

CONGRATULATIONS to the **EVtutors** graduating from Harvard in 2010, with gratitude for your commitment to your **EVkids** and the **EVcommunity**.

Paul Belmonte	Sociology
Beatriz Brando	Chemistry
Tiffany Kuo	Neurobiology
Esmeralda Nuñez	Psychology
Cathy Sirois	Sociology
Kamille Washington	Religion
Luis Zambrano	Government

EV Websites
earthen-vessels.org

Now on Facebook:
Earthen Vessels (EV)
 Please help us grow the **EVfamily**.



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EV celebrates kids' achievements and introduces new leadership. March 26, 2010—Ninety members of the **EVcommunity** came together last month at Fire+Ice in Harvard Square to toast EV's achievements and meet our new leadership team. Above, **Latoyia Edwards**, **EVkid** '87-'94, Emerson College graduate, Miss Massachusetts USA and NECN news anchor, introduces current **EVkids** **Rex-Jay**, **Kathy**, **Moise** and **Barbara**. Event sponsored by Heaven's Cave Cellars, Fire+Ice, and Computer Recycling USA.



Harvard junior **Alex McAdams**, **EVtutor** '08-'11, encourages **Jemal**, an **EVkid** who has been in the program since the fourth grade. He and his brother **Jason** (a senior who is graduating this year) have overcome family instability and homelessness and kept their studies on track for success.

EV Giving

Please join the **EVfamily** in sustaining EV's work over the next 30 years.

- **Founders' Circle** — annual pledge of \$10,000+
- **President's Circle** — annual pledge of \$5,000+
- **Mentors' Circle** — annual pledge of \$2,500+

Monthly or annual pledges of any amount are welcome and will help us immensely in our planning. All donations are tax-deductible.

- Checks may be sent to EV at 170 Appleton Street, Cambridge MA 02138.
- You may make secure one-time or periodic donations via credit card on our donations page: earthen-vessels.org/donate.htm

- We welcome referrals of companies, institutions or other entities who need to recycle computers or electronics. Our partner, Computer Recycling USA, will share ensuing revenues with us for years to come.
- Contact us at info@earthen-vessels.org

EV Thanks

Founders' Circle: Claire Chase, Brian and Marie-Claude Thompson
President's Circle: John and Alex Danahy, Vin and Mary Alice Stanton, Eric Thompson and Isabel Legarda
Mentors' Circle: Luis Girón, Dan and Beth Thompson, Jaime de Zengotita
School-year Sponsors: Virginia Anderson and Raj Krishnan, Stephen Bernardi, Claire Chase, Helen Chin, Davin and Mary-Ann Chor, Brendon and Colleen Cullinan, Tom Cora and Dara Concagh, Jane Danahy and G. Michaud, Glastonbury Abbey, Pat Hayes and Judy Corder, David and Amy Kopp, Claire Kramtsch, Phil Lohnes, Marie-Cécile Louvet, Bob Martin, Andrew Petitti, Anthony and Martha Picarello, David Renton, St Paul Youth Group, Lucien and Martha Robert, Robert and Rosemarie Scully, Vin and Mary Alice Stanton, Julia Taberman
Camp Sponsorships: Claire Chase, Eduardo and Laura Canto, Charles and Sheila Donahue, Anita Houck, Ana Maria Rizzuto, Bob and Debbie Slotpole, Marie-Alice Stanton, Thomas Tarpey and Carolyn King, David and Grace Thompson
Non-Profit Partners: Robbins de Beaumont Foundation, Make the Dash Count, Mifflin Memorial Fund, Mustard Seed Foundation, Project Bread, Adelard Roy and Valeda Roy Foundation, Schrafft Foundation, Swissnex Boston, TJX Foundation, Topfer Family Foundation
Corporate Partners: Cambridge Transcriptions, Computer Recycling USA, Heaven's Cave Cellars, Lahive & Cockfield LLP, Upper Crust Pizzeria, Verisign, Wellington Management Co.

