



September 2010

GECRC Newsletter



Inside

SUMMER FUN!!

Our summer program was an absolute success! See highlights on page 2.

GIVING THANKS

The GECRC has a lot of individuals and organizations to thank. Page 5 & 6.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR

It's Back to School time at the GECRC! Our program year officially got underway the first day of the District 41 school year, August 25. 64 students are enrolled in the program and will meet each school day from 3:15-5:30pm at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School.

We have a lot to be excited about this year. We have a new Program Director, **Katie Galli**. Our former ELL Coordinator, Katie brings a new energy to our program.

Zach Zidek returns as our Literacy Coordinator and will continue to provide a variety of exciting literacy workshops for the "big kids" at the GECRC.

We are also pleased to welcome **Joyce Gatimu** and **Stephanie Holmberg** on staff, which will be sharing the ELL Coordinator position, working primarily with our newcomer and refugee students.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Katie at director@gecrc.org, or call 630-899-9919.





In The Summer
Time!

72+4+33+8= A Successful Summer Program

Summer at the GECRC equals success! Former Program Director, Jessica Rozga had nothing but positive things to say about our summer program. Each day, we served an average of **72** children! Our **4** teachers were extremely involved and very enthusiastic about providing the best service possible. Volunteer attendance was at an all time high. An average of **33** volunteers provided our children with support each day.

And finally, our **8** program partners (listed below) added instruction to our daily schedule.

- DuPage County Health Department Smile Squad
- University of Illinois 4-H Extension
- Victory Sports Camps
- Peoples Resource Center
- Glen Ellyn Public Library
- District 41
- WorkNet DuPage

Norman B. Barr Camp

16 GECRC children went to camp this summer. Without generous donations of time and money, these children would not have been able to attend this overnight camp in Wisconsin. It was a great experience!

Welcome Yael!

Our former GECRC Program Director, Jessica Rozga and her husband, Jake welcomed a baby girl, Yael Marie on August 5, 2010. Congratulations and good luck to the Rozgas as they move out of state!



JUMP FOR JOY!!

As the new program year begins, we are pleased to report:

- Our enrollment is at capacity.
- 64 students are enrolled from three District 41 schools; Abraham Lincoln, Ben Franklin, and Hadley Jr high school.
- The staff is outstanding! (See pg 1)
- Two interns have committed to support our efforts.
- Volunteers are increasing weekly! Please consider helping out one (or more!) day a week. Email or call director@gecrc.org
630-899-9919.

TEAM READING REGATTA WINS READATHON

The Bookstore in Glen Ellyn celebrated it's' 50th birthday with a Readathon to benefit the GECRC. The weekend of June 18th-20th, teams of readers all over Glen Ellyn gathered to read 50 hours or more.

Team Reading Regatta was the clear winner by logging 346.5 hours over the three days! 44 people including 22 children, 22 adults and 8 pets were on the team. Captain Sophie Netzel accepted the trophy for her team at The Bookstores' birthday party held on August 19th.

The GECRC was Also a winner in the Readathon as \$3,500 was raised to support our program. We extend our thanks to all of the participants and The Bookstore.



GECRC Board welcomes Kathy Schmidt

John Mulherin, President of the GECRC Board of Directors announced the addition of Kathy Schmidt as the new Fundraising Chairperson. "Kathy comes to the board with a wealth of Glen Ellyn experience and will be a tremendous asset to the Resource Center", said John.

A 24 year resident of Glen Ellyn, Kathy has focused on education. She is currently a special education teacher in elementary District 87. In addition, she has spent 12 years on the District 41 school board and 6 years on the District 89 school board. Kathy became interested in the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center after volunteering at the after school program.

Former fundraising chairperson, Jeanna Essick will remain on the Board as the Annual Fund Chairperson, a new position focusing on building a base of support among individuals in the community.



YOU ARE INVITED!

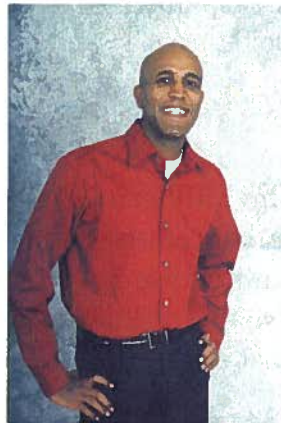
See the person that is responsible for “one of the twenty best moments of Oprah’s career”! Join us at our first ever Literary Tea to benefit the literacy programs of GECRC. Enjoy finger sandwiches, tea, cakes, and a keynote address given by local author, Mawi.

