



## Positive People Doing Positive Things in Education..... 2/21/2011



### **Harriet Ball, Former Teacher and Motivational Speaker in Houston, TX**

As a 35-year veteran of both Houston and Austin school districts, a motivational speaker, and tireless advocate for the KIPP charter school system, Harriet J. Ball has been called “God’s gift to the classroom”. Her innovative teaching techniques, which included using rhymes and rhythm to captivate students, helped her reach low-income children who had otherwise been written off by the public school systems.

In late 1992, Ball began mentoring Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin, then Teach For American corps members, at Bastian elementary in Houston. The two young teachers went on to co-found the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP)—a nationwide network of free open-enrollment college preparatory schools in under-resourced communities—based on one of Ball’s slogans: “Knowledge is power, power is money, and I want it!”

Among her numerous accomplishments, Ball appeared on Oprah, as well as several other nationally televised shows. The city of Galveston proclaimed September 14 “Harriett Ball Day”, and she was inducted to the National Public Charter School Hall of Fame in 2009. Sadly, Ball passed away February 2, 2011, at the age of 64.

THF salutes Harriet Ball for her tremendous contributions to our nation’s education system and her efforts to motivate underprivileged students to reach for the stars!