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Quarterly Newsletter - October 2021



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The Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center is off to a fresh and fantastic start to the 2021/22 academic year! Students across four program sites have begun to meet with their volunteer tutors in person.

"The return to in person after-school programs has been all about celebrating being back together and reconnecting students with their volunteer tutors," says Jackie Reeves, GECRC Director of Program and Volunteers. "While many of our GECRC students were working with volunteer tutors online last year, the need students have for connections to supportive relationships and mentorship is stronger than ever. We have been looking forward to another year filled with learning, friendships, and enriching opportunities."

GECRC was thrilled to finally celebrate the expansion of the in person after-school tutoring program in [Community Consolidated School District 89](#) with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Glen Crest Middle School Sept. 20. The program started virtually last fall due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but now takes place on site, aiming to serve 40 6-8th grade Glen Crest students Monday through Thursday from 2:45 - 3:45 pm.

"GECRC at Glen Crest started out this year in person, which has been such a gift," says Lizzy Doty, Program Coordinator at Glen Crest. "We've already seen our students establishing friendships with each other and our tutors. My hope is that GECRC will continue to grow into a space at Glen Crest where our students feel safe to be themselves and feel known by the community that gathers there."

With the opening of the newest after-school site at Glen Crest, GECRC is able to double the number of students between the ages of 11 to 14 served.

"Over the past two years and during a challenging time for so many, our local community continued raising awareness and funding to ensure GECRC was able to fulfill its long term goal of opening an on site after school program for students of CCSD89," says Leah Harding, Executive Director of the GECRC. "As we celebrate our 20th anniversary this year, it is particularly rewarding to know that we are continuing to adapt and grow in order to fit the needs of the students in our community."

In 2019, GECRC launched a CCSD89 Expansion committee, composed of GECRC board members, CCSD89 administrators, and local community members with the goal to raise \$60,000 to fund two years of programming at Glen Crest Middle School. In 2021, they met and exceeded the expansion fundraising goal.

"The expansion into CCSD89 is a huge accomplishment for the Glen Ellyn Children's

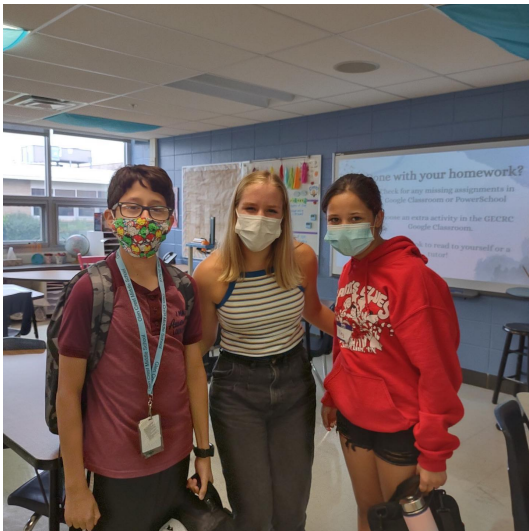
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Committee. “The expansion allows us to provide academic and social support to students across our entire community. This would not be possible without the support of our dedicated volunteers, talented staff and wonderful district support.”

The photos below show the first day of in person tutoring at Glen Crest Middle School, along with the official ribbon cutting ceremony.



GECRC's 20TH ANNIVERSARY

A Note from Executive Director Leah Harding

This year we are celebrating our 20th anniversary! What started as a small program in Parkside Apartments has grown to four after-school programs within two school districts and an academically rich and engaging GECRC Summer Program. We've spent the past 20 years supporting students as they strengthened their academic

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organizations that have ensured that GECRC could continue to grow in our community over the last 20 years. We couldn't have done it without all of you!



GECRC staff members hard at work, planning the 2021/22 school year

An Enormous Thank You to Marcel's- Our 20th Anniversary Sponsor!

The GECRC is incredibly grateful to [Marcel's Culinary Experience](#) for sponsoring our 20th Anniversary celebration this year, which kicked off with our inaugural Literary Event on Sept. 9. Marcel's (which also includes Marche and Maison) has been a long-time supporter of the GECRC.

Marcel's owner Jill Foucre says she is happy to support GECRC, as she is passionate about the organization's mission and vision.

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"This is a thriving community, and a part of that is having people investing in each other." Figue says. "The GECRC invests in our kids, so I invest in the GECRC. It's all connected,

and I think the more it can be connected, the stronger the fabric."

Thank you, Jill, and Marcel's, for your tremendous support. We appreciate it beyond words!



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2021 Literary Event: The Most Fun We Ever Had!

On a gorgeous September evening, the GECRC welcomed acclaimed author Claire Lombardo to our long awaited Literary Event, held at Reserve 22 in Glen Ellyn. More than 100 guests enjoyed hearing about her inspiration for *The Most Fun We Ever Had*, her writing process, and her new projects.

"Ms. Lombardo was a gracious and charming speaker," said Literary Event committee chair Janis Pfister. "We are deeply appreciative to have longtime supporters, Marcel's, Kiwanis, the Glen Ellyn Bank & Trust as well as many other Glen Ellyn organizations and businesses that sponsored this event. Thank you to everyone who helped to make a success!"

