and forums—from the White House to local parental choice and charter school associations—all designed to advance quality educational options for Black children and families.

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**—BAEO participated in events sponsored by the White House and the U.S. Department of Education Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

**NATIONAL & STATE CHARTER SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**—BAEO board and staff participated in the annual National Alliance for Public Charter Schools Conference, and in state-based association meetings in Georgia, Louisiana, Ohio, and Missouri to name a few.

**PARTNERS FOR DEVELOPING FUTURES**—To help develop the Partners for Developing Futures, an initiative designed to create high-performing schools and networks of schools led by people of color, BAEO teamed up with the following organizations: KIPP, The Walton Family Foundation, The Gates Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, the Charter School Growth Fund, Teach for America, Friendship Public Charter Schools in Washington, DC, New Leaders for New Schools, Uncommon Schools, Hispanic CREO, and the Self-Help Ventures Fund.

**DEMOCRATS AND PARENTAL CHOICE**—One of the growing trends within the parental choice movement is the increased support from Black Democrats. To discuss this phenomenon, the Bailey and Sullivan Leadership Institute (BSLI) hosted its fourth annual Seminar on Education Policy & Parental Choice in Orlando, FL, in November. The Harvard University Program on Education Policy and Governance was a co-sponsor.

Financial support for this seminar was provided by: the Alliance for School Choice, Democrats for Education Reform, The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, the Daniels Fund, John Kirtley, and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. This year's annual seminar attracted more than 152 participants: 83 were Black elected officials and staff representing city, county, municipal and state government from 16 states. The seminar celebrated the success of new parental choice programs in Louisiana and Florida and featured students from four different parental choice programs — charter, single gender and private schools and corporate tax credits.

## leadership

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Brian Jones  
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Rod Paige  
WASHINGTON, DC

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Isaac Ewell, **Director of The Gates Small Schools Project** • Felice Green, **Director of Communications**  
Diona McLucas, **Program Manager of The Gates Small Schools Project**  
Allen Penn, **Program Manager of The Gates Small Schools Project**  
Tracie Craft, **State Director, Ohio** • Shree' Medlock, **State Director, Louisiana**  
Ericka Murphy, **State Coordinator, Ohio** • Bertha Gilkey Bonds, **State Coordinator, Missouri**  
Carla Hampton, **State Coordinator, Louisiana**

## mobilization sites

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## chapter leaders

Christopher Boston, **Milwaukee** • Darlene Callands-Curry, **Philadelphia**