EV is...

Staff

Sophia Tzeng, Acting Executive Director
 Lauren Ravello, Program Director
 Nancy Jiménez, Educational Coordinator
 Marie-Claude Thompson, Tutor and Alumni Relations Director, Camp Director
 Brian Thompson, Communications, Camp Co-Director

Student Leaders

Francisco Alvarez '11
 Paul Belmonte '10
 Anthony Staccone '13
 Kamille Washington '10

Board

Eric Thompson, President
 Beth Bolyan
 Carlos Cedeño
 Alex Danahy
 John Danahy
 Carla Ofodile
 Brian Thompson, Co-Founder
 Dan Thompson
 Marie-Claude Thompson, Co-Founder
 Jaime de Zengotita

EV News

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 Spring 2010

Community Celebration is an International Affair

April 10, 2010 — Families representing some twenty different countries from around the world came together with **EVtutors**, **EVstaff** and **EVkids** last week to celebrate and share food at our annual Community Event. The party took place at the festively decorated tutoring center in Dorchester, at St. Christopher's Church, where **EVtutors** meet weekly with their **EVkids** throughout their college journeys.

With help from **EVstaff** and tutors, **EVkids** presented songs, poems, skits and dances, and listened intently as **Carlos Cedeño**, former **EVkid** '85-'87, Tufts grad, and current **EVboard** member, spoke of his struggles as a youngster, and of the essential role EV played in his life achievements.

Red drapes festooned the center, and bright flowers donated by Hallie's Garden adorned the tables. Dishes brought by families lined the service table, representing the global diversity that makes up the EV family.

Each family left with a door prize sponsored by the many museums, libraries, stores, and organizations in the community that support EV's work.



"Inch by inch, it's a cinch." At the annual Community Event, **Carlos Cedeño** spoke movingly about his early struggles and the essential support and motivation he received as an **EVkid** and camper. Carlos credited EV for the lifelong lessons that got him through high school and Tufts University. He now gives back as an account manager at INROADS, a national nonprofit that develops and places minority youth in business and industry. He also serves on the **EVboard's** strategic planning committee.



EVkids expand their horizons atop Mt. Hunger in Vermont. On their first hike at EV camp last summer, staff and campers contemplate how far they have come and the higher peaks still ahead.

Seven Years Later, Shy Sixth Grader Now College-Bound

by Barbara Austin, **EVkid** '10

April 13, 2010 — When my mom first told me that I had to attend tutoring, I began to question my intelligence. I could not understand why I needed tutoring if my grades weren't that bad. On my first day of tutoring, I really was not up for it. I was just a sixth grader, and I was not a fan of meeting new people. My tutor did all the questioning as I sat there, a little annoyed. It took some time to get used to, but after a while I began to really build a relationship with my tutor. I was more determined, and willing to do better in school.

Coming to EV for the past seven years has helped me in many ways. My tutors **Resmi Charalel** '07 and **Marina Magloire** '11 have helped me improve my grades, my studying skills, and also my confidence. EV has helped me succeed in math, which is something that seemed impossible four years ago. Entering high school, I looked up to my older siblings. When they graduated from high school none of them were motivated to attend college. I then decided in my sophomore year that I would go on to attend college. Now that I am a senior, I have already been accepted by two colleges. EV helped me accomplish this goal. It was their dedication and determination that helped me reach this day. They took time out of their lives to take me to college interviews, and also helped me in the process of applying to schools. I know that I would have never made it this far without EV. I walked in a shy sixth grader, and I am now a confident senior ready to enter college.

I would never have made it this far without EV.