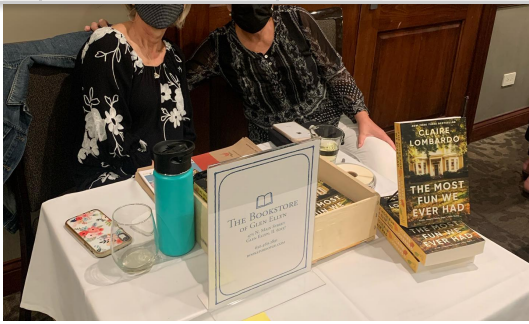
A heartfelt thanks to The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Public Library for co-hosting the event along side us. Through sponsorships, ticket sales, a raffle and silent auction, GECRC raised \$15,000 at this year's Literary Event!



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Thank you, Kiwanis - 2021 Literary Event Sponsor!

What started as an annual donation to GECRC has grown into sponsoring busing for GECRC Summer Program and supporting GECRC families through the Kiwanis Snack Pack Program that was created four years ago. Kiwanis has been an important supporter of GECRC for a decade.

“Snack packs are intended to be a little extra food for the weekend when kids in need don’t have free lunches at school,” says Penny Linneweh, treasurer of Kiwanis Club of Glen Ellyn IL. “We almost always have two kinds of cereal, a bag of chips, a can of tuna or a can of soup, fruit cup - predicated on what the (Glen Ellyn) Food Pantry can get for us.”

Kiwanis is able to support GECRC in these significant ways through their fundraising efforts throughout the year. (See the image below for information about their nut and candy sale and how to participate.)

A special thank you to Kiwanis for sponsoring our Literary Event this past September!



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KIWANIS CLUB OF GLEN ELLYN

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2020 HOLIDAY NUTS/CHOCOLATES

A



Cashews

B



Mixed Nuts

C



Cherry Fall Harvest Mix

D



Cashew Pecan Medley

E



Butter Almond Toffee

F



Praline Pecans

G



Nuts, Toffee, Ornaments

H



Chocolate Peanuts

I



Pecan Clusters

J

Assorted Chocolates
Gift Wrapped 15 oz

K



Sampler

L



Dark Almonds

M

Chocolate
Raisins

N



Dark Cranberries

O

Honey Roasted
Peanuts

P



Bridge Mix

This fall, Kiwanis will be selling nuts and candy to raise money to donate to many organizations in our community. If you are interested In this fundraiser, contact Penny Linneweh at plinneweh@comcast.net.

2021 INAUGURAL GOLF EVENT

As part of our 20th year celebration, the GECRC hosted its first ever golf outing on October 1 at Village Links of Glen Ellyn.

"We were so pleased to have more than 60 community members come out to support the organization, while also having some fun on the golf course," said board member and golf committee chairperson Rebecca DePorter. "The event raised more

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MORE GECRC FUNDRAISERS

Rock Around the Block 2021

Rock Around the Block started in the summer of 2020 as a way to entertain our usual summer party attendees, but at a safe Covid distance. Our musical partner, Back Pocket Bourbon, toured a few blocks throughout town.

In August 2021, Rock Around the Block had musicians located at five different events, featuring the talent of Barry Dupuy, Gabi Winter, Ryan O'Halloran and of course, Back Pocket Bourbon. "This year we raised \$6,000, but more importantly, we were able to spend awareness of GECRC to many members of our community," said GECRC board member and Rock Around the Block chair Karen Winter. "There were 54 donors, 40 of them being first-time, brand new donors to GECRC."

Next year we hope to have at least 10 "stages" throughout town and showcase the talent of many more local musicians. Be on the lookout for our own local "palooza" of bands - all sponsored by the GECRC.

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Rise Glen Ellyn Supports GECRC

Thank you so much to [Rise Glen Ellyn](#) for your generous donation generated from a four-week donation-based outdoor class series held at Glen Oak Country Club this fall. On four Sunday mornings, fitness enthusiasts - both current and future members of the Rise community - attended barre, yoga, strength and cardio classes on the pool patio of Glen Oak, and the donations made directly benefitted GECRC. ❤️

Thank you to Rise owner Katelyn Kaese and her team at Rise Glen Ellyn for their generous support!



College Visits are Underway...

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College visits are important for students to start to visualize what is possible after high

school. Hadley Junior High and Glenbard West classroom coordinator Katie Reed chaperoned some of the GECRC high school students on a few college visits this summer. "Visiting Northwestern, Notre Dame, and the University of Illinois has helped our students start to decide which place might be the best fit for them," Reed said. "One student said, 'I'm really glad we visited U of I, because the campus was completely different than what I pictured. Now, I feel like I can really see myself liking school here.'"

The students also enjoyed being able to see multiple types of schools (private vs. public, city vs. rural), and talking to current university students.



Thank You, GECRC Community!

Thank you to all of the businesses and community members who donated recently to support our 20th Anniversary events which in turn fund our programs, either financially or through in-kind donations. We are very appreciative of your support of GECRC!

