



Greater Enrichment Program, Inc.

Child Focused. Family Centered.

Education Matters

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GEP CELEBRATES 39TH ANNIVERSARY

Greater Enrichment Program celebrated its 39th anniversary on October 22, 2014. The annual luncheon was held at the newly renovated Fairfield Inn & Suites Uptown.



Tim Belk, chief executive officer of Belk Inc., served as the keynote speaker. His compelling remarks reflected on the organization's rich history and impact on Charlotte's most underserved youth. He also highlighted his most recent experiences with the program, including a candid discussion with the

principal of one of GEP's school sites and a visit with one of GEP's families, the Williams, to discuss the program's impact in their lives.

"I'm so glad that leaders in our community, like Tim Belk, understand and support what we are trying to do at GEP," said Bishop George Battle, GEP founder. "Our history and track record are strong – 39 years and counting – but we can't do it alone. It's folks like Tim and all of our donors, volunteers and supporters who continually help us make a difference in the lives of our least able children."

Members of the GEP Youth Choir showed off their vocal talents by performing two inspiring selections. Hermon Mokonen, a GEP parent, also shared how the program has encouraged her to be a better parent and has allowed her to go back to school to make a better life for her daughter.

Bishop Battle ended the event with special recognitions to several businesses and organizations, including Coca Cola, Dickson Foundation, Carolinas Healthcare Foundation and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, for their ongoing support of GEP for more than 30 years.

"This year's anniversary luncheon was a tear jerker," said Bronica Glover, GEP executive director. "At this luncheon, we really wanted our guests to see the true power of their giving and of our program."

The annual anniversary luncheon is hosted by the GEP Board of Directors. Proceeds from the luncheon help fund the many programs and activities at GEP.

GEP RECEIVES MICROSOFT COMMUNITY GRANT

Greater Enrichment Program was one of six local not-for-profits selected to receive a \$5,000 community grant. As a perk for being selected, more than 50 GEP students and supporters participated in the Microsoft Store grand opening at South Park Mall.



The \$5,000 grant will be used to purchase new equipment for the students' computer lab. In addition to this grant, GEP also was awarded a \$50,000 grant to purchase software to upgrade the GEP administrative office.

GEP PARTNERS WITH CHARLOTTE YOUTH BALLET

Three of Charlotte's leading real estate firms - CNL Commercial Real Estate, Faison Enterprises and Crescent Communities – have joined together to sponsor GEP's new ballet program, Lasting Impressions. The program features an introduction to classical ballet taught by Charlotte Youth Ballet (CYB) instructors. Classes are held weekly for selected

GEP students at the Ashley Park site. The program also includes equipment and attire, excursions to CYB performances and mentoring from CYB participants.

This new partnership seeks to capitalize on the benefits of participating in the arts as an avenue to achieve greater academic success, inspire a love for ballet and teach the

students etiquette, poise and discipline.

"Greater Enrichment parents are so grateful that this opportunity is being provided to their children," said Bronica Glover, GEP executive director. "They have embraced the program wholeheartedly, ensuring that their children attend the weekly classes and practice at home."



FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

"We make reading fun," said Tanya Stowe, a GEP teacher.

The GEP Thomasboro site hosted its first Family Literacy Night this past fall. The entire GEP staff dressed as their favorite book character as they hosted fun activity stations that encouraged reading to the entire family.

Students and their parents made bookmarks, wrote a story together and went book shopping to help build a family library.

The GEP academic program focuses on literacy, and the daily schedule includes hands on literacy activities, book centers and daily journaling. Students are encouraged to read often

and parents are provided several resources to support their children's reading growth.

GEP partners with local nonprofits, including Promising Pages and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library to provide reading programming to students.

GEP STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On November 1, 2014, GEP kicked off its annual Coins for a Cause service project. Through out the month, students brought in loose change to build a monetary contribution for the charity of their choice.

"Teaching students to give back is important to GEP," said Bronica Glover, executive director. "We want them to learn the importance of helping others."

"I like rolling all the coins and taking the money to the bank to count," said Aubrey Moore, a fifth grade GEP participant.



The project was two-fold – teaching the students to give while learning about charitable organizations. The older students did research on several charities and

shared their information with the rest of the students. After the research was presented, students voted on the charity to which they wanted to give the proceeds.

The year's donation went to St. Jude Children's Hospital and the American Red Cross. The students really wanted to help sick children and became interested in the Red Cross because of the recent Ebola outbreak.

