

2012 Gala Celebrates EV

EVfriends old and new gathered at the Charles Hotel on November 10th for a memorable evening hosted by former **EVkid** Latoyia Edwards (NECN). The dinner program featured a Service Award to **EVcorps** alumna Julie Whitman, an Achievement Award to former **EVkid** Angelica Delgado, and a Youth Champion Award to Governor Deval Patrick. The gala premiered a new EV video produced by **EVfriend** Norman Lang (see it at evkids.org/videos/), and **EVkid** performances. Heartfelt **THANKS** to all who put it together, attended, shared stories, donated or bid on auction items: you all supported **EV's** ongoing work with **EVkids** and their families.



Former **EVtutor** Isabel Legarda, MD, and **EV** Executive Director Eric Thompson, Esq.



EVkids join in singing a camp favorite, "Take Me Home, Country Roads"



EVkids from the 1980's, Luis de Jesus, Latoyia Edwards and Carlos Cedeño



EVkids Andy and Moise recite a moving poem about inner-city violence



EVboard member George Bard enjoys a surprise birthday cake for his 60th



EVkid Jasmine, joined by her sister Kathy, now a sophomore at UMassBoston after 7 years with **EV**



Former **EVkids** Kenaya Washington and Shawn Prout welcome back Service Award winner, Julie Whitman



EVboard member Brian Lovett reconnects with former **EVkid** Anthony, now a sophomore at UMassBoston



Longtime **EVfriends** Vin Stanton and Lauren Curry enjoy the evening

EV Giving

- Go to 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 P.O. Box 220502, Dorchester MA 02122.

- 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

EV on the Web
evkids.org



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

EV News

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"Transforming lives from the university to the inner city"

EV by the Numbers

by Lilly Siu, Ed.D., Education Coordinator

How do you measure the element of *care*?

In an educational climate largely focused on numbers, scores, and rates, **EV** is an anomaly. Sure, we have attendance numbers, WRAT scores, and graduation rates to back our efforts, but so much of this number crunching, however important, misses a key element in the **EV** program.

The great educational philosopher, Nel Noddings has written broadly about the significance of caring as both a fundamental aspect of education and an educational goal (1992). **EV** embodies this notion. We rely on the earnest commitment of a volunteer corps of university-age tutors to share, not just their academic acuity, but also their aspirations and motivations to contribute to a greater society. We ask the tutors to draw out the very best in school-age children and we ask the children to show us their true passions. We meet regularly with their hard-working parents and teachers to ask how we can best support their efforts. So much of what is strong about the program lies in the spaces between scores, grades and rates, so difficult to quantify.

sharing aspirations and motivations as well as academics

And yet if pushed to produce numbers, our numbers might look something like this:

1 The number of geometry teachers who thanked (tutor) Trent for improving (tutee) Andy's attitude toward math.

1.5 The number of hours per week in which (tutee) Antonio has (tutor) Vincent's undivided attention. Same for Ally and Katie, Angie and Claire, Aram and Garrett, and all the rest!

2.5 The number of hours some tutors travel by



Program Director, Lauren Ravello, and Education Coordinator, Lilly Siu, speak eloquently about **EV** in a new video at evkids.org/videos/. Many thanks to videographer, **EVfriend** Norman Lang, for his superb work!

train or bus to spend time with their tutee. Thank you, Hallie, Kevin, Tatiana and all the rest!

3 The number of letters to teachers (tutor) Miguel wrote to share his understanding and experiences with (tutee) Alvaro.

4 The number of years Anthony (tutor) will have spent guiding Hector (tutee) through his tween and early adolescent years.

5 The number of ways (tutor) Sarah comforted an upset (tutee) Sonome on a particularly tough day: patience, listening, empathy, advice, and a walk.

7 The number of days a week Ta'Janae would spend with her tutor Kathleen, if she could!

"I wish I could come every day!"

8 The total number of emails (5), meetings (2) and conversations (1) that (tutor) Paul was involved in before settling on a solid tutoring plan for (tutee) Carlos.

11 The number of hours of sleep (tutee) Janayah gets each night, explaining why she is the "most pleasant person in the room." (Tutor) Tessa is working to improve *her* number!

40+ The number of phone calls per week that Program Director Lauren Ravello makes to families to check in, give reminders, and follow up.

(continued inside)

Thank you, EV, for all you have done for me and my family

by Angelica Delgado, former **EVkid** and this year's **EV Achievement Award** winner

I would like to thank all the people who are a part of Earthen Vessels for inviting me and my sons into their lives, and sharing wisdom, devotion and love with all of us. **EV** has been my family for 32 years. What a privilege to be a part of such an amazing family with such wonderful people!

With **EV**, I have gained strength, courage, and confidence in myself.

They don't accept NO for an answer! **EV** helps you do the things which you think you cannot do. They have helped me achieve my goals.

EV has helped me achieve all of my goals

I grew up in Dorchester and Roxbury where it is very difficult for young people to succeed. I am the first from my family to graduate from college, with a degree in business from Northeastern University. I have worked for Roxbury Community College for 18 years as a Computer Lab Specialist.

I pray that people like you continue to support **EV's** work so that other kids and families can also benefit from this program. God bless you all for always being there to cheer me on, to guide me, and for helping me achieve all of my goals.

[Angelica also sent her two sons to **EV** camp and tutoring, and on to college. Her younger son Kevin is now a senior at NYU.]



Angelica tries her hand at archery at **EV's** very first camp in 1980 in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Inset: one of the 11 computer labs Angie oversees at Roxbury Community College.



Negotiating a ledge on Camel's Hump

EV by the Numbers (continued)

90 The number of minutes, per tutoring session, in which Courtney (tutor) and Sarah (tutee) spend smiling, chatting and enjoying each other's company. Same for Cameron and Moise, Elizabeth and Mekdes, Brooke and Lyani, and all the rest!

These numbers are hard to compare or assign status to, and prove only that somebody *cares* about each of these children. These are numbers beyond measure, but in the end, our efforts add up to what counts most in the heart of a child.



Angelica on the way up Mount Hunger in 1980



Dan and Joshua preside over a post-hike barbecue at **EVcamp**



Kathleen and Ta'Janae at work



Carlos and Paul enjoy a light moment

EV is on the Move!

by Eric Thompson, Esq.

As new Executive Director, I'm thrilled to be able to share with you what *your support* is allowing us to accomplish on behalf of our **EVkids**.

We've recruited additional **EVkids** for camp and tutoring through a new partnership with Smith Leadership Academy Charter School, a public middle school in the Fields Corner area of Dorchester, where **EVboard** member José Edwards is the new Principal. The School is also generously hosting our **EVoffice**. Please note our new mailing address.

This Fall we also built on two recent partnerships. We welcomed a second cohort of Boston College student volunteers, doubling our BC contingent of tutors. Many of these students are in BC's Lynch School of Education undergraduate program and come to us particularly well-suited for academic mentoring. We also solidified our relationship with Cristo Rey Boston High School that hosts our after-school tutoring in two sunlit classrooms in the Savin Hill area of Dorchester.

The strengthening of our program has also led to our recognition as a full Partner Member in Mass Mentoring Partnership's Quality-Based Membership program and our first state funding. Just last month, we were one of just 63 programs statewide to receive a Mass DOE Quality Enhancements in After-School grant that, with your matching support, is allowing us to add a part-time Education Advocate who will focus on our **EVkids** transitioning from elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and those who will be graduating and going to college (100% for the past five years!).

Your support is having a direct impact on the level of care we can bring to our **EVkids**! Thank you!



EV Service Award winner Julie Whitman, VP for Programs at the Indiana Youth Initiative, credits her work with **EV** as a tutor, camp counselor, camp director and Education Coordinator for helping her find her mission in life as an advocate for children and families.