



Greater Enrichment Program, Inc.

Child Focused. Family Centered.

Education Matters

Spring/Summer Issue

March – July 2015

GEP CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

For 40 years, the Greater Enrichment Program has provided a safe and positive afterschool environment for kids like Aubrey, Larry and Alicia, who live in at-risk, inner-city communities in Charlotte. Through GEP, these children are able to enjoy a variety of productive, engaging educational and social programs and services that normally wouldn't be available to them.

This year, GEP is in great need of your support. In honor of the 40th anniversary, GEP wants you to help in the celebration by “Fulfilling Our Responsibility To Youth (FORTY).”



Kay McSpadden, a special reporter for the Charlotte Observer, will serve as the keynote speaker. Funds raised at this event – GEP's largest fundraiser – are instrumental in ensuring GEP students receive the support they need. Please become a **FORTY Champion and donate today**. Both individual and corporate donations are welcome. Your gift is an investment in the future of the children of your community.

If you need more information about the luncheon, please contact GEP Executive Director Bronica Glover at 704.334.8518 or bglover@gepinc.org.

On Wednesday, October 21, GEP will hold its annual fundraising luncheon at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Charlotte Uptown from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Professional Development Fun at Discovery Place Studio

Early this spring, GEP staff participated in hands-on STEM training at the Discovery Place Education Studio. The staff designed rocket launchers and engaged in several math, engineering and science activities that can be facilitated with GEP students.

“I really enjoyed the workshop and learning new things that I can share with my students,” said Okima Blanks, middle school associate at the Thomasboro site.

The GEP curriculum includes weekly STEM activities for all students. GEP partners with Mad Science of Metrolina, McDowell Nature Preserve and Girl Scouts Hornet’s Nest Council to offer



STEM programming. GEP hosted a math and science night at all the afterschool sites this fall and will continue to offer additional opportunities for students and their families.

“The students in the program really need additional opportunities for STEM,” said Bronica Glover, GEP executive director. “Through our activities, we have seen our students’ science grades improve and they have become more interested in STEM and STEM careers.”

GIRLS RULE THE WORLD

GEP Hosts Annual Queens' Luncheon

Fifty young ladies participated in GEP's first queens' luncheon on March 28, 2015. The ladies came dressed in beautiful spring dresses and received beads and party hats during the Mardi Gras-themed event.

The luncheon included workshops on goal setting and improving self-confidence. Each young lady also made a vision board, friendship bracelets and other fun arts and crafts.

The luncheon's purpose is to empower the young ladies of GEP by teaching them to be proud of themselves regardless of where they live and their circumstances.

"During my session, the girls made friendship bracelets with beads that represented different personality traits," said Cherise Williams, third grade associate at the Ashley Park site. "I believe it is very important for

the girls to be who they are and be able to express themselves freely."

The workshop also included a special Mardi Gras mask-making session with Trezure Lanier, Miss GEP 2015. Miss GEP serves as the spokesperson for the GEP students.



Thomasboro Tennis Festival with NC Tennis Association

GEP held a tennis festival this spring at the Thomasboro site. During the festival, students visited a variety of tennis skill stations hosted by N.C. Tennis Association volunteers. Students enjoyed healthy snacks and earned prizes for their participation.

GEP students have been engaging in tennis activities for the last few years. To support these activities, GEP has received a grant from the U.S. Tennis Association and



partners with the Tennis Association's state and local chapters, which offer support and staff training. Tennis activities are facilitated weekly and students are taught basic tennis skills along with sportsmanship and character education.

Tennis is offered to GEP students during the afterschool schedule. It is an essential part of the GEP fitness curriculum.

GEP PARTNERS WITH THE CHARLOTTE HOUNDS & PROVIDENCE DAY

Members of the Providence Day lacrosse team and coaching staff of the Charlotte Hounds, a major league professional men's lacrosse team, hosted a series of lacrosse clinics for GEP students during the spring.

GEP students were first introduced to lacrosse when current GEP board member Ken Loeber provided an opportunity for them to see the Charlotte Hounds play at American Legion Memorial Stadium last summer. The students had not heard of the sport but became intrigued with it after the experience.

During the 2014 - 2015 school year, the students were invited to a special skills workshop with the Charlotte Hounds players and had a great time

learning all about the sport. Most recently, GEP received an equipment grant from the Charlotte Hounds Foundation. GEP now has enough lacrosse sticks and balls to have a team at each site.

In May, several players from the Providence Day lacrosse team volunteered to host mini skills clinics with GEP students at the Merry Oaks site. Christy Boyles, Charlotte Hounds community relations director, led each session and provided the students with a variety of surprises, including a meet-and-greet with Charlotte Hounds players.

"Now, I want to join a lacrosse team when I get to high school," said Freddy Yodi, a fifth grade GEP student.



- 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 & Monopoly)
- 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.
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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 GEP.
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 GEP.
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

Connect with GEP
WEBSITE:
www.gepinc.org



Make A Difference Program

- Connect with your Harris Teeter VIC Card to #7715 to support GEP
- Connect your Target Red Debit or Credit Card to #126414 to support GEP

You can connect on the company websites or in the stores



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