

## 2012 Community Event Gathers the EV Family

EVkids and their families gathered with EVcorps volunteers, EVstaff, and EVboard members March 31st for a dinner of home-cooked dishes, a rousing show by EVkids—joined by some tutors and Lauren, our intrepid Program Director—, and good fellowship and fun. A raffle of many fine items from our faithful corporate sponsors capped a fine evening. **Many thanks** to all who helped make it a memorable event!



The evening's MCs, Cameron and Moise, help Lauren close the festivities



Sarah and her tutor, Sandra, perform

## Send a Child to Camp Online Auction, May 4th - 30th

Join the fun bidding on baseball tickets, boat excursions, shows and more, while making a summer camp experience possible for our EVkids at our nine-acre camp in the Green Mountains of Vermont. Find out how you can also help us provide new tents to keep this summer's EVkids dry and a 15-passenger van rental for transportation to camp, to trail heads for mountain hiking, and daily trips to the local swimming hole.

Go to [www.biddingforgood.com/earthenvessels](http://www.biddingforgood.com/earthenvessels) to preview the dozens of items already in from our generous corporate donors. **Many thanks** to our donors and to **you** for bidding. Don't miss it!



Ping-pong is a perennial camp favorite



Evening singing inspires camp kids



EVkids and their parents line up for delicious fare prepared by our EVfamilies



Moise and Andy recite a moving poem



EV Program Director Lauren and EVkids kick up their heels

# EV News

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"Transforming lives from the university to the inner city"

## How 'Learning Works Best'

by Colin Curtin, Boston College '12

Prior to meeting my ten-year-old tutee, Enrique, I was excited but also nervous about the prospect of tutoring and mentoring a student one-on-one. The first few weeks of tutoring were slow going, including doing baseline work together to find out Enrique's strengths and weaknesses. However, after getting some feedback from his teachers and seeing his previous grades, it became easier to narrow the focus of our weekly time together. Our relationship also began to grow.

With the help of EVstaff Lauren and Nancy, I found ways to incorporate Enrique's interests into tutoring. He loves Star Wars! If anything could derail a tutoring session, it was long stories and histories of various characters and plotlines.

I was able to refocus his passion for and vast knowledge of Star Wars into writing material for us to work on (one of his toughest fourth-grade subjects). He began writing small vignettes either at tutoring or at

**"Star Wars" helps Enrique achieve much stronger English grammar**



Enrique is proud to share his writing and drawing with Colin who has been able to 'draw' out his best. Colin is the student leader of the first cohort of EVcorps volunteers from Boston College, expanding EV's outreach by a third.

home and we would correct his grammar. Grammar has since become his strongest subject.

**EV expands to Boston College**

I became involved with Earthen Vessels this year as the inaugural EV student leader for **4Boston**, a Boston College student service group on campus that requires 4 hours per week of service in the Boston community. EV gave me exactly what I was looking for, a chance to effect change in urban education by working with my tutee on a regular and intimate basis.

My experience with EV also led me to apply to **Teach for America**, a national service organization that is sending me to teach full-time in a disadvantaged school district in Dallas, Texas for the next two years.

**Colin is going from EV to Teach for America**

I will bring with me the lessons learned from EV. Most importantly, that learning happens best in a relationship based on mutual respect and acknowledgement of every child's unique gifts. Enrique taught me that.

**Thank you for your support for us both in our EV journey together.**



Lauren checks in with Miguel and Alvaro at tutoring

## EV Giving

- Go to [evkids.org](http://evkids.org) to **DONATE** securely. **Monthly or annual pledges** of any amount are welcome and will help us immensely in our planning. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

- Send checks to EV at 516B Dorchester Avenue, Boston MA 02127.

- We welcome referrals of companies, institutions or other entities who need to recycle computers or electronics with total data security. Our **green** partner, Computer Recycling USA, will share ensuing revenues with us for years to come.

- Contact us at [info@evkids.org](mailto:info@evkids.org)

**EV on the Web**  
[evkids.org](http://evkids.org)

Now on Facebook: **Earthen Vessels (EV)** and Twitter: **evkid**





## From Shy EVkid to Major Boston Law Firm

### EV's very first college graduate thanks EV for opening up her world

Carla, a patent assistant with the large Boston law firm of Wilmer Hale, has come a long way since she first came to EV camp in the early 80's. The very first **EVkid** to graduate from college, she credits **EV** with giving her a window on the possibilities outside of her comfort zone.

#### Barriers and limits to overcome

Carla grew up in Dorchester as one of nine siblings with hard-working parents from Cape Verde who struggled with the language barrier to make a new life in Boston.

**going beyond barriers and building a new and expansive sense of self**

EV camp was an opportunity for her to get out of the city to an environment where she felt safe and nurtured.



Carla out on the volleyball court at EV's first camp site, Breezy Hill Farm, way up in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, 1984

Carla appreciated the positive atmosphere of teamwork and mentoring at **EVcamp**. Everyone was challenged to try new things and open up with people from different backgrounds.

#### EV's long-term support pays off

During the school year, Carla attended camp reunions and benefited from **EV's** continuing encouragement as she worked her way through Cardinal Cushing High School in South Boston

and then UMass Amherst where she was a Legal Studies major. To this day, Carla is the only one in her family to have gone to college.

By contrast, Carla's three children have grown up with the assumption that they will attend college since both she and her husband have succeeded through education. She thanks **EV** and the whole **EV** family—that's **you**—for giving her an early opportunity to push herself beyond expectations.

## Moving On Celebration

**Please join us on May 19th!**

EV is thrilled to announce that Mo Cowan, Chief of Staff to Governor Deval Patrick, will be keynoting this year's Moving On Celebration recognizing our graduating Eighth and Twelfth Grade **EVkids** as well as our **EVcorps** volunteers graduating from Harvard and Boston College.



Mo Cowan will help EV honor our 2012 graduates "moving on" to high school, college, and beyond

The Celebration is being held on Saturday, May 19th, 10-11:30am, at our new tutoring site, Cristo Rey High School, 100 Savin Hill Avenue, Dorchester. **You** are invited to attend! A continental breakfast will be provided.

Please **RSVP** to [eric@evkids.org](mailto:eric@evkids.org).



Alexa and Kelly bonding at our new tutoring site at Cristo Rey High School



Cross-generational friendships flourish at **EVcamp**



Janayah and Tessa at work on an assignment

support **EVcamp** through our **Online Auction** details on the back page



Veteran **EV**tutor Anthony helps Hector analyze a problem



Katie and Alexandria enjoy their time together