

GEP RECEIVES WHITNEY M. YOUNG AWARD

GEP was awarded the 2018 Whitney M. Young Service Award by the Mecklenburg County Boy Scouts. The award is given annually to an individual or organization that demonstrates outstanding service and involvement in the development and implementation of scouting opportunities for youth from rural or low-income urban backgrounds.

Scouting has been a part of the GEP program for several decades. GEP's young men participate in weekly Scout sessions that focus on character education, teamwork and critical



thinking. Students walk in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade and go on special field trips,

including fishing and camping.

“Collaboration with the Boy Scouts’ special initiative department is very important to the GEP students,” said Bronica Glover, GEP executive director. “Their first experience with scouting is at our afterschool sites and our young men really enjoy the activities and the relationships with the scouting staff and volunteers.”

Students receive a uniform and earn scout awards through the GEP scouting program.

Danby Music Keeps Students In Tune

GEP teamed up with Danby Music Company to offer weekly vocal and piano classes to students. The semi-private lessons were held at the GEP Merry Oaks site and offered to third through fifth grade students. GEP strives to expose students to a variety of enrichment opportunities, including music and art. Students were selected for this pilot program because of their interest in singing and playing piano. GEP is looking forward to adding drum/percussions instructions during the 2018 – 2019 school year.

GEP GETS RED NOSES FOR THE DAY

Students Participate In Red Nose Day For Child Poverty

On May 24, Greater Enrichment Program students engaged in their very own Red Nose Day service project to support the National Red Nose Day campaign. Red Nose Day is a fundraising campaign geared to help children living in poverty and is run by the non-profit organization, Comic Relief Inc., a registered 501(c)(3) public charity. Red Nose Day brings people together to have fun, raise money and change the lives of kids who are in the most need. Red Nose Day, which was launched in the U.S. in 2015, is dedicated to ending child poverty nationally and in some of the poorest communities in the world. The money



raised by Red Nose Day has benefited programs for children and young people nationally in all 50 states and internationally in 34 countries. On a global scale, Red Nose Day has raised over \$1 billion since its launch in the United Kingdom in 1988.

Prior to the service project, GEP students learned how poverty impacts the world. They also participated in fun activities and discussions about childhood hunger. To

participate in the service project, each student gave one dollar to purchase individual red noses from the neighborhood Walgreens. The students all wore their red noses and took pictures with local Walgreens managers.

“The students were so proud that they could help a child,” said Denise Rice, GEP site director. “They were so happy to help someone, not understanding that the proceeds could help them and their families as well.” GEP Red Nose Day had 100 percent participation from students and staff. “Teaching kids to give back is very important to GEP,” said Rice.

2018 GEP SUMMER CAMP RECAP

The GEP “Great Adventures: a walk on the Wild Side” Summer Camp was awesome! Students engaged in six weeks of literacy, character education, and new and engaging experiences. GEP is so grateful for its partnerships with Barry White, Jr., Promising Pages, Girl Scouts Hornets’ Nest Council, First Tee, Community School of Davidson’s golf team, Foundry Commercial and the Davis Tennis Foundation. We had two interns from the mayor’s Youth Employment Program and a host of student volunteers who helped make this a successful summer program.

Students engaged in weekly tennis clinics, literacy fun and several enrichment activities and field trips. We are so excited that 70% of the campers met the Summer Reading 1000 Challenge and achieved 1,000 minutes of reading in six weeks. We also hosted another successful Middle school program that taught rising sixth and seventh grade students to be leaders in their community. The campers had a great summer of new experiences, including gem mining, a mobile petting zoo and a magic show. The campers went skating, played glow-in-the-dark miniature golf, and went to Discovery Place and bowling. The GEP summer camp provides students with safety and supervision, academic support and positive learning experiences during the summer. Preventing summer learning loss is a priority for GEP. The students who are served need it most.

GEP COLLABORATES WITH SOUTHMINSTER

Residents Become Reading Buddies

For the 2017 – 2018 academic year, GEP and Southminster, a non-profit retirement community, have been in collaboration to improve GEP students' reading skills through the reading buddy program. The residents and staff at Southminster worked with kindergarten and first grade GEP students at Merry Oaks from August through May, engaging the students in monthly reading sessions.

GEP students selected books and the Southminster residents read the selected books to the students. This reading activity increased students' reading confidence and allowed the

students to develop a special relationship with an older adult.

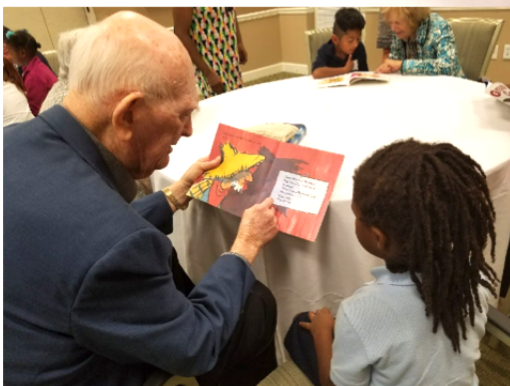
"The students love going to Southminster," said Bronica Glover, GEP executive director. "Many of the students do not have an older adult in their life so this relationship is special."

The collaboration made a difference - by May, the students were reading to the seniors. Southminster residents also benefited

from the collaboration. Studies have shown that senior adults who engage in programs with youth have less health issues and are more active.

In addition to the reading buddy program, GEP collaborated with Southminster on several other projects, including the GEP annual Art Show and spring chorus concert.

GEP students studied artist Georgia O'Keefe's famous flower paintings to prepare for the art show. The students' work was on display at Southminster for the residents and staff.



