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## Dare to Dream 20th Anniversary Celebration: A Great Success!

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*GECRC staff and board members, L to R:*

*Jackie Reeves, Gayle Rueter, Marci Myers, Laura Ulepich, Lizzy Doty, Janis Pfister, Karla Kampen, Karen Winter, Erica Nelson, Leah Harding, Celia Rodee, Emily Lobdell, Lisa Ciosek, Judy Cheney, Rebecca Deporter, Denise Umubyeyi, Cleo Burtis, Penny Linneweh, Christian Ambler, Alan Taylor*

## An Evening To Remember!

At "Dare to Dream," GECRC's 20th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser, attendees celebrated the community that built





the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center over the past 20 years. It was a beautiful summer night on June 24 that included an auction, raffle, international food trucks and live music at the Glen Ellyn Boathouse. We are so grateful to all of the sponsors and donors who made "Dare to Dream" possible, as well as to everyone who attended the event, bid on items and donated. We raised more than \$60,000 that will go directly to supporting our after-school and summer programs.

Visit [our website](#) to see more photos from the evening, taken by [Karly Tearney Photography](#).

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## A Word from Our Executive Director Leah Harding

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"In GECRC's 20th anniversary year, we supported 300 students; more students than ever before," Leah says. "We could not have done it without 20 years of community support. Our volunteers, donors, community partners, staff and families all have the same vision- that the students of GECRC have all the opportunities they need to pursue their dreams. I am proud to be a member of the GECRC community, and I look forward to seeing what comes next for GECRC!"

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## Thank You to Dare to Dream Sponsors and Donors

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We are so grateful to the following sponsors and donors. Our 20th Anniversary Celebration would not have been such a tremendous success without your generous support. Thanks to you, we are well on our way to another 20 years of empowering the under-resourced students in our community!

**Platinum Sponsors**

Celia Rodee and Peter Cooper  
Amy and Andy Waters

**Gold Sponsors**

Judy and Dave Cheney, Lisa and Bob Ciosek, Marcel's/Marche/Maison

**Silver Sponsors**

Christian and Lorraine Ambler, Cleo Burtis and James Comerford, Apex 400/GSP Development, Jerry Haggerty Chevrolet, Kiwanis Club of Glen Ellyn

**Bronze Sponsors**

Erica and Barry Nelson, Lisa and Keith Tylke, Amy Storm & Company, Laubinger + Associates, LLC

**General Sponsors**

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### In-Kind Donors

The Argamasilla Family, Custom Direct, Inc., Glen Ellyn IL Chamber of Commerce, J. Umlauf Design, Karly Tearney Photography, Papier Girl, Two Hound Red Brewing Co., Wheaton Yamaha Music School, Glenbard West Varsity Boys Basketball

### Live Auction Donors

Diana Laufenberg of Celebrate in Style Events, Saylor & Murphy Orthodontics, Glenbard West Athletic Department, Celia Rodee and Peter Cooper, Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce, Glenbard West Boosters Club, Marci Myers, Stacey Huff, Missey and Tom Wilhelm

### Silent Auction Donors

Jamie Palmer, Sharon Dellorto, Leah Harding, The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn, Marcel's, Granor Farms, Apollo Chorus of Chicago, Aroma Workshop Chicago, Summer House Santa Monica, Al and Dawn MacIsaac, Blonde Boutique, Insula Aesthetics, Chicago Acapella, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Sarah Allen, Club Pilates, Kate Daly and Bob Stelletello, Common Good Cocktail House, Vinifera Distributing, Pam Kowalczyk, Frank Girona, Healthtrack Sports Wellness, Jennifer Collander, Karly Tearney Photography, Jennifer Umlauf of J. Umlauf Design, Lucy Dallman, Margaret Hernandez, Marissa Voytenko, More Brewing Company, Marvelous Minds, Olive & Vinnie's, Orange Theory Fitness Glen Ellyn, Lynn Bruno, Lisa Tylke, Rise Fitness and Wellness, Celia Rodee, Salternative Spa, Cocoon of Geneva, The Little Traveler (Geneva), Barrel+Rye, Geneva Commons, Gayle Rueter, Royal Nail Spa, Sarah Coe Design, Lettuce Entertain You, Styled by Golden Iris, Ten Thousand Villages, Trader Joes of Glen Ellyn, Village Links, Vienna Beef, Terri Hemmert, Goldfish Swim School, Wheaton Yamaha Music School, Pattie Harte Naus, Urban Oasis Container Gardens, Maureen Winans, Good Roots, Gather & Collect, Missey Wilhelm, Abra Berens, Diana Martinez & McAninch Arts Center at COD, Kathleen McKinney, Penelope Linneweh, Sean and Kathy O'Brien, Extract Juicery, Catherine Voigt, Sarah and Craig Allen, Marci Myers, Cleo Burtis, Pyer & Company