20th Anniversary Sponsor

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Glen Ellyn Kiwanis

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Other Golf Outing Sponsors

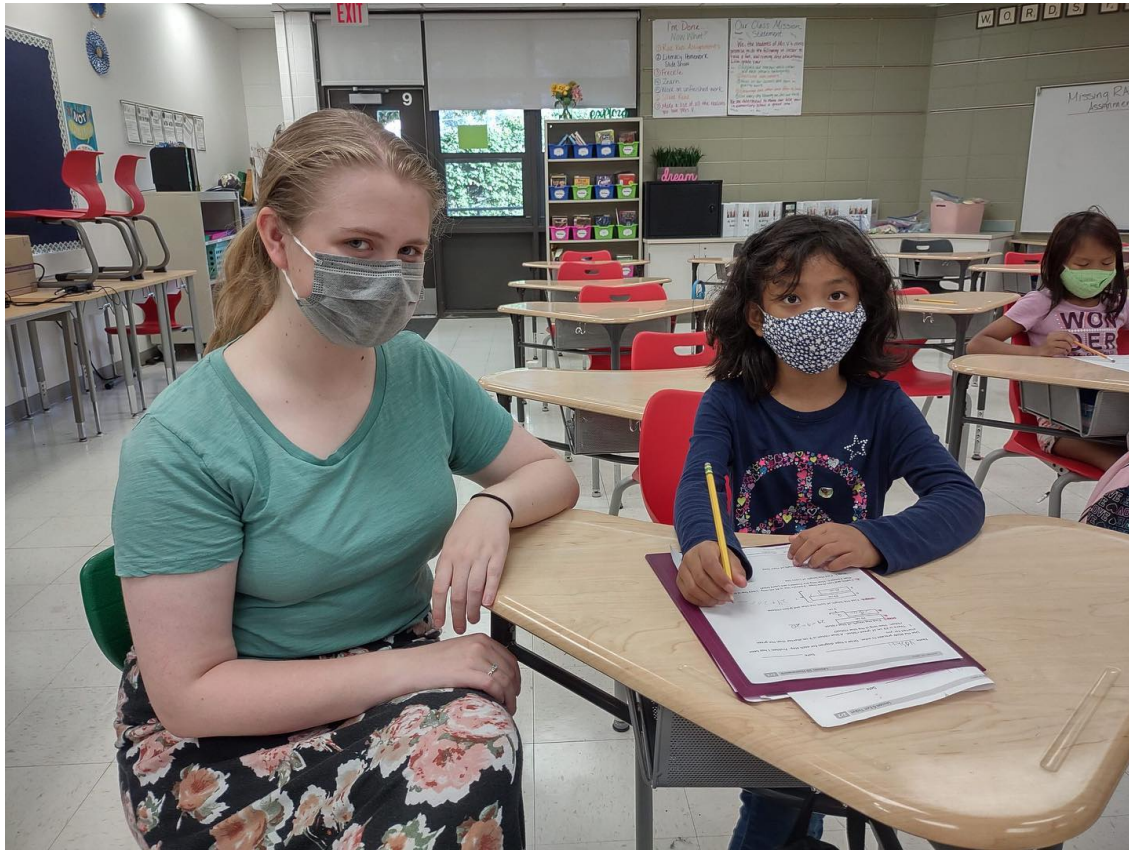
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A Beautiful Smile](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Ellyn's](#)[Sushi Ukai](#)[A Toda Madre](#)[Village Links](#)[MM Frame Co.](#)**Other Supporters**[RISE Glen Ellyn](#)[Westminster Preschool](#)[Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce](#)**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteer tutors are needed to help students with homework, literacy or math at Glen Crest Middle School from 2:30-3:30PM. Volunteers choose the day that works best for them.

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Questions? Contact us at volunteer@gecrc.com or 331-240-1279.



Volunteer tutors must be, at minimum, high school aged or if younger than 14, they must be accompanied by an adult.

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In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15), GECRC celebrates the importance of representation in youth literature. We recommend the rich stories told in:

- 'Last Stop on Market Street' by Matt de la Peña, for ages 2-6
- 'Across the Bay' by Carlos Aponte, for ages 3-7
- 'Just Ask!' by Sonia Sotomayor, illustrated by Rafael Lopez, for ages 4-8
- 'Carmela Full of Wishes' by Matt de la Peña, for ages 4-8
- 'The Chupacabra Ate the Candelabra' by Marc Tyler Nobleman, for ages 5-8
- 'Separate Is Never Equal' by Duncan Tonatiuh, for ages 6-9
(Enjoy a [read-aloud of Tonatiuh's book](#))
- 'Efren Divided' by Ernesto Cisneros, for ages 8-12
- 'Tight' by Torrey Maldonado, for ages 10-14

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- 'The Storm Runner' by J.C. Cervantes, for ages 11-14
- 'The Poet X' by Elizabeth Acevedo, for ages 12+
- 'I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter' by Erika Sanchez for ages 14+

We suggest stopping by [The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn](#) to see if they have these titles; if they do not, they can order them for you!

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