



April 2010

GECRC Newsletter

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GECRC Board Announces Summer Program

Summer is around the corner and GECRC will be offering a program to coincide with the District instruction periods.

Due to building maintenance taking place at Lincoln, we will be moving the GECRC to Ben Franklin Elementary School for the summer.

We are excited to welcome back our summer partners including University of Illinois 4-H Extension, District 41, People's Resource Center, Victory Sports Camps, Norman B. Barr Camp and The Glen Ellyn Public Library. Of course, we couldn't do it without our amazing volunteers and our wonderful students! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact director@gecrc.org





YOU GO GIRLS!

GECRC Girls Gab and Go!

This spring, girls from the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center have two exciting opportunities.

Girls Gab Time – Girls have been gathering in one another's homes Saturday mornings from March 6 – April 17th to get together, have some fun and talk about life. This program was developed by Erin Wolaver, MSW Intern to encourage positive female relationships.

Girls On The Move – Beginning in April, the GECRC will have three experienced running coaches who will not only teach the girls how to run, but teach them more about themselves, being part of a team and being part of a community. The end goal of this program is to run the Hoof it For Hezbibah 5 K on May 31st.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Everyone Benefits when Tori Frappolli Volunteers

Glenbard West High School senior Tori Frappolli started volunteering at the GECRC back in 8th grade just so she could get some required service hours, but ended up getting way more!

The connections she has made with the kids and the laughter they share keep her coming back. "I am touching their lives and they are touching mine" says Tori. Her consistent attendance and her willing attitude show that she really cares about the future of our students. She will be missed next year as she heads to TCU to major in elementary education.



We asked and we received! **Thanks** to the individuals who donated their gently used yoga mats. **Namaste!**



Grant News

Recent Grants to support the GECRC 2009/2010 programming include:

- \$2,500 from the Union Pacific Foundation;
- \$2,500 from the Rotary Club of Glen Ellyn Foundation;
- \$3,000 from the Community Bank of Wheaton/Glen Ellyn;
- \$5,000 from the Tyndale House Foundation given in memory of Ellen Weisbrodt.

We deeply appreciate the support of these organizations and the endorsements their support represents.

DID YOU KNOW??

- There are approximately 600 children living in low-income households here in Glen Ellyn.
- The majority of these children have an added burden to bear because they come from refugee and immigrant households making English literacy an educational priority.
- These children in our community are at risk for a variety of reasons, including: language difficulties; limited financial resources and cultural differences. After school and summertime hours for many of the children we serve is often without education stimulation or healthy playtime.
- **THE GECRC CAN HELP!!** We have been providing cost-free, after-school and summer educational support services since 2002.

SPELLAPALOOZA a Success



The 2nd Annual Spellapalooza fundraiser took place March 12. At the end of the evening, only one winner took home the prize. 'Spellin' for Ellen', a group of women who spell in memory of Ellen Weissbrodt -one of the founding board members and a long time supporter of the GECRC, showed everyone that they alone were the master spellers. Last year, 'Spellin' for Ellen' shared the grand prize. The Book Store from Glen Ellyn took home the consolation prize, after losing the spell off in the final round.

Fans from Abraham Lincoln Elementary School were the winners of the coveted 'Sprit Award'. The competition for this award was fierce, but the Leopards from Lincoln brought over 50 enthusiastic fans and won the sweet reward. A cake donated by Flour Barrel Bakery in Glen Ellyn will be delivered to the school in the coming weeks.

In the audience participation round of the spelling bee, two individuals received perfect scores. Glen Ellyn residents Margot Zwierlein and Peter Cooper received "Chumpion Speller" t-shirts, which they can wear proudly throughout the year!

The real winner of SPELLAPALOOZA is the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center. This years' event raised nearly \$8,000 to aid the literacy programs offered by the Center. Said event organizer Kasey O'Connell, "The support that the community showed GECRC was amazing! We exceeded the amount raised last year by 26% which is so helpful in this tough economic situation."

The GECRC relies on the support of donations, grants and volunteers.