This project had 100 percent participation from GEP students, and the class with the most coins collected received an ice cream party.

DINNER WITH CAM NEWTON

GEP is extremely grateful to Cam Newton, quarterback for the Carolina Panthers, and the Cam Newton Foundation staff for an experience of a lifetime.

On November 16, GEP students attended the Panthers' home game against the Atlanta Falcons. They were also

treated to dinner at Sullivan's Steakhouse and had a special meet-and-greet session with Cam Newton.

"This was a dream come true," said Michael, a GEP student at Merry Oaks. "Never in my life would I have thought that I would meet my hero."

Students were selected to attend this special trip because of their good grades and great attitude displayed in afterschool.

The Cam Newton Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering youth.



A/B HONOR ROLL PARTY A SUCCESS

Several Greater Enrichment Program students did well on their first quarter report cards. As an incentive for their hard work, students were invited to a fun day at Adventure Landing.

Approximately 52 students made the A/B honor roll and several kindergarten, first and second grade students received all 3s. Congratulations to these studious students.

GEP FEEDS FAMILIES FOR THE HOLIDAY



The Greater Enrichment Program provided meals to several of its families during the Thanksgiving holiday. With contributions from church and community groups, GEP was able to

provide more than 50 families with meals that included turkeys and all the trimmings.

GEP is grateful to the North Carolina A&T Alumni Group, Steele Creek African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church,

and the Praising Place Church of God for their support.

By providing the meals, low-income families were able to have a sense of peace during a time that can be very stressful.

GEP WISH LIST

- Composition books or spiral notebooks for Journaling
- Stencils and stamps for writing activities
- Notebook paper
- Pencils
- Washable markers
- Different colors in regular size construction paper
- White and color poster board
- Drawing paper
- Scrapbook paper
- Dictionaries
- Thesauruses
- Calculators
- Flash Cards: Multiplication, Addition, Subtraction, Sight Words and others
- Clocks for telling time
- Inflatable globes
- Atlas (2013)
- Crayola Air Dry Model Clay
- Play Dough
- Instant cameras for photography club activities
- Beads, clasps and wire for making jewelry and entrepreneurial club activities
- Tie Dye Kits
- White T-shirts
- Play money and coins for money management activities
- Paint for poster boards and fabric
- Red ribbon and pins for HIV project
- Scrap fabric for sewing projects
- Various colors of rectangular table cloths for program site activities and projects
- Stickers of all varieties
- Games, game cards like UNO and Mancala
- Hula Hoops
- Individual dry erase boards
- Self adhesive flip chart paper
- Copy paper (white and color)
- Carpet squares or floor mats to sit on
- Mechanical pencils
- Educational games for individual or group instruction. Staff can make recommendations. Leap Frog is a preferred brand.
- Large white project boards
- All genres of reading and reference books appropriate for K-6 grade students

FOOD ITEMS AND PRODUCTS

(Note: Nothing with peanut butter)

- Capri Sun – Sunrise drinks
- Individual cereal boxes
- Nutri-Grain Bars
- Cereal bars
- Any other individually wrapped, non-refrigerated snack or breakfast food – items can be microwavable
- Popcorn
- Individually wrapped candy and gum
- Paper plates, cups, napkins, bowls, forks and spoons

FURNITURE

- Student-size chairs for computer lab
- Popcorn machine on wheels
- Outside Storage Unit



Greater Enrichment Program, Inc.

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

- **Ashley Park Pre-K – 8 School**
- **Merry Oaks International Academy**
- **Thomasboro Academy**

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

DONATE, VOLUNTEER, PARTNER

1. **Financially contribute.** Make a general tax-deductible or in-kind contribution to Greater Enrichment Program.
2. **Volunteer your time!** Mentor a child in GEP's afterschool program. Sign up to be a homework or reading buddy.
3. **Host an event.** Invite us to a gathering. We can provide ideas and support, including guest speakers, DVDs, photo exhibits and informational materials about Greater Enrichment Program.
4. **Partner with us.** Through our partnerships with other nonprofits and businesses, we are able to offer more meaningful, educational, cultural and social activities and programs for our students.

GEP STAFF

Executive Director
Bronica Glover

Office Manager
Katy Vasquez

Financial Manager
Angie Benjock

Director of Programs
Shereene Hill-Veal

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WEBSITE:

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Make A Difference Program

- ▶ Connect your Harris Teeter Rewards Card to #7715 to support GEP
- ▶ Connect your Target Credit Card to #126414 to support GEP

You can connect on the company website online or in the store



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