## Family Fun Day to Celebrate 20 Years

Our amazing community of students, families, volunteers, board members and staff all enjoyed the **GECRC Family Fun Day** on June 11 in celebration of GECRC's 20th anniversary. Face-painting, snow cones, games, a raffle and more all made for a festive afternoon at Churchill Elementary! A special thank you to the Glen Ellyn Lions Club for donating the pizza lunch for the event! Visit

## Get Involved This Fall

Are you looking for a way to connect with GECRC this spring, summer or fall?

1. **Volunteer Tutor:** Complete a [volunteer application](#) to get started. If you've tutored in the past, please send an email to [volunteer@gecrc.com](mailto:volunteer@gecrc.com).

2. **GECRC Events:** Consider helping with an upcoming fundraising event:

- **Rock Around the Block:** scheduled for Saturday, August 27 at various blocks around Glen Ellyn. If you are interested in hosting a block party or know of a musician interested in playing, please contact Karen Winter

[our website](#) to see a video photo montage of the incredible day we all shared as a community.

at karenwinter6@mac.com.

- **GECRC Golf Outing**; scheduled for September 28. Also seeking donations, sponsors and volunteers. If interested, please reach out to Laura Ulepik at [lulepic@gecrc.com](mailto:lulepic@gecrc.com). [Purchase tickets here.](#)

# Save the Date!

## Charity Golf Outing

Benefitting Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center



- Shotgun Start
- 18/9 Hole Scramble
- Contests and Giveaways
- Post Golf Happy Hour

**WEDNESDAY/ SEPTEMBER 28TH**  
**SHOTGUN START / 1:00PM**  
**VILLAGE LINKS OF GLEN ELLYN**

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**TICKET INFORMATION COMING SOON!**

## Tutor Scholarship Winner Joe Green

Congratulations to our Tutor Scholarship Winner Joe Green! From his application essay:

"In seventh grade, my mom asked if I wanted to join the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center (GECRC). During the summer session, we would focus on school for two hours before an hour of recess. Finally recess came and one of my kids stopped me. He asked if I would play soccer with him and his friends to make



PSYCHOLOGY ON PRE-MED  
TRACK



*Joe Green*

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA

even teams.

Seeing his excitement and eagerness to move after being at a desk all morning, I was unable to say no. I told him I had time to play one game, but found myself sweating after a five game tournament by the time I left. After this first day, I noticed an immediate change in my kids' engagement during class. They paid more attention to me and put forth much more effort when they knew we could play soccer afterward. Tutoring genuinely became one of my favorite memories of that summer, simply because I had found a way to connect with the kids. Tutoring showed me that relating to someone is imperative to understanding them and finding the best way to help them learn and grow."

Joe is headed to the University of Southern California to study psychology on a pre-med track. Congratulations, Joe! We are so proud of you! Photo courtesy of @glenbardwestseniors

SPANISH & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION



*Maria Avalos*

NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE

## Alumni Scholarship Winner Maria Avalos

Congratulations to our Alumni  
Scholarship Winner Maria Avalos!

From her application essay:

"As an 11 year old immigrant from Mexico, going into a new school and not knowing the primary language spoken is frightening. I was scared that I wasn't going to understand the homework given to me. Fortunately, my teacher Mrs. Reed told me that I should stay after school to get help at the homework club (GECRC), and so I did. I remember there were many tutors there, ready to help students with their work. This was something that at the time inspired me to be like them whenever I was given the opportunity. Six years later, and I'm now a tutor."

Maria is headed to North Central College to study Spanish and Secondary Education.

Congratulations, Maria! We are so proud of you!

Photo courtesy of

@glenbardwestseniors

# Farewell and Thank You to Staff Members



## **Gabby Illut**

Students said goodbye to Lincoln Elementary classroom aide Gabby Illut on her last day before she graduated with Honors from Benedictine University with a degree in International Business. She has accepted a job with Northrop Grumman. Thank you so much, Gabby, for your time and dedication to our students! You will be missed!



