



Dear Friends of Greenbrier,

We are off to a strong start to 2010! Since last I wrote, our students have enjoyed several exciting field trips, winter break, and have had fun learning about "super foods," participating in science lessons, and playing in all of the snow! Our staff and Learning Links AmeriCorps Members began the year by volunteering at an elementary school in DC (see pictures below), and are participating in a variety of professional development opportunities. We are also busy planning an exciting seven-week summer camp for our students, including a middle school mentorship component to support rising sixth graders with the transition from elementary school.

None of this would be possible without your continued investment in our programs, combined with generous support from our community partners. We are proud to have recently been awarded grants from E*TRADE, the Giving Circle of HOPE, the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington. We extend our sincere thanks to each of our partners for investing your time, effort, and resources in forwarding Greenbrier Learning Center's mission. If you have not done so and would like to participate, our Annual Giving Campaign is in full swing. Donations can be made by check or online at www.gbhc.org.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2010 from the students, staff, and Learning Links AmeriCorps team here at Greenbrier!

In partnership,
Courtney C. Reeve
Executive Director



Martin Luther King Junior Day-- "A Day On, Not A Day Off"

In celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. day, the staff and AmeriCorps Members of Greenbrier Learning Center rolled up their sleeves to volunteer at DC's Powell Elementary School.

The project, organized by Greater DC Cares, attracted a number of volunteers including groups of friends, co-workers, and individuals looking to give "a day on" rather than have a day off. The Greenbrier team painted a colorful mural (seen in the picture on the left) and painted quotes that reflect Powell's core values. The day proved to be more than just a day of service, it was a time for our staff and Corps Members to work together as a team in a new community and a time to reflect on the values and ideals embodied by Martin Luther King, Jr. so we can carry them throughout the whole year.

To check out the team in action, click the link below for the Washington Post Express. Photo

number 10 features our very own Learning Links AmeriCorps Member, Mary Knox!

[Washington Post Express, Photo #10](#)

Learning ROCKS! Students Skate through Winter

What a winter season it has been for Learning ROCKS!. Before the holidays, both sites hosted Toys for Tots give-aways with the generous support from individuals and several businesses. Across both sites, GBLC was able to give away over 100 toys!

Back from Winter Break, Learning ROCKS! started the new year with a field trip to Pentagon Row ice skating rink. The kids skated around and around until it was time to warm up with some hot chocolate. For a lot of our students this was their first time ice skating and they had a blast!

Learning ROCKS! nutrition curriculum, the "Super Foods" series, also began in January. "Super Foods" focuses on foods in four different groups: Calcium, Protein, Antioxidants, and Vitamin C. The students are divided among the food groups, each responsible for making a presentation about its "Super Food" and cooking up a yummy snack for all the other students! So far, we have enjoyed presentations from Calcium and tasted their delicious smoothies and Vitamin C, who made salsa and taught us about Vitamin C's immune boosting power. We look forward to hearing about the benefits of Protein and Antioxidants next!

Before the Spring, GBLC is hosting a Bike Give-Away contest with bicycles donated by Phoenix Bikes. Students who enter the contest are asked to use their creativity to express

to judges why they should win a bike. Learning ROCKS! is also planning for the 2010 Annual Science Fair! We look forward to all the creative and exciting experiments the kids will be performing.



Spotlighting Kara Kotteman, Link Links AmeriCorps Member



GBLC would like to shine the spotlight on Kara Kotemann, one of our Learning Links AmeriCorps Members! Before starting her year of service in August, Kara was a preceptor for the Grassroots Environmentalism class at Truman State University and taught her peers about grassroots campaigning in the community. She also developed and taught a program linking art and environmentalism for elementary schoolers during her time in college.

Kara is a vital part of the Learning ROCKS! Program at the Greenbrier site. In addition to helping out afterschool with GBLC's Learning ROCKS! Program Kara serves Campbell Elementary school twice a week, about which she said, "Being there for their classes definitely gives me an edge when helping them with their homework and helps me get to know them better. Having shared experiences outside of Greenbrier helps them learn to trust me more, it adds depth to the relationships we form."

In talking about her year with GBLC Kara mentioned she really enjoy that"... the Greenbrier Staff are a really tight-knit community, and that definitely makes work a lot more fun. I know that I can rely on everyone that I work with, and helps me feel empowered when I'm doing my service."

Kara is a great addition to the GBLC team and we are happy to spotlight her today. Thanks, Kara, for all your hard work and dedication to our students and families!

Parent Connection

GBLC has a lot planned for our parents in the upcoming weeks! Check out the schedule below to see what's next:

Parent Connection at Greenbrier

February 22, 2010- School Options with Gladis Bourdouane. Gladis will discuss the various school options for K-12 in Arlington County and let parents know about important deadlines and applications.

March 1, 2010- How to prepare for a Parent/Teacher Conference. GBLC will help parents prepare questions for upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences at Carlin Springs and Campbell Elementary.

Parent Connection at Virginia Gardens

February 23, 2010- Presentation on the 2010 Census. A speaker will discuss the importance of the 2010 Census and explain how the Census is used.

March 2, 2010- How to prepare for a Parent/Teacher Conference. GBLC will help parents prepare questions for upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences at Claremont and Randolph Elementary.

GBLC is also recruiting couples for a "Fit Relationships" series at Virginia Gardens. The series will focus on ways to grow with your significant other. The series will be done in Spanish and will be on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Bordeaux at 703.379.6488 x104 or sarahb@gblc.org

Greenbrier Learning Center's on Facebook!

Keep current on Greenbrier events, news, and volunteer opportunities by becoming a Fan on Facebook! If you are a member of the GBLC Group on facebook, please migrate with us to our organization page instead of our group page. If you are already a fan, thank you for your support!

To become a fan, just click the link below!



Thank You

Special thank you to our funders: Acumen Solutions; Arlington Community Foundation; Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources; Bank of America; Commonweal Foundation; Community Development Foundation; E*TRADE; Giving Circle of HOPE; Kiwanis Club; Marymount University; Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Northern Virginia Community Foundation; Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington; Washington Forrest Foundation; as well as the individuals and community partners that make all that we do possible!