

**FROM  
STEVE MILLER  
CEO OF THE ANDRE  
AGASSI CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION**

Earlier this year, the Foundation partnered with an international strategic advisory firm, The Parthenon Group, to help develop a new mission and new goals for the important years ahead. After a focused three-month process, our mission is clearer than

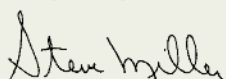
ever. We are at a pivotal time in history with a presidential election in sight and have the chance to make a difference in education throughout the country.

**Our New Mission:** The Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation® is dedicated to transforming U.S. public education for underserved youth. The Foundation drives reform by engaging in practice, policy and partnerships that provide quality education and enrichment opportunities.

We want all children, regardless of race, gender or financial challenges, to reach for the stars and achieve their goals. The only way they can do that is by providing them with the tools and resources necessary to succeed. This is a very exciting time for the Foundation, and I'm proud of what we've accomplished and ready for the challenges that lie ahead. With 70 percent of eighth-graders nationwide not proficient in reading and 1.2 million students dropping out of high school each year, there is certainly cause for concern.

While our new and expanded mission makes us national in scope, our commitment to changing public education in Nevada will always be a non-negotiable priority. Nevada has the lowest graduation rate in the U.S. at 45 percent and the Clark County School District ranks last in per-pupil funding among large U.S. school districts. The numbers are alarming and the Foundation will work diligently as Nevada's voice to fight for students who deserve a chance at a better life.

Thank you for continuing to support the Agassi Foundation on this journey.



Steve Miller  
CEO – The Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation

**WE'RE PLEASED TO  
ANNOUNCE RECENT  
ADDITIONS TO THE  
FOUNDATION STAFF:**

**Beth Duncombe, Early Childhood Project Director**

Beth spent 15 years as an elementary principal in public and private schools in Las Vegas and is a recognized leader in curriculum development. Beth most recently served as the Student Teaching and Field Experience Coordinator for Nevada State College.

**Julie Krell, Director of Marketing and Communications**

Julie was the director of marketing and communications for The University of Arizona's Eller College of Management, where she served on the dean's five-person leadership team. She successfully re-branded the organization and developed integrated marketing materials, a strategic PR program, an improved Web presence, and more.

**Sheria Spleen, Marketing Associate**

Sheria worked as special events manager for Las Vegas not-for-profit Opportunity Village where she planned and executed fundraising events, cultivated donors and led tours of the campus. Before that, she was an account executive at Preferred Public Relations & Marketing.

**Dr. Benjamin Sayeski, Chief Education Officer**

Ben is the former Executive Director of Operations for the Darden Curry Partnership for Leaders in Education and a former Charlottesville, Virginia-based elementary school principal. He is also a consultant with Education Strategy Consulting, an organization that specializes in reforming public K-12 education by aligning educational practices with measurable strategies.

**Julie Pippenger has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer**

Julie has been with the Foundation for 11 years and was recently promoted from Executive Director to the new Foundation position of Chief Operating Officer. In this position, Julie will improve operational efficiency to help the organization run more smoothly overall. The Foundation has nearly tripled in staff during the past year, making it even more critical that we implement new processes and improve internal communication.

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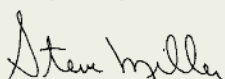
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# AGASSI PREP ART STUDENTS HELP CREATE ELLIS ISLAND MURAL

Agassi Prep art students are learning art techniques and a history lesson at the same time thanks to Agassi Prep art teacher Kenn Ruffin and Pahrump, Nevada, artist/muralist Andrew Sabori.



*Agassi Prep High School students paint panels of Edward Lanings's lost Ellis Island mural.*

Andrew and his wife Roberta began researching his ancestors in 2003 during a trip to Ellis Island, New York, and discovered a small photo of what looked like a mural, while walking through the many rooms of displays. They learned that the ambiguous photo was of a mural painted at Aliens Hall at Ellis Island in the 1930s by New Deal-era artist Edward Laning, titled "The Role of the Immigrant in the Industrial Development of America." Being an artist himself, Andrew's interest to learn the history behind the mural was piqued and so the search continued. They received help from Dr. Berman of The Juilliard School and the Library of Congress to obtain the photos and information.

Since most of the mural was destroyed in a storm years ago, the Saboris visited New York City's federal courthouse to see what remained of original panels of the mural and Laning's color palate. They also visited the New York Public Library where Edward Laning has three very large paintings.

Andrew decided to re-create the mural as an educational tool for local students in honor of Edward Laning and his unrecognized accomplishments. They feel that the mural has historical value and the story of Ellis Island should be taught, since more than 40 percent of America's population can trace their ancestry through the federal immigration station, according to the National Park Service.