PROVIDENCE DAY LACROSSE & GEP

Everybody Loves Lacrosse Initiative Celebrates Five Years

On April 26, GEP students attended the Providence Day junior varsity lacrosse game where the team celebrated the five-year anniversary of its Everybody Loves Lacrosse initiatives. This special outreach program brings the game of lacrosse to underserved kids, including students at GEP. Ken Loeber, a GEP board



member, introduced the Providence Day lacrosse team to GEP five years ago. Since then, the team has

provided a special lacrosse program during the school year for students at all the GEP sites. During the anniversary celebration, GEP parent, LaShawn McDonald, spoke about the importance of exposing students to new things and she shared how much her child enjoyed learning the sport and working with the Providence Day lacrosse team.

MISS GEP PAGEANT SHOWCASES SUPER GIRLS

The eighth annual Miss GEP Pageant was held on May 19, 2018 at Steel Creek A.M.E. Zion Church. Ten girls from third through sixth grades participated in this year's pageant, "I am a Super Girl." Yemaya Forrest, a fifth grade student at Ashley Park Academy, won this year's crown. The contestants worked really hard this year. In addition to preparing for the event, the young ladies engaged in weekly workshops that focused on healthy living, public speaking and self-confidence. For many of the young ladies, this was the first time they had ever been in front of an audience. "It was amazing to see



them transform," said Sokoya Lindsay, a GEP volunteer. "They were so shy in the first session and now they are flaunting their stuff." Donna Murrell, owner of Carolinas Girls Rock Pageant, has served as the GEP pageant director for the past three years. The Miss GEP pageant was developed to provide the girls with the experience of a pageant and build their self-confidence and courage. "I am all about Girl Power," said Bronica Glover, GEP executive director. "I want these girls to believe they can achieve anything they want despite any circumstances that may come their way. They are smart, fearless leaders."

CONGRATS TO GEP ALUMNI

Justice Isom participated in GEP from kindergarten through sixth grade. On June 6, she graduated from West Charlotte High School. She will attend North Carolina Central University this fall and wants to major in Textile and Apparel. “I am so proud of Justice,” said Tangella Stephens, GEP site director. “Justice has overcome so many challenges in her life.” Justice received several scholarships including a

scholarship from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She graduated with a 3.5 GPA and has started up her own organization, PINK, which stands for Power, Integrity, Nonpareil and Knowledge. She frequently volunteers at the GEP sites and is an inspiration to the girls at GEP. The GEP staff, students and volunteers all wish her luck on her new endeavors.



GEP STUDENTS ATTEND BLACK PANTHER SPECIAL SCREENING

GEP students attended a special screening of the award-winning movie, “Black Panther.” Local businessman and youth advocate, Tracey Suggs, reached out to GEP to offer 100 free tickets to this special screening. GEP students and staff loaded the buses for the special afternoon experience. The students had an amazing time and really enjoyed the movie.

GEP WISH LIST

- Composition books & spiral notebooks
- Stencils & stamps
- Notebook & copy (white & color) paper
- Pencils & mechanical pencils
- Washable markers
- 9x12 construction paper
- White & color poster board
- Drawing paper & scrapbook paper
- Dictionaries & thesauruses
- Calculators
- Flash Cards: Multiplication, Addition, Subtraction, Sight Words & others
- Clocks for telling time
- Inflatable globes
- Atlas (for current year)
- Crayola Air Dry Model Clay & Play Dough
- Instant cameras
- Beads, clasps and wire
- Tie Dye Kits & white T-shirts
- Play money & coins
- Paint for poster boards & fabric
- Red ribbon & pins for HIV project
- Scrap fabric for sewing projects
- Various colors of rectangular table clothes
- Stickers of all varieties
- Games, game cards (i.e. Uno & Mancala)
- Hula Hoops
- Individual dry erase boards
- Self-adhesive flip chart paper
- Carpet squares or floor mats to sit on
- Educational games for instruction
- Large white project boards
- All genres of reading & reference books appropriate for K – 6 students

FOOD ITEMS & PRODUCTS

(Note: Nothing with peanut butter)

- Individually wrapped, non-refrigerated candy, gum, snacks or breakfast food – items can be microwavable (i.e. Capri Sun, individual cereal boxes, Nutri-Grain Bars, cereal bars, popcorn)
- Paper plates, cups, napkins, bowls, forks & spoons

FURNITURE

- Student-size chairs for computer lab
- Popcorn machine on wheels
- Outside storage unit



Greater Enrichment Program, Inc.

Child Focused. Family Centered.

The Greater Enrichment Program serves in three Charlotte-Mecklenburg School sites.

**Ashley Park
Pre-K – 8 School**

**Merry Oaks
International
Academy**

**Thomasboro
Academy**

Save the Date!

43rd Annual Fundraising Luncheon

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Fairfield Inn & Suites Charlotte Uptown

As our largest fundraiser, this event ensures GEP students continue to receive the support they need; and with very little funding from our local and state governments, your support is crucial. We are seeking both individual and corporate donations. Without these donations, hundreds of students will go home alone to unsafe environments with no supervision, academic support or positive mentoring. We are asking that you help provide the safety net for the most needy members of our community by giving to GEP. Please visit our website at www.gepinc.org to get more information or to become a sponsor or individual donor for this event.

GEP STAFF

Executive Director
Bronica Glover

Office Manager
Katy Vasquez

Financial Manager
Angie Benjock

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Make A Difference Program

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- Connect your Target Red Debit or Credit Card to #126414 to support GEP

You can connect on the company websites or in the stores