

Winter Newsletter

Dear Friends of Greenbrier,

Happy holidays! What a busy Fall it has been at Greenbrier Learning Center; we have so much to be thankful for!

Thanks to all of you who helped to make our Connect the Dots Children's Art and Silent Auction a grand success, exceeding our goal by 18%! Thanks to all of you who braved the weather on Nov. 1 to run for Greenbrier in Acumen Solutions' The Race for A Cause 8k. We saw some of our school and community partners out there that day, despite the cold and rain! And, this holiday season, we give special thanks to all of the many volunteers, interns, and community partners who make a real difference in the lives of the children we serve.

On behalf of our students, families, staff, AmeriCorps Members, and Board of Directors, we wish you a warm and wonderful holiday season full of joy.

In partnership,
Courtney Reeve

GBLC Recognized by ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership

Greenbrier is pleased to be recognized by a national organization. In November, GBLC's Executive Director, Courtney Reeve, received the Emerging Leader Award through ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership's In Honor of Women program.



GBLC's Annual Giving Campaign

GBLC is launching this year's Annual Giving Campaign. The Annual Giving Campaign is a key aspect of GBLC's fundraising strategy, and we need your help now more than ever. It costs us \$3,000 to provide 10 months of afterschool programming to each child we serve, and no child is ever turned away for inability to pay the modest \$100 per month tuition. In fact, more than half of GBLC's students attend our flagship program, Learning ROCKS!, on scholarship. Our goal this year is to raise \$30,000 through the Annual Giving Campaign.

[Click Here To Help Us Reach Our Goal!](#)

Goodshop for Greenbrier this Holiday Season

This season, let your gift-giving count twice by using GoodShop.com to make all of your holiday (and anytime) purchases. Goodshop is linked to over 1,000 different retailers including some of the most popular stores. When you shop through Goodshop, retailers will donate a portion of your purchase to the charity of your choice.

To Goodshop for Greenbrier Learning Center is easy! Just go to www.goodshop.com and select Greenbrier Learning Center as the charity you wish to support.

[Click Here to GoodShop](#)

Learning ROCKS!



GBLC's Learning ROCKS! afterschool program had a busy first half of the year!

In November we had a special visit from Delta Sigma Theta sorority members for our Fall RIF Book Giveaway. Students creatively presented their reading group books and left with new books to enjoy. Also this month, at the Greenbrier site students will work with ReSET scientists on scientific observations and experiments.

GBLC celebrated Thanksgiving with family, friends, and the community. Parents brought food to share and prepared items donated by the Capital Area Food Bank for wonderful feasts at both program sites. To help out this season, GBLC was also able to provide our students' families with full Thanksgiving dinners including all the fixings, courtesy of E*Trade.

Upcoming events for Learning ROCKS! include: the Holiday Extravaganza at Greenbrier, Dec. 9; Toys for Tots, Dec. 18th at Greenbrier and Dec. 21st at Virginia Gardens; and Ice Skating at Pentagon Row, Dec. 22! Greenbrier Learning Center will be on Winter Break from Dec. 23-Jan 4th and we look forward to kicking off 2010 with exciting new field trips and activities for our students!

Spotlighting Dana Smith, Learning Links AmeriCorps Member



As many of you know, Greenbrier Learning Center began piloting its Learning Links AmeriCorps program late this summer. All six of our Corps Members have been doing a fantastic job! Dana Smith is one of our Corps Members. She tackles the 5th grade homework room each afternoon, helping our students with reading, math, planning activities, and so much more. One of Dana's favorite things about working at GBLC is "...when the kids first come in and they are so excited to see you or when you get that break-through in homework and they are so happy. It's really those individual moments with students that I love the most."

Through the Learning Links AmeriCorps Program, Dana says she has learned new leadership skills. "I have been a part of developing lesson plans for an afterschool program. I am used to being a helping hand, but with AmeriCorps I get to take on new roles and work behind the scenes and have input on the activities we do." Dana also said she was "impressed by how dedicated everyone is to the same cause, helping children succeed. We are all on the same page."

Before coming to Greenbrier Learning Center in August, Dana actively led and participated in programs committed to developing the self-esteem and life skills of children and youth, including being a camp counselor for the Young Chefs Academy and creating a cheerleading squad for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Dana holds a BA in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Thank you, Dana, for all of your hard work!
Fall Successes

CONNECT THE DOTS

Thanks, Arlington! You helped us to exceed our goal once again - this year by 18% at our annual Connect the Dots Children's Artwork and Silent Auction!

Thank you to all the vendors who donated to our silent auction and the community members and Greenbrier friends who made the night such a success. GBLC would especially like to thank its Board of Directors and the Events Planning Committee: Shally Stanley, Gail Meighan, Jessi Pore, and Steven Ruggio!

RACE FOR A CAUSE

Thank you to Acumen Solutions for hosting the Race for a Cause 8K! Despite the rainy weather on race day, Greenbrier had a great turnout! Thank you to all of those who registered, ran, and donated! The Race for a Cause not only raised funds for 13 local nonprofits, including Greenbrier Learning Center, but also raised visibility for the important role of community organizations in Arlington.

Thank you again!

Special Thanks!

Thank you to Eastern Mountain Sports in Clarendon for helping to outfit our Learning Links AmeriCorps Members with fleeces to keep them warm while they are doing service this winter!



Kudos!

Kudos to all the volunteers because they ROCK!

Kudos to James for doing such a good job recruiting and bringing all the Marymount University Volunteers to Greenbeir!

Kudos to Devin and Chris for saving the day and bringing their football!

Kudos to Steven and Jordan A for holding the jump rope out at free choice!

Kudos to Erin and Katie for organizing two AMAZING Thanksgiving feasts!

Kudos Chelsea for helping out at Virginia Gardens Thanksgiving! You went above and beyond!