

2013 Expanding Horizons Gala Celebrates EV

EVfriends old and new gathered at the Charles Hotel on November 9th for a memorable evening hosted by former **EVkid** Latoyia Edwards (NECN). The dinner program featured a Service Award to **EVcorps** alumna Millicent Hartgering, an Achievement Award to former **EVkid** Carla Ofodile, and a Youth Champion Award to Mayor Thomas Menino. **EV** also recognized Program Director Lauren Ravello for ten years of service to **EVkids** and their families. The Gala premiered a new **EV** video produced by **EVfriend** Norman Lang (see it at evkids.org/videos/), and an **EVkid** performance. Many thanks to all those who made the sold-out Gala such a great success.

Gala photos: Robert Hare Photography



EVkid Ta'Janae with her Harvard **EVcorps** tutor Kathleen Koenigs



EV website volunteers Laura Vecchio and Dan Lourenço



Former **EVkid** Latoyia Edwards, our Gala host, with her husband Jesse



Program Director Lauren Ravello with **EVkids** and Nancy Jiménez



Gala pianist and table sponsor Bruce Cohen, MD, with author Tova Mirvis



Shari Davis, dynamic young head of the Boston Youth Fund, wowed the crowd



EVkid Vladimir and his mom



EV Board President George Bard with friends and family



EVkid Hector's family enjoys 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"

New England Patriots Honor EV Excellence!

The New England Patriots Charitable Foundation designated **EVcorps** mentor Elizabeth Petrik as its Patriots Difference Maker during its Celebrate Volunteerism Mentoring Week in October. Elizabeth was nominated by **EV** and Mass Mentoring Partnership. She was honored for her six years of service with her **EVkid** match, who would have permanently dropped out of school without her established relationship with Elizabeth and her ongoing support.

Patriots Super Bowl champion and Boston Public Schools graduate Jermaine Wiggins visited **EV** Afterschool to present the award and speak to our **EVkids** about the importance of mentoring in his life.



EVkid Ke'ara and her **EVcorps** tutor Maricela Lupercio enjoying the Patriots' visit with Super Bowl Champion Jermaine Wiggins.

Earlier this year, **EV** co-founder Marie-Claude Thompson was honored at Gillette Stadium as a 2013 Myra Kraft Community MVP in recognition of her 33 years of dedication to community service and volunteerism. Many thanks to the Kraft and Patriots family!



Jermaine Wiggins presents the Mentoring Difference Maker Award to six-year **EVcorps** volunteer Elizabeth Petrik



Co-Founder Marie-Claude Thompson with Super Bowl Champions Tom Brady and Vince Wilfork receiving her Myra Kraft Community MVP Award at Gillette Stadium

A Lesson in Serendipity

by Lilly Siu, Ed.D., Education Coordinator

We sometimes wonder why paths cross as they do. When Kevin was a BC freshman, he chose to tutor with **EV** as he envisioned himself forming a mentoring relationship with a high school student close to his own age. On Kevin's first day of tutoring, the irony was not lost on him when he was paired with Favor, a fourth grader and the youngest child in the entire program.

Initial sessions were quiet and subdued, but within weeks, Favor unleashed his boundless energy, and began to remind Kevin of what life looks like through the lens of an eight year old. School was boring, and learning no fun. There was a lot of energy to harness some basic literacy and math skills to build, a need to lengthen the attention span, and a call for a little creativity to make the sessions worthwhile.

Harnessing high energy with creativity

Kevin, undaunted, made mental and emotional adjustments, and their time together unfolded into something that took into account Favor's academic, emotional, and kinesthetic needs:

- Kevin recognized that productivity came in 10-15 minute intervals. He would focus on one skill or exercise for a short period of time, and then conveniently get up for a bathroom break or a trip to the materials cabinet or a stretch in the outside air before settling down for another skill or exercise.

- On particularly antsy days, Kevin would sit in the stairwell and read aloud while Favor hung on the stair rail or walked up and down the short staircase, all the while listening and responding to the story. Kevin drew upon ground in theater to change voices and read with a dramatic flair. Favor was completely engaged.

- When Favor signed up for a part in the skit for our Community Event, Kevin, the director, built into Favor's role a chance to run through the audience, all in the name of dramatic effect. Favor, and the skit itself, were a huge success that night.



EVcorps tutor Kevin Roberts with his **EVkid** match, Favor (in blue), at Boston College for Tutor-Tutee Day workshops and campus exploration. This unlikely pair of friends is happy to be together again for this year's challenges.

Kevin calls his time with Favor "the highlight of my week." Educators call the adjustments that Kevin made differentiated learning—the ability and effort on the instructor's part to gauge the learning needs of the student, and support, modify, and accommodate as necessary in order to maximize learning. But Kevin and Favor's story draws from something much less technical and with a lot more heart.

"The highlight of my week"

Now in their second year together, with eyes wide open, Kevin shares the evolving story of his time with Favor in his own words:

It started out with an unlikely pair. What developed was a friendship for the ages in which the two joined forces to defeat the evils of scholastic boredom. They jumped down staircases and slid down railings while simultaneously defining vocabulary words and going through the times tables. There will be a sequel (and hopefully at least two more after that) in which new opponents will be faced (the dreaded long division?). I know that no matter what comes our way, we will have the energy and determination to conquer all and come out victorious.

We cannot say for sure who is luckier, Favor or Kevin, but we can say indeed, serendipity happens.



EV Camp

EV Welcomes New Education Advocate



Sarah Blanks joins **EV** as Education Advocate to help with our growth this year to 45 **EVkid/EVcorps** matches. She comes to **EV** with teaching experience as well as having helped run an academic mentoring program for at-risk middle schoolers in Hartford CT while attending Trinity College as a Presidential Scholar. Sarah is helping with school visits and advocacy.

Welcome to the team, Sarah!