Students from the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy and Pahrump Valley High School are being instructed to paint details on his sketched canvases of the 19-panel mural. Edward created the mural under the support of the Work Progress Administration, a New-Deal agency, to revive the economy during the Great Depression. The students are learning about the significance of this time period and what Ellis Island means to America, while simultaneously making Edward's 1930s lost mural come to life.

"I'm glad I was given the opportunity to help create and shape a part of history," said Agassi Prep high school senior, Whitney Salahuddin.

Andrew believes the project will take eight more weeks to complete and has received interest from the General Service Administration and Save Ellis Island Foundation to display the completed reproduction.

"As part of the first graduating class, Agassi Prep seniors will be a part of art and U.S. history by helping to re-create Laning's mural," said Kenn Ruffin. "I'm trying to keep with the academy's mission statement and provide an array of choices and opportunities for my students."



## LITHOGRAPHS – READ ALL ABOUT IT

The Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation is auctioning lithographs of commemorative artwork from past Grand Slam for Children events online through November 28. These lithographs were created especially for the Foundation by world-renowned artists including Romero Britto, Jim Dine, Daniel Gerhartz, Paul Goodnight, Steve Hanks, Loppo Martinez, Burton Morris and Pino. This is the first time they are being offered for sale and are not available anywhere else.

This is your chance to own a part of our history and support The Agassi Foundation in its efforts to create change in public education and provide resources for underserved children. At the same time, you'll enjoy a beautiful work of art.

**If you'd like to purchase a commemorative lithograph, visit [www.cmarket.com](http://www.cmarket.com), select browse auctions tab and search "Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation."**

## SCORE A GOAL WITH DAVID BECKHAM

The Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation is hosting an on-line auction for one very special item. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a private, one-on-one lesson with David Beckham, one of the world's most iconic athletes and decorated soccer players of all time, at his Academy in Los Angeles.

Beckham is one of Britain's most famous athletes whose name is also an elite global advertising brand. He was captain of the English National Soccer Team from 2000 to 2006, scored in three FIFA World Cups, and played for the Real Madrid for four seasons. In 2007, Beckham moved to Los Angeles to play for the Galaxy in a record-breaking, five-year deal.

All proceeds from the auction package will benefit The Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation. **The auction is available online until November 10. To learn more or place a bid, visit [www.charitybuzz.com](http://www.charitybuzz.com).**

## AGASSI BOYS & GIRLS CLUB SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Andre Agassi Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas is seeking volunteers to assist with academic tutoring of youth in its Elite Tennis and Basketball Program. Volunteers are asked to commit to 1.5 hours per week for a minimum of 12 weeks to work with kids in kindergarten through high school.

Volunteers will:

- Provide homework assistance
- Be a friend and a mentor
- Make a difference in the life of a child

**Please visit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas website at [www.bgclv.org](http://www.bgclv.org) to get involved. If you have any questions, please contact Betsy at [evandeusen@bgclv.org](mailto:evandeusen@bgclv.org) for more information.**

# PARTNERSHIPS: ENSURING THE FUTURE

## THE ANDRE AGASSI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GRANT

The Lincy Foundation has bestowed a gift of \$1 million to The Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation (AACF) to support the improvement of public education in Southern Nevada. The Lincy Foundation, dedicated to supporting humanitarian efforts including education, health care, children, families and the elderly, has supported AACF's annual Grand Slam for Children benefit concert since 1995.

This gift will help fund programs at the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy including after-school tutoring, the teacher apprenticeship program, athletics, college access, special education ancillary services, the summer program, student trips and more.

"Nevada students are the future of its community and economy. These young people will provide the leadership of Nevada's businesses, government, civic, religious and service organizations," said Jeffery Wilkins, MD, of The Lincy Foundation. "Supporting education will have a profound effect on generations to come. At The Lincy Foundation, we believe education is one of the best investments someone can make in Nevada for the state's well-being."

"The Lincy Foundation is changing the face of education as we know it, and we are grateful to have their support in our community," said Steve Miller, CEO of The Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation. "We are thrilled to partner with Lincy and are proud to be united in the fight for quality education for children everywhere."



*Agassi Prep Elementary School students use classroom technology.*

## JUST IN TIME LONGINES CREATES A SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Longines, boasting more than 175 uninterrupted years of watchmaking expertise, has partnered with The Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation to create the Longines Elegance Scholarship Fund. The generous initial donation of \$200,000 will

ensure a bright and successful future for qualified graduates of the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy's first graduating class.

Agassi recently traveled to New York with two Agassi Prep students for the announcement of this special scholarship at a Longines press conference. High school sophomore, Micah Jones and freshman, Briana Guillory represented the college preparatory academy as potential future scholarship recipients and expressed their gratitude for the Longines scholarship. Both students feel privileged to attend Agassi Prep and are grateful for scholarship opportunities provided by partners of the school.