Donate or Bid
 for EV's "Send a Kid to Camp"
Online Auction
earthenvessels.cmarket.com
 May 2-16, 2010

Save the Date
 for EV's
30th Anniversary Gala
 at the Charles Hotel
 October 10, 2010

Entering a New Era with Spirit and Depth

In the past 30 years, EV has developed a solid foundation in programming. We have created a very special community connecting Harvard students with children and teens from disadvantaged backgrounds, transforming their lives through the unique, long-term relationships developed between them and sustained by the whole EV family. We now need to achieve financial sustainability and maximize our impact through a more institutionalized organization without losing the quality, depth, and spirit of our work.

Announcing New Leadership

The **EVboard** has been spearheading change. A three-day Board retreat last June led to the election of a new Board President, the development of a five-year strategic plan, and the hiring of an Acting Executive Director.

While our first Acting Executive Director, **Bill Pankey**, is stepping down, we are grateful for his contributions developing community and business partnerships for EV. We are delighted that **Sophia Tzeng** (**EVtutor** '94-'95) will step into the position of Acting Executive Director and we welcome her in this expanded role. Her knowledge of EV as a former tutor and the considerable experience and skills she has developed since then put her in a particularly good position to do the arduous work ahead.

Continuing the journey

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I thank you for your support, for the partnership you have entered into with us, some of you since the very beginning of EV and others for many years. My hope is that we will continue the journey together and invite others to join us on the road.



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Co-founder **Marie-Claude Thompson** is a chaplain for the Harvard Catholic Student Center, EV Tutor and Alumni Relations Director and Camp Director. She graduated from the University of Paris, Harvard (M.A. '66) and the Weston School of Theology (M.Div. '85) and served EV as volunteer Executive Director for 29 years.



Step by step, together "to the top!" EVkids approach the peak of Camel's Hump, the second-highest in Vermont. To kids growing up in urban centers like Dorchester and Roxbury, the hike looks impossible, especially from a distance. Putting one foot in front of the other, with support and encouragement, they learn that they can reach goals they hardly thought possible.

Real World Lessons: Reflections of a Former Tutor

by David Kopp, **EVtutor** '85-'89

My time as a mentor with Earthen Vessels came at a nexus of change and challenge in my life. As a freshman, 1000s of miles from parents, childhood friends and a world removed from Texas, new challenges surrounded me and I could feel myself drifting from the firm spiritual, emotional and contextual grounding of my upbringing.

Real-world immersion vs. intellectual isolation

The mentoring itself provided a contextual reminder of the real world. My mentee's life was viscerally real—walking him home through Dorchester and having him point out all the locations where people had been shot was a hard-to-ignore reminder of what an aberration (and opportunity) Harvard presented. The safety, security and intellectual challenges of Harvard were miles from Dorchester, and the Harvard tendency to intellectualize everything was (and would be for the rest of my life) the exception and not the rule. Weekly reflection and meditation sessions became the spiritual equivalent of that physical subway ride between Harvard and Dorchester: they removed me from the intellectual isolation that is possible (and prevalent) at Harvard and gave me the time and spiritual tools to cope with a more full experience of life.

EV gave me the time and the spiritual tools to cope with a more full experience of life.

One of the very specific insights of those sessions was the relevance of the Parable of the Talents—to those blessed with opportunity comes great responsibility. It became (and still is) my favorite parable and a standard against which to measure and improve myself (I often fail). In talking to other tutors, I think this experience and insight is common—that we have been blessed with opportunity and as such God asks that we share our gifts. This is one of the many gifts of **Marie-Claude** and **Brian** and the EV program.

Learning to be a consistent presence

Another life-long lesson that came to me over the course of my time in the program—4 years with the same mentee—was the importance of being a consistent presence in a young person's life. Many of the mentees have had a revolving door of adults in their life. Seeing them blossom when they realize that their mentor is consistently there for them was a joy and a life lesson which has stayed with me both as a mentor in another program and now as a parent to my four wonderful children.

I can't thank **Marie-Claude** and **Brian** enough for their vision, commitment and faith (in every sense of the word). EV has had a dramatic impact on me and my life in terms of my faith, spirituality and the very meaning of my life and I am certain it has affected many mentors and mentees in the same way.

