

of the LEC. Joey Barnes, Bob Jennings, Chris Behling, and T. J. Williams, Byron's former teammates, honored him by taking home the first place trophy. They won the title in Byron's absence! That makes 8 out of 9 years—not a bad record!



Honoring Byron Williams

500 Backpacks for Scholars

The LEC and New Life Church provided backpacks and school supplies to students from low income neighborhoods in Norfolk and Chesapeake. The students were from Richard Bowling, Jacox, P. B. Young, Sr., Lindenwood, Campostella, Ingleside, and St. Helena Elementary Title I schools in Norfolk as well as Thurgood Marshall and Treakle Elementary Schools in Chesapeake, VA. This initiative is important because it ensures that students from economically challenged households have the supplies needed to get off to a good start!



ODU Freshmen Stuff Backpacks for Scholars

Eight college freshmen and one junior stuffed 500 backpacks at the LEC on Saturday, August 21, 2015. The backpacks were given to children from low income communities in Norfolk and Chesapeake



during the LEC's Annual Back-to-School Initiative. The students were part of the ODU Freshmen Day of Service where students volunteer at a local organization for two hours. ODU junior, Charity Lyons, and freshmen Jasmine Gray, Shaqon Wells, Ananda Hockaday, Cierah Frederick, Sophie Andromo, Imani McFarland, Sara Hall, and Brianna Burks had fun as they worked as a team to fulfill their mission. We wish them success in their studies.

Norfolk Mayor Fraim Acknowledges the Work of the LEC

On February 20, 2015 Norfolk Mayor Paul Fraim addressed the Hampton Roads community at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. He proudly shared about the new developments happening in the city and talked about the construction of new public schools and the gains that had been made in student performance. He also lauded the efforts of the Life Enrichment Center and other organizations who are partnering with the city to ensure the success of present and future students. He further encouraged city employees to join our efforts to provide literacy tutoring to children at Title I elementary schools in Norfolk. We are grateful for the support of the City of Norfolk.

LEC Approved to Issue Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credits

The Department of Education approved the Life Enrichment Center as one of the Commonwealth's sixty-two non-profit organizations across the Virginia Commonwealth to offer Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credits to qualified individuals or organizations. The state tax credits are offered to individuals and businesses who make donations that provide scholastic instruction or assistance to low income persons or eligible students with a disability. Please feel free to contact the LEC office to find out how you might qualify to receive these coveted tax credits.

THE LIFE ENRICHMENT COURIER

Building Bridges

Bridges are built to provide passage over a body of water, a valley, or a road. As a metaphor, a bridge between people makes way for communication; it connects people from different neighborhoods and cities, ethnicities and social classes, religions and cultures. It opens up the opportunity for people to collaborate, strategize, and advance causes and build for the common good. Bridges create a climate for relationships to flourish; they eliminate isolation and produce venues that link the past to the present and the present to the future.

As we build bridges "it is important that we build them with purpose and, where possible, direct our efforts into strengthening and even crossing the bridges established by others in order to make our interest, inquiry, and efforts all the more productive." The noble task of revitalization is overwhelming when we consider the deterioration of the various systems and institutions that once produced healthy families, communities, and cities.

Nehemiah, a courageous biblical leader of his time, must have felt overwhelmed when he saw up close the demolished walls of Jerusalem. The walls which once represented a prosperous, well-fortified nation had become a symbol of a people in despair. The initial sense of hopelessness evolved into a vision for restoration. Nehemiah began to imagine the good old days when the walls and gates surrounding the city stood as beacons of hope, a source of pride for the people. His vision led to an incredible strategy which inspired a disillusioned people to face the enormous challenge of rebuilding their nation one brick at a time.

The challenge of rebuilding the foundational bridges of our 21st century society is enormous but necessary for us to survive. I can see from a distance the Family Bridge which was strong and reliable—the bridge where values, morals, and traditions were modeled and passed on to future generations. I envision the Community Bridge which once embodied the extension of the family and provided a sense of safety and support for those within its borders. I see the Education Bridge which, despite its imperfections, represented a genuine commitment to teach, train, and equip, preparing its citizens for a hopeful future. I see the Faith Bridge where spiritual formation was an integral part of life—the place where a wholesome inner life was shaped and core values were erected. This bridge guided the decisions and behavior of all those who gained access to it.

Today, as we construct new bridges and restore old ones, we must enlist the help of a rising generation. Let us integrate the knowledge and ingenuity of the past and present to build a bridge where the seasoned and the novice stand together and use it for safe passage into a hopeful tomorrow. Most assuredly, with the help of the Master Builder, we can get this done!!

Kevin Turpin
President

THE LIFE ENRICHMENT CENTER OF NORFOLK

...ENRICHING LIVES FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW...

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FALL 2015

RECENT LEC HAPPENINGS

School-based Literacy Program Experiences Exponential Growth

Since the first LEC Literacy and Technology Lab was established in 2007 at Richard Bowling Elementary School, the LEC has remained committed to its mission to provide elementary students with the tools needed to become proficient readers. Trained tutors commit to spend one hour each week for one school year with a student who is reading below their grade level. During the course of the year, a strong bond is formed between the tutor and student. Working together using computerized literacy software provided by the school, the tutor helps the student become a more confident and competent reader. Tutors from area non-profit and for-profit organizations served at Richard Bowling, Jacox, P. B. Young, Sr., James Monroe, and Tidewater Park Elementary Schools during the 2014-15 academic year.

Local Health Management Firm Adopts Title I School

Angela Reddix, president and CEO of ARDX, a Virginia-based corporation launched in 2006 to provide healthcare management consulting services to government agencies and private companies, partnered with the Life Enrichment Center to elevate the reading scores of children from Chesterfield Academy in Norfolk. They funded a Literacy and Technology Lab at the school and provided incentives for their employees to participate in the LEC's school based literacy initiative. Over 35 of the company's employees tutored a child one hour a week during the second half of the 2014-2015 academic year. This past summer, ARDX also partnered with Chesterfield Academy to host a nutrition and fitness class for the residents in Grandy Village, the local community that the school serves.

ODU Funds Another Technology and Literacy Lab

Old Dominion University has been a generous LEC partner. They recently agreed to fund a second center in a Title I elementary school in Norfolk. The Technology and Literacy Lab will be used to tutor students in grades K-2 who are reading below their grade level. The LEC will mobilize, train, and supervise the volunteer tutors who will meet with students during the academic year. This brings to ten the total number of literacy labs the LEC oversees in Norfolk Title I elementary schools.

Norfolk Police Officers Tutor Inner-City Children

Close to 40 Norfolk police officers partnered with the Life Enrichment Center to tutor children one hour a week for one academic year. The schools were thrilled to host the officers and the students enjoyed



their weekly time with their tutors. Chief Goldsmith has fully embraced the program and new officers are being trained to join their colleagues in ensuring that children from low income communities are given the tools needed to succeed in school. This partnership will also allow the children to interact with the police officers in a positive manner, enabling mutually respectful relationships to develop. These relationships formed over the past year will extend far beyond the classroom, impacting not only the students, but their neighborhoods and families as well.

LEC Tutor of the Year Awards 2014-15

The following volunteer tutors received LEC Tutor of the Year Awards at a special volunteer luncheon hosted by the Life Enrichment Center at the Greenbrier Country Club on Saturday, July 18, 2015.



This annual "End of the Year" awards luncheon brings all of our tutors together for a time of reflection over the past year and gives LEC the opportunity to

RECENT LEC HAPPENINGS

acknowledge the outstanding dedication and commitment they bring to our literacy initiative.



Tutors of the Year

Barbara Kaste	Richard Bowling Elementary School
Read Smartt	Jacox Elementary School
Betsy Kurrle	P.B. Young Elementary School
Cordereau Dye	P.B. Young Elementary School
Berlin Booth	Tidewater Park Elementary School

2015 LEC Urban Youth Summer Camp Expands

In the past the summer camp served rising 4th and 5th graders. This year, we expanded the program to include children from Kindergarten through grade 5. Seventy-five children from various underserved communities in Norfolk participated in the six-week, full-day program. The camp included math, science, literacy, and arts components augmented by cultural, social, and recreational enrichment activities.



Some of the students spent time each week at Old Dominion University learning about dentistry, astronomy, sports medicine, and other interesting

subjects. The campers enjoyed several fun-filled activities at Ocean Breeze, Motor World, the Children's Museum, and the Kroc Center. The field trip to Washington D.C. was a favorite for the rising 4th and 5th graders. For most of them it was their first time going to our nation's capital.

Meals were provided by Mercy Chefs, a non-profit charitable organization committed to ensuring that children from under-served communities receive nutritious meals during the summer months. Thank you Gary LeBlanc and Kristin Macon for your extraordinary care for the summer scholars. Also, kudos to Councilwoman Maime Johnson and her outstanding administrative and instructional staff for providing an exceptional camp experience for our children.

EVMS Hosts Summer Camp Academy Students

Dr. Paul Aravich, professor at EVMS, captured the hearts and minds of the LEC summer program scholars. The students learned about the power of the brain and the negative effects of drug and alcohol abuse on the brain and body.



Professor Aravich allowed the students to touch a human brain, heart, and lung. It was a thrilling interactive lecture which will undoubtedly inspire some the students to pursue a career in the medical sciences.

Ninth Annual LEC Classic: A Stellar Day!

On Monday, June 1, 2015, the 9th Annual Charity Golf Classic was held at the Signature Golf Course in Virginia Beach. Over 75 golfers enjoyed a sunny, warm day on the greens and over \$25,000 was raised to support school based literacy initiatives.

During the closing ceremony we paused to honor Byron Williams who passed not long after the 2014 tournament. Byron was an avid golfer and a supporter