



**Dear Friends of Greenbrier,**

This holiday season, Greenbrier Learning Center is hard at work engaging young minds and supporting families through tough economic times. In our Learning ROCKS! Program, GBLC is providing academic tutoring and social-emotional support to 60 students in 3rd – 5th grades every day afterschool. Just as important, GBLC is helping parents to help their children through weekly Parent Connection workshops, focusing on child development, parenting skills, and much more! As we gear up for the New Year, our staff and volunteers have come together with our students and families to celebrate a season of giving. We've celebrated children's artwork together at our Connect the Dots event in October (surpassing our fundraising goal by 40%!), enjoyed several plentiful Thanksgiving feasts, and are looking forward to holiday celebrations that will include Toys For Tots give-aways for our students.

Please consider investing in the children and families of Greenbrier Learning Center this holiday season. In a tough economic climate, your help is more critical than ever! There are two simple ways you can help this season:

1. Consider participating in our Annual Giving Campaign by donating online at [www.gbhc.org](http://www.gbhc.org)
2. Do your online holiday shopping through GoodShop [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) Goodshop is supported by over 700 retailers and is an easy way to give back to Greenbrier while you shop, at no additional cost to you.

Many thanks to each of you for your continued support, and best wishes for a holiday season filled with family and friends.

In partnership,  
Courtney Reeve, Executive Director

[Click here to Good Shop for Greenbrier!](#)



### **Learning ROCKS! Powers into the Holidays**

For October the students of Learning ROCKS! took a ghoulish gallivant to Marymount's Halloweenfest where we were all thoroughly frightened by the spooky hallways and a great time was had by all.

Learning ROCKS! finished up the month of November with a delicious Thanksgiving feasts at both sites. Virginia Gardens celebrated with the friends and families of the after-school program participants, while at Greenbrier we had our own Thanksgiving feast just for the students. We ate our way through 2 turkeys, 3 bowls of mashed potatoes, and a plethora of other delicious Turkey Day treats. Yum! Thank you to all the parents, volunteers, and staff who brought in food and made these meals complete. Also, a big thanks to E\*TRADE who made it possible for us to send full Thanksgiving dinners home with all of our families.

We are looking forward to a December filled with animal visits, an ice skating trip, Toys for Tots giveaway and other holiday activities!



### **New Workshops for Parent Connection**

As we ring in the new year, our parent program is getting ready for new Charla topics and exciting workshops. The final class of 2008 will celebrate all that our parents learned with a party and a review of the topics they covered throughout the fall and winter. Congratulations, parents!

In the works for 2009: English language classes, a Zumba class, a workshop on Teen Alcohol Abuse Prevention, financial literacy workshops, an informative presentation on where and how to sign up for citizenship classes, and many more exciting and important topics.



### **Volunteer Spotlight**

This month's volunteer spotlight is on Samantha Goodridge, otherwise known as Sam. She is one of our most dedicated and reliable volunteers, racking up an amazing 177 volunteer hours since she first started with us in June. She comes 3 times a week, helping out with homework and other activities. Sam is a quiet leader whom the students love and look up to. Thank you, Sam, for all your hard work! And thank you to all of Greenbrier's amazing volunteers.

We would also like to extend a special welcome to new volunteers Vicky Hawk, Jamitress Bowden, Kushal Ismael, and Patricia Mirchandani who have recently joined our team.

### **Alternative Gift Market: Gifts that Give Hope**



Looking to give a gift that is meaningful this holiday season? Consider purchasing "one week of after school enrichment for a child of South Arlington" or "knitting and crocheting supplies for the parent program" by donating through the Alternative Gift Market put on by the Giving Circle of HOPE.

Click on the link below, download the shopping list, and find Greenbrier.

### [Give Gifts that Give Hope](#)



### **Connect the Dots: A Total Success!**

Our 3rd annual Connect the Dots Art Auction and Reception was a complete success! Thanks to your help, we raised almost \$7,000, exceeding our goal by 40%. We want to give a big thanks to all who made this a success and a special thanks to our event planning committee: Gail Meighan, Shally Stanley, Anne Biedscheid, Joan Kaufman, Kay Tabbarah, and Aileen Whitfill; all the local businesses that donated to the event: Bradlee Spine Center, Mai Health Now, Purrfectly Kleen, Salon Tony, Sports Therapy International, Sun and Moon Yoga Studio, Urban Body Works, and Werner Jewelers. Last but not a least, a big thanks to our sponsors for the event: Bank of America and Whole Foods.

Thank you so much for your continued support! We couldn't do it without you!