*Continued on next page*



*Longines press event (L-R), Zaneta Sampson, Longines; Briana Guillory, Agassi Prep; Jennifer Judkins, Longines; Micah Jones, Agassi Prep; Juli Stanley, Agassi Prep.*

Continued from page 6

"Through the creation of the Andre Agassi Limited Edition watches and the Longines Elegance Scholarship Fund, students will have the opportunity to attend the college or university of their dreams," said Brand Manager Jennifer Judkins. "Longines looks forward to making the fund an annual opportunity for Agassi Prep students. Among the awarded students, those interested in horology (the science of watchmaking) will receive a full scholarship to the Nicolas Hayek School including room and board."

The Elegance Scholarship was founded to promote higher education to students enrolled at the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy. Scholarships will be based on financial need and will recognize excellence in community service. In addition to the scholarship fund, for students with an aptitude and interest in watchmaking, several full scholarships will be available to the Nicolas G. Hayek Watchmaking School in New Jersey.

Longines has created three very special limited edition timepieces: The Longines Grande Vitesse Andre Agassi 888, The Longines Master Moon Phases Andre Agassi Grand Slam Limited Edition Watch and The Longines Master Collection Retrograde Andre Agassi Grand Slam Watch. This partnership will raise funds and awareness for The Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation.

"We are pleased to partner with a company that is so dedicated to making dreams come true for socioeconomically disadvantaged children," said Agassi. "Longines has given an opportunity to children who attend Agassi Prep to reach their goals way beyond the grade-school years, and for that we are thankful."

## DOTTIE SMITH RETURNS TO HIGH SCHOOL

The Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy is having another exciting year with its first graduating class on the horizon. High school students are working hard toward their personal goals and new high school principal Dottie Smith is leading the way.

Told by a prospective colleague when interviewing that her job as a principal would be to make sure every student goes to college, Smith says she "couldn't pass up the opportunity to work at Agassi Prep with that amazing goal."

Smith was the first in her family to graduate from college and often reflects on how different her life would be if she hadn't earned a bachelor's degree from American University in Washington, D.C., or a master's degree from UCLA's Principal Leadership Institute. She believes in the power of education and knows firsthand that when a child is held to higher expectations, they meet and exceed those expectations.

Smith began her teaching career through Teach For America, the national corps of top college graduates who commit to two years of teaching in urban and rural public schools and become leaders in the effort to expand educational opportunity. She taught children growing up in poverty in Compton, California, and then joined the Teach For America staff as program director.

Agassi Prep is extremely fortunate to have Smith on its leadership team. She believes that every student should have the opportunity to go to college and will provide all the tools necessary to make that happen. Agassi Prep's college preparatory culture is infused at every grade level – beginning in the elementary school with classroom time devoted to exploring different aspects of college life.

We look forward to celebrating with Smith, the high school seniors and their families at the first Agassi Prep high school graduation in June 2009.



*Dottie Smith*

# IN THIS ISSUE

## ON PAGE 1

Foundation Announces  
Recent Staff Additions

## ON PAGE 2

Another “Killer” Year for  
Grand Slam

## ON PAGE 4

Agassi Prep Art  
Students Help  
Re-create Ellis  
Island Mural



The Andre Agassi  
Charitable Foundation

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## POLICY:

### THE EDUCATION CRISIS

When The Parthenon Group was in the research phase of the strategic consulting project for our Foundation, their team collected data to better understand the education marketplace. The facts are truly alarming. We'd like to share with you some education statistics for Nevada and our country to give you a better understanding of the crisis we are facing. These statistics make it clear why our mission is so critical and why our efforts in the areas of practice, policy and partnerships must be focused on making change happen for underserved children.

### UNITED STATES

- 70% of eighth-graders are not proficient in reading.
- Every year, more than 1.2 million students drop out of high school.
- Out of 24 industrialized countries, the U.S. was one of the only two that showed no increase in bachelor's degree attainment between 2000 and 2004.

- America's high school graduation rate ranks 21st in the world (40 years ago, we were first).
- More than two-thirds of new jobs being created require college education or advanced training.

### NEVADA

- Less than 25% of Nevada's eighth-graders achieve grade-level proficiency in reading and math.
- Nevada's per-pupil funding is close to the lowest in the nation, and Clark County's per-pupil funding is the lowest in the country.
- Only 10% of Nevada's ninth-graders graduate from college on time – the lowest in the nation.
- Nevada's high school graduation rate of 45% is the lowest in the U.S.

Sources: NCES, NAEP, *Education Week*, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; Post Secondary Education Opportunity; The NCHEMS Information Center; U.S. Department of Education – the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2007; *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.