

Reaching Out to Children



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**An IRC §501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization**

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Program Director:
Daniel Zagami

Mission:

To improve the quality of life for low income children and their families through educational and recreational activities which develop essential literacy and life skills.



GLEN ELLYN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



Issue 1 December 2007

Each Day, A New Story

I am excited for this, our first newsletter issue, because of the many amazing, untold stories and experiences found working with the children of the Glen Ellyn Community Resource Center. Finally we will have a venue to relay these stories to the



greater Glen Ellyn community.

One of the greatest joys about being a teacher is what we can learn from our students. My journal overflows with daily experiences, and lessons learned, from our students. I know that many of our volunteers have won-

derful experiences that need to be shared and, of course, the students have the stories that we all need to hear. It is my hope that this newsletter will offer a small peek into the world of the Glen Ellyn Community Resource Center.

From storytelling to artwork, from soccer games to simply sitting and doing homework, from teaching students how to write their name for the first time to sharing smiles and laughs with everyone during show and tell, the resource center is truly an enriching environment that teaches us the value in helping others and gives us the great gift of joy through learning from the culture of another.

~ Daniel Zagami

Message From the Board

The Resource Center is pleased to present our first Newsletter. As a recipient, you have played a critical role in the life of the GECRC and we are pleased to offer you this glimpse into the operation of our organization. We have truly been blessed with a talented and compassionate

Program Director, a resourceful Aide and a large number



of generous volunteers. Without those resources we would

I Am From...

*I am from lime trees,
Stick dolls and slimy snails.*

*I am from tall grass,
Dirt roads and busy highways.
I am from 'do this, do that and
Take care of your siblings.'*

*I am from 'don't touch,
Back straight, and
Leave them alone.'*
*I am from four siblings,
One brother and three sisters.*

*I am from ducks, chickens,
And scary goats.
I am from guava trees, mango trees
And all the fruit you want.*

*I am from personality,
Values and self respect.
I am from romance, reading books
And beading all out.
I am from big house to small.*

*I am from farmer,
shopkeeper and in and out.*

Not done.

~ Denise Umubyeyi

be unable to provide critical support to our children and their families who so desperately need the services we provide. We are thankful for your support and wish you a blessed Holiday Season and New Year.

~ The GECRC Board of Directors



Calendar of Events

Weekly Programs:

After-School Program meets daily 3:30 - 6:00 at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School

Volunteer Orientations: Wednesdays 6:10 - 6:30

Fine Arts Program: Mondays 4:00 - 6:00

Music Program: Tuesdays 4:00 - 6:00

Special Dates: Volunteer Recognition Night February 19

Math Night April 30

**GECRC Culture Night February 8
Glen Ellyn Public Library**

Volunteer Corner: Zach Pehta

My name is Zach Pehta and I have been volunteering at the Glen Ellyn Community Resource Center since November of 2003. I have always had great experiences with the children. Volunteering at GECRC has helped me make the decision to major in Early Childhood Education at the College of DuPage. I'm currently in my final year at COD and plan to graduate in May of 2008 with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Early Childhood Education.

As a volunteer, I enjoy helping the children improve.

One of the nicest parts of GECRC is the flexibility. I think it is great that any child in need from districts 41 and 89 can enroll at the center and get help with homework, literacy skills, and mathematics. I also like how flexible the Resource Center is for volunteers. As a volunteer you can work once a week, twice a week, or five days a week. I currently volunteer five days a week and it is a great volunteer experience as I complete my studies at COD. If I can't make it or if I have to leave

early while at the center, I'm able to do so. In a paid job, that is pretty hard to do!

I have learned a lot from the children. I have learned about the countries they came from and all that they went through to get to the United States. It is great that they have GECRC to go to after school for help in academic skills. As a volunteer, I enjoy helping the children improve.

When I graduate from COD, I plan to work as a teacher's aide. Working at GECRC helped me make the decision to become an aide in second or third grade.

Student Corner: Bahati Aimee

My name is Bahati Aimee and I am student at the Glen Ellyn Community Resource Center. I'm 11 years old and I'm from Rwanda, Africa. I study at Hadley Junior High and I'm in 6th grade.

One of the reasons I really like the resource center is because it is a fun place that also helps you with homework. It is like more

hours of school, but more fun. We do things like drama, music, and art.

I am from Rwanda, Africa and one thing that is different about school there is that you always have to wear uniforms. You had to wear a uniform every day except Wednesday. I like school here because I can wear whatever I want!



Opportunities

There are many opportunities to be involved with the Glen Ellyn Community Resource Center. Some of the areas of need are:

- Financial giving
- Donations of snacks, juice drinks, and prizes
- Volunteer tutors

We offer weekly volunteer orientations for anyone interested in tutoring. These workshops are held each Wednesday in the library of Abraham Lincoln Elementary School from 6:10—6:30 pm.

Please call if you are interested!



* Please let us know if you would prefer to receive this newsletter by regular mail or through email *