



February 2010

GECRC Newsletter



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Over 90 families join us for our Holiday Party on December 16th. Page 2

SPELLAPALOOZA is coming! March 12, 2010

It's back! Come join in Glen Ellyn's 2nd Annual SPELLAPALOOZA! – a fundraiser to support the literacy programs of the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center. Teams from all around town will meet on **Friday, March 12, 2010** in the Glenbard West Auditorium for an evening of spelling, entertainment and laughs in a team spelling bee.

So get a group of four people together to make a team. Give yourself a clever name and join the fun! This is a team event, so there is no individual pressure. You can consult with your fellow teammates before spelling.

Team spaces are limited. Sign up now! More details are available at www.gecrc.org.

Last years' inaugural event was fun for all and it raised money for GECRC. Come see what Spellapalooza is all about!!





Celebration of Light

December 16, 2009

Over 90 GECRC family members gathered together on December 16th to celebrate a season of light, a season of community. GECRC students and families from a number of various religious and cultural communities each brought a dish to pass and a memory to share as we enjoyed a meal prepared by all.

At the end of our evening each student was given a gift of five (5) notebooks, crayons and markers to take home and prepare for the coming year. Because the holidays can be a very difficult time for families who are separated from one another and are finding themselves new to the United States, its customs and traditions, it's dinners like these that create a feeling of home, friends and family. We at GECRC are so grateful to be a part of this process and experience.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Volunteer Anne Boston makes a difference every Tuesday and Thursday at the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center.

Formerly the Director of IT at Sara Lee Corporation,

Anne was looking for something meaningful to occupy her time. Two years ago, Anne found that something at the GECRC. "When you leave here, you feel like you did something worthwhile" says Anne. In fact, she can't say enough about the great kids, our wonderful afterschool program and the energetic staff. She even encouraged her mother-in-law, Shirley Boston, to volunteer!



Grant News

DuPage Community Foundation

On December 9, the DuPage Community Foundation presented GECRC board president, John Mulherin with a \$5000 grant to underwrite the programs provided by GECRC. (Photo above)

District 41

Thanks to District 41 for providing \$1500 for snacks for our children.

JC Penney

GECRC will receive a \$5000 grant for programs from JC Penney.



MEET OUR STAFF!

Zach Zidek, Literacy Coordinator

Zach Zidek (center in photo) is our newest team member having joined the GECRC in December, 2009. He is a recent graduate of North Central College with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. We are so excited to have his experience and enthusiasm!

His love of teaching is easy to see. He strives to make learning fun by bringing as many different media to the table. Zach says, "I love the challenge of making every student grow individually. And the creative atmosphere here at the Resource center is so great!"

Katie Galli, English Language Coordinator

Katie Galli (right in photo) began working with the GECRC team in the summer of 2009. With a B.A. in History from Scripps College, Katie comes with years of experience in working with English Language Learners through various volunteer experiences both locally and internationally.

Katie started her education career as a Kindergartner at Lincoln Elementary School. She loves to surprise the kids with that fact. They can't believe she was ever their age! Seeing the kids' progress in mastering the English language is her favorite thing about the GECRC.

Jessica Rozga, Program Director

Jessica K. Rozga (left in photo) started as the Program Director in September 2008. She has held a variety of positions instructing and mentoring adolescents. She holds a M.S.W. in Social Work from Western Michigan University.

Jessica says she loves the great volunteers and staff at GECRC. "We do an excellent job meeting the individualized needs of each child where they are at using the services and community organizations that are available to us."

DID YOU KNOW??

- That the GECRC serves an average of 54 children every day after school.
- At least 11 volunteers help our kids each day. (We can always use more!!)
- We have three staff members. (Picture above)
- Two interns (one from Loyola and one from College of DuPage) help our children.