## **Jackie Reeves**

Congratulations to Jackie Reeves who will be transitioning out of her role as Director of Programs and Volunteers and into a new position as a Student Support Specialist with Glenbard District 87 and CASE DuPage. She will be deeply missed, but we are thrilled for the students of D87 who will have the opportunity to work with her. Reflecting on her time with GECRC, Jackie shared, "I am excited to bridge my work as a community social worker and school social worker by assisting high school students on a daily basis. I began my career in education and student support services working in a high school, and I look forward to making this circle back. As a community member, I have the privilege to continue to be engaged in GECRC in various ways, one of my favorites is volunteer tutoring with my 14-year old son." Jackie will continue with GECRC this summer to help with the search for the next Director of Program and Volunteers.



## **Lauren Mayerhoff**

Lincoln Program Coordinator Lauren Mayerhoff has been part of the GECRC family for five years. She and her family plan to move back east in November.

Lauren started as a volunteer at Lincoln in February 2018 shortly after moving to Glen Ellyn from the Philadelphia area. She joined the staff in September of 2018 and became coordinator in September 2019.

"The years have gone by so quickly!" Lauren says, "I will miss the GECRC community at Lincoln! I'll miss the regular interaction with students and parents and collaboration with Lincoln teachers and staff. I'll miss watching the students grow and learn. I don't think I've really accepted that I'm not coming back! I'll miss that optimistic feeling at the beginning of the year when anything is possible. Come to think of it, I'll also miss that satisfied feeling at the end of the year when we reflect on how far the students have come. I'll be taking many special memories with me into my retirement and will never forget my experiences at GECRC." Thank you so much, Lauren, for your time and dedication to GECRC. You will be missed!

# Welcome to Two New Board Members



Please join GECRC in welcoming Alan Taylor to its Board of Directors!  
Alan Taylor is a nonprofit marketing and communications professional passionate about connecting people, organizations, and communities to life-giving opportunities. In his role at Ray Graham Association, he supports people with disabilities by cultivating donors and increasing donations through personal connections, digital media, and print publications. Alan has also worked with Wheaton Yamaha Music School, Anima - Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, and St. James Cathedral, Chicago.  
In his spare time, he sings professionally with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Grant Park Music Festival. He also loves exploring Forest Preserves with his husband Calvin and dog Sebastian. Alan has already made such a positive impact on GECRC through his work on the event planning committee for Dare to Dream.  
Welcome, Alan! GECRC is so thrilled to have you on the Board of Directors!




Please join GECRC in welcoming Penelope "Penny" Linneweh to its Board of Directors!  
Penny brings many years of experience and leadership from serving the Glen Ellyn Kiwanis Club as a member since 1989, holding many club-level and district-level officer positions. She is also past president of the board of directors of SCARCE, Inc., past president and treasurer of Family Shelter Service Board, past treasurer of the DuPage Art League, past board member of Community Housing Association of DuPage, mentor and Volunteer of the Year for Bridge Communities, past treasurer of B R Ryall YMCA Board and past treasurer of the United Way of Glen Ellyn.  
Penny's incredible community service is all in addition to her many years of running Linneweh, Ltd, an accounting and tax preparation firm established in 1985. Prior to 1985, Penny worked as business manager of WMAQ and WCFL Radio in Chicago. Penny is now retired. She lives in Glen Ellyn with her husband Glenn Scott, and she has four children and eight grandchildren.  
Welcome, Penny! GECRC is thrilled to have you on the Board of Directors!





# WE'RE HIRING!

## DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM AND VOLUNTEERS



The Director of Program and Volunteers will oversee the direction and scope of all GECRC after-school and summer programs. This includes the evaluation of programs, mentoring and professional development of program leadership, and the use of best practices to guide and expand programming.

**MORE INFO:**  
**[WWW.GECRC.COM](http://WWW.GECRC.COM)**

**PLEASE SEND COVER LETTER, RESUME  
AND TWO REFERENCES TO  
[LHARDING@GECRC.COM](mailto:LHARDING@GECRC.COM)**





# We are hiring!

**Part-Time Classroom Coordinator Positions  
are open at both Lincoln Elementary and  
Churchill Elementary**

**Hours are September - May; Mon.-Fri., 3-6pm**

**Please send a cover-letter and resume to  
Karla Kampen at [kkampen@gecrc.com](mailto:kkampen@gecrc.com)**

**For more Information visit  
[www.gecrc.com/careers](http://www.gecrc.com/careers)**

## Volunteer Spotlight: Lindsay Anderson



*Lindsay speaking at Dare to Dream on June 24*



*Lindsay teaching yoga to Churchill students*

When Lindsay Anderson and her family moved to Glen Ellyn from Kansas City in 2018, a neighbor who worked in District 41 mentioned the volunteer opportunities available with the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center.