EVkids to College

Most of the **EVkids** who stay in our program graduate from high school and enter college or another post-graduate program. They are often the first in their family to do either, overcoming great obstacles. We celebrate this year's achievers and the support of their **EVtutors** and the **EVstaff**.

Track star **Kemi** is graduating from O'Bryant High School of Math and Science. Over six years, **EVtutors Nomnso Kalu and Kamille Washington** helped Kemi set goals and stay focused. She has been accepted at Pine Manor College and Northeastern.

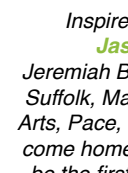


Kemi



Kadiatu

Kadiatu came to Another Course to College from Sierra Leone. **EVtutor Tiffany Kuo** helped her with essays and college applications. She has been accepted at Pine Manor, Eastern Nazarene, and Bunker Hill Community College. She will be the first in her family to attend college.

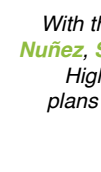


Jason



Barbara

The first in her family to go to college, **Barbara** graduates from the Social Justice Academy this spring. A sixth-year **EVkid** tutored by **Resmi Charalel** and **Marina Magloire**, Barbara has been accepted at Pine Manor College and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.



Saida

With the help of **EVtutor Esmeralda Nuñez**, **Saida** is graduating from Excel High School in South Boston. She plans to work for a year while taking art courses—her passion—before starting college.



Graduating Harvard senior and **EVtutor** coordinator **Cathy Sirois** '10 works with **Shaniece**, a 7th grader at St. Patrick's School in Roxbury. Over four years, Cathy has seen Shaniece blossom from a frustrated, distrustful, resistant and shy 4th grader to a confident and chatty 12-year old who wants to learn. Next year, Shaniece's new **EVtutor** will build on the basis of trust and self-respect that she and Cathy have developed along with the support of **EVstaff**.

Advancing a 30-year Labor of Love

In these challenging times, with growing community needs, I am honored and humbled by the trust of the **EVboard** in naming me Acting Executive Director. Though long involved with the program as an **EVtutor**, supporter and consultant, my new role requires an entirely different level of involvement and focus on strengthening the organization and its important work.

For the past 30 years, EV has had deep, lasting, and lifelong impact. Everyone that I have met—from current staff, **EVkids** and volunteers in the program, to the growing "family" of EV alums, to prospective and longtime supporters—has continuously confirmed the depth and significance of EV's work under the impassioned leadership of the founders, **Marie-Claude** and **Brian Thompson**. This history is a blessing and an inspiration, and confirms our need to concentrate at present on ensuring EV's future.

It will take *... building, brick by brick, toward the long term.* inspiration and teamwork to solidify, sustain and build upon what is, essentially, a 30-year labor of love. Fortunately, EV has these resources in abundance. In the face of a sinking economy last year, the **EVboard** deftly and swiftly implemented a new strategic plan, and **EVdonors** increased their support by up to 50% in support of EV's efforts to address deepening needs. This year, the **EVstaff** intensified our support for **EVkids** disproportionately affected by the downturn. Together, we have all committed to strengthening EV's organizational structures, systems, and practices.

We are building, brick by brick, toward the long term. In the next six months, I will be helping to organize the 30th Anniversary Gala with the Benefit Committee, improving technology and resources with the Technology Committee, working on program evaluation and reporting with the Education Committee, and enhancing outreach with the Communications Committee. All suggestions and contributions of time, resources, and ideas—and referrals!—are most welcome. I am looking forward to meeting each one of you, and to growing together through our commitment to transforming lives and building community connecting Harvard and Boston's inner city.

Acting Executive Director **Sophia Tzeng** has served EV for the past 17 years as a tutor, student leader, supporter, and advisor. Prior to rejoining EV, Sophia was a Wall Street attorney, startