



Dear Friends of Greenbrier,

Today marks the first day of a new school year, full of promise and excitement! Greenbrier Learning Center has so much to look forward to this Fall, including our annual Connect the Dots Children's Art, Silent Auction, and Reception on October 22 at the Arlington Arts Center, and participation in Acumen Solutions' The Race for A Cause 8k run/walk on Sunday, November 1. Greenbrier needs to register 100 folks for the race, so please join us by registering at: [www.theraceforacause.com](http://www.theraceforacause.com).

It's been a busy few months since we last wrote: we wrapped up the 2008-09 school year with 81% of students improving their reading instructional levels, despite 85% of students receiving special support for English language, and/or learning or behavior challenges, and wasted no time launching into an action-packed seven-week summer camp with the theme Water, Water Everywhere! Building on these successes, we are especially excited to open our doors today to 60 students in grades 3-5 as we begin the first day of our Learning ROCKS! afterschool program at our two program sites: Greenbrier Church and Virginia Gardens Apartments. And, this is a special year for us, as we celebrate 15 years of serving the community by piloting our new Learning Links AmeriCorps program. Learning Links is an exciting, original initiative to support our students in the three main aspects of their daily experiences: at school; after school; and in the community. Specifically, our four full-time AmeriCorps Members will provide direct services to students two mornings/week at each of our four partner schools: Campbell, Carlin Springs, Claremont, and Randolph Elementary Schools. In addition to planning and implementing the Learning ROCKS! program, AmeriCorps Members will also provide monthly family programming on Saturdays at Columbia Grove Apartments as part of our new partnership with APAH. In fact, one of our Corps Members is also a Columbia Grove resident. We are thrilled to welcome our Corps Members into the Greenbrier family this year: Meghan Gregg, Kara Kottemann, Dana Smith, and Mary Knox Zealy. Please keep an eye out for our Learning Links Corps Members proudly sporting the AmeriCorps logo in our community!

Find Greenbrier Learning Center's group on Facebook to learn about upcoming events, links to GoodShop.com (where a percentage of every online purchase you make goes to Greenbrier Learning Center) and more!

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, summer interns (including a great group of teen interns), and school and community partners. We couldn't do it without you!

In partnership,

Courtney C. Reeve  
Executive Director

**Greenbrier Awarded \$1,000 from Youth Leadership Arlington**

Thank you to Youth Leadership Arlington (YLA) Class of 2009 for choosing Greenbrier Learning Center as the recipient of their \$1,000 Philanthropy in Action Award! GBLC is honored to be acknowledged by youth leaders in the community. As well Sydney Huppert, a member of Youth Leadership Arlington, also dedicated her summer to Greenbrier Learning Center as one of its eight Summer Teen Interns. Thank you again to the YLA Class of 2009 for your support!

[Sungazette Article](#)

**Learning ROCKS! Closes Out Another School Year**

June was jam-packed with mad science experiments, theatrical debuts, and bittersweet farewells on June 3rd, the students struck a Shakespearean chord as weeks of preparation with the Educational Theatre Company culminated in performances for friends and family.

With the school year coming to a close, it was time to bid farewell to all of our fifth graders. Some have been with us since third grade so it was hard to see them go. GBLC is proud of the strides they've made and trusts that they have the tools to succeed in middle school.





### **Water, Water, Everywhere Summer Camp**

This year, our Summer theme was "Water,Water Everywhere!" Each week focused on a theme relating to water. In order to enhance learning, students participated in "water-focused" field trips. Some of our field trips included the Baltimore Aquarium, Great Falls National Park, Meadow Lark Botanical Gardens, Bull Run Organic Farm, and many more.

Summer Camp would not have been the same without two college interns: Cathrine (Cat) Ianni and Casey Davidow. Cat was part of the Exxon Mobile Community Summer Jobs Program which provides 60 local nonprofit agencies with grants to hire college interns for eight weeks during the summer. Both Cat and Casey impressed the staff with their hard work, tireless energy, and positive attitudes. They led programs throughout the summer camp, taking turns to plan a week's worth of activities, supervising teen interns, and making wonderful connections with our students. You both did a fabulous job and Greenbrier was so pleased to have you on our team!

### **Greenbrier's Volunteer Spotlight is shining on our Teen Summer Interns!**



New this summer was Greenbrier Learning Center's Teen Summer Internship Program! We had a phenomenal group of eight dedicated high school students helping out this Summer. After they interviewed for the internship those selected attended a week of training before camp where they learned good communication skills, behavior management techniques, and group management skills.

They dove right in and impressed the staff and students with their creativity and enthusiasm. Cuong, Jessica, Janet, Makie, Noushine, Rabia, Sam, and Sydney, you did an AMAZING job!



### **Kudos**

We have collected the "Kudos" from this summer and they speak volumes about the wonderful volunteers and students here at the Greenbrier Learning Center. Way to go!

Kudos to Lauren for all her hard work in Program. She's a Learning ROCKS! star!

Kudos to Jordan for all her hard work on the Amazing Race. It was a blast!

Kudos to Katie for great buddy nights! Blast off!

Kudos to everyone for super Tuesday!

Kudos to Nhu-Y and Cuong for helping out with fifth grade graduation! You guys are awesome!

Kudos to Jordan for being a ROCK star and helping out on your one good leg! From Erin and Saman (ok so maybe we meant pirate)

Kudos to Erin for being an upbeat director of this program and always smiling all-the-time.

Kudos to Sarah and Lauren for training us interns so we have all these useful communication skills.

Kudos to all the volunteers because they ROCK!

Kudos to the bleach crew (you know who you are) :D

Kudos to Sam for carving a frozen turkey like an iron chef!

Kudos to Sam for being unbelievably committed to Greenbrier. Go Sam!

Kudos to Noushine for really being engaged with the students at the pool. You ROCK!

Kudos to Cuong and Cat for trying to out Wacky Angel on Wacky Wednesday

Kudos to Erin, Cat, and Casey for making this years summer camp a true success!

Kudos to Steven and Jordan for holding the jump rope

Kudos to Rabia for drawing some amazing comics with Joslynn

We'd like to give a special thank you to Acumen Solutions, Arlington Community Foundation, Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Commonweal Foundation, Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, Exxon Mobile Community Summer Jobs Program, Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Northern Virginia Community Foundation, and the Washington Forrest Foundation for their continued support, as well as to the individuals and community partners that make all that we do possible!