Lindsay was busy teaching yoga classes at the time but thought that she would like to volunteer when time allowed between teaching and raising her two young children. As a former elementary school teacher, Lindsay missed working with kids. She also thought she might be able to share her love of yoga and teaching in some capacity with GECRC.

When the pandemic started, she decided to start tutoring virtually with GECRC — it was the perfect way for her to get involved and simultaneously be home for her children. And when the students re-entered the classroom, the opportunity to bring yoga to the GECRC students became a reality. Lindsay teaches yoga to interested Churchill GECRC students every Friday, and tutors in the 3rd-5th grade classroom on Wednesdays.

Lindsay says that “knowing that I get to be a bright spot in the kids’ day,” brightens her own day each time she volunteers in the classroom. “Seeing them feel happy when I can be around them, and knowing that I am supporting them, not just with academics...I am lifted up.”

Lindsay is also a Girl Scout troop leader for her daughter’s 3rd grade Churchill troop and was instrumental in helping some of the GECRC students get involved. One of the students’ parents did not speak English, so Lindsay coordinated with GECRC to find a translator to explain what Girl Scouts involved. “I love Girl Scouts,” Lindsay says. “It is such a great opportunity for girls to step up and lead and make a difference in their community. I never want any kind of barrier to participate in something that can be beneficial to (GECRC students.)”

Lindsay also teaches yoga to preschoolers at St. Mark’s in Glen Ellyn, and volunteers with Young: Equal, a group whose mission is to create environments that promote self-acceptance, community, and love for the LGBTQ+ community. Lindsay spoke about her experiences as a GECRC volunteer at the Dare to Dream celebration and fundraiser on June 24. Thank you, Lindsay, for bringing your love and light to GECRC through your tutoring and yoga classes! We are so fortunate to have you as part of our community!

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## Thank You to In-Kind Donors

Stacey Zagortz  
Celia Rodee  
Andrea McPartlin  
Rajalekshmi Ravisunda  
Alan Taylor  
Terros Dilworth  
John Walker  
Lindsay Anderson  
Tom Menzel & Nelly Oesterreich-Menzel  
Judy Moody  
Cleo Burtis  
Lisa Cisoek  
Karen Winter  
Polly Green  
Erica Nelson  
Lion's Club of Glen Ellyn

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## 2022 Summer Program Update

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The GECRC summer program kicked off June 28 to an incredible start with a record 116 students attending class at Parkview Elementary. Classes continue through July 29, followed by a camp week August 2-4.

Summer classroom coordinators have structured their curriculum using Project Based Learning (PBL). Each project utilizes unique and engaging subjects to meet Common Core Standards. GECRC summer programs emphasize literacy and community involvement, using the talents of teachers, volunteer tutors, GECRC Staff and a variety of local organizations. Students took a field trip to The Morton Arboretum, and Arboretum staff invited our students to explore the children's garden and participate in a hands on STEM activity with a "Tree Doctor" (Plant Pathologist).

*(Pictured above - photo courtesy of Matt Hanley from Community Consolidated School District 89)*

The Morton Arboretum visit fit in perfectly with the "inspired by nature" PBL unit students have experienced: Biomimicry, how looking to nature is the solution for many human problems. From architecture and design, to practical models in traffic, flooding, and heating/cooling, students will make prototypes that can make a huge impact.

Another highlight so far: State Rep. Terra Costa Howard and her staff brought Brookfield Zoo animals and their handlers to GECRC. The Zoo brought snakes, turtles, birds and more. The students asked a lot of great questions and enjoyed petting the animals.

Ms. Amy Waters from the Glen Ellyn Public Library visited and read books to the students, and there has been quite a bit of time spent outdoors, reading, writing, playing games, and working on arts and crafts.

"The GECRC Summer Program at Park View Elementary has been a blast!" says summer program coordinator Lizzy Doty. "Our students have been working hard on their PBLs and have had a lot of fun experiences in nature. Staff has been working incredibly hard and doing an amazing job at engaging students."





## Resource Center



345 Taft Avenue, Suite 205  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
Office: 630 479-9920

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[Contact Us](#)

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