Date: Tuesday, November 9

Time: 12:30-3:00 pm

Place: St. Marks Episcopal Church
393 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL

Mawi Asgedom is a former Ethiopian refugee who has inspired millions through his story and his insights. He has written six books including his bestselling memoir, *Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy’s Remarkable Journey From A Refugee Camp to Harvard*. Mawi overcame a childhood torn by civil war in East Africa. He came to America, lived on welfare in Wheaton, Illinois. Overcoming many cultural and financial challenges, he earned a full tuition scholarship to Harvard University. Mawi has shared his insights on many prominent media including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *ESSENCE*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Boston Globe*, *Seattle Times* and *NPR*.



Don’t miss this afternoon. All proceeds to benefit the GECRC literacy program. Reservations can be made by contacting Kelly Keogh at 630-790-8020 or kellykeogh@gmail.com.

It’s Easy To Volunteer at GECRC

You want to help, but are not sure how to get started? Well, here is a step-by-step guide. It’s easy!

1. Call or email Program Director, Katie Galli at director@gecrc.org or 630-899-9919
2. Meet with Katie to determine when and how you can help. We currently have our greatest need for help on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.
3. Fill out an application online or in person.
4. Attend a Volunteer Orientation Workshop.
5. Show up at GECRC (Abraham Lincoln Elementary School) on your assigned day at 3:15.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



We are privileged to work with many generous people. We would like to thank the following individuals who provided GECRC with financial support during the 2009-2010 year.

Dan & Midge Anderson
 Michon & Andy Andreasik
 Cynthia Baker
 Brian & Lisa Balogh
 Jeanene Beddick
 John & Penny Belke Borello
 Gregory & Katherine Bewick
 Leroy Boeckelman
 Brian Bonkowski
 Joy Brabec
 John & Kristen Bruhnke
 Michael & Ursula Bryant
 Jon & Jenifer Bystry
 Laurie Campbell
 Joe & PJ Cardona
 Karen & Eric Carlson
 Robert & Patricia Ciserella Jr
 Joe & Cheryl Clark
 Ray & Melissa Cliff
 Gary & Suzanne Colton
 Cleo Burtis and Jim Comerford
 Celia Rodee and Peter Cooper
 Terra Costa Howard
 Susan & Jim Coyl
 Larry & Roberta Crowe
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 David & Jennifer DeLuna
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 Dean & Suzanne Elger
 William & Jeanne Enright
 Jeanna & Ray Essick
 Joe & Ellen Estes
 Ann & Charles Evans
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 Mark & Karen Luginbill
 Thom & Sue Martin
 Denis & Kay Maxwell
 Nancy & Joseph McCaffrey
 Peter & Carol McElvain
 Teresa & Mark Memler
 Fiona Miller
 Mark Milligan
 Dan & Gail Minkus
 Martha Morse
 John Mulherin
 John & Mary Nannenhorn
 Erica & Barry Nelson
 Dow & Diana Nichol
 Karen & Ken Novak
 Michael and Kasey O'Connell
 Terrance & Teresa Olson
 Eva Huerta Pavia
 Richard & Teresa Pehta
 Zachary Pehta
 John Perdue
 Nancy Peterson
 Jeffrey & Karen Pfaff
 Greg & Stephanie Pierce
 Lane & Kim Reed
 Ronald & Ann Riebock
 Paul & Gilda Ross
 Jacob Deboni & Jessica Rozga
 Douglas & Barbara Rundell
 David & Kathy Schmidt
 Robb & MaryBeth Sackett
 James & Carrie Skelton
 Kathleen Snyders
 Matthew Soerens
 Frank & Laurie Tomaszkiwicz
 Keith & Lisa Tylke
 Sara Vettraino
 James & Diana Visco
 Robert Wall
 Thomas & Lana Whalls



Grant News

Dollar General Store

Provided us with \$3,000 for curricular materials for the After School Literacy and Life Skills program.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

Presented the GECRC with a gift of \$1,076 in July.

Target

Provided us with \$2,000 to support our After-School Literacy Programs for the 2010-2011 school year.

Wal-Mart

\$1,000 was received to support our After School and Summer Literacy and Life skills programs.

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

If you would like to make a donation, visit our website at www.gecrc.org

Thanking our Volunteers

As we close out one year and begin a new, we would like to take a moment to thank all of our volunteers.

Last program year, many people contributed their time and efforts to make sure that the kids at GECRC succeed.

- Over 200 individuals took time from their schedules to read to our kids.
- In addition, some of you sang, danced, did yoga, played soccer, hiked or accompanied us on field trips.
- Our program partners (and their staff and volunteers) added extra instructional opportunities.

We couldn't have done it without you. Whether you came one day or every day, we are grateful for your support!



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Resource Center

Helping the world's children in our own backyard

P.O. Box 354
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

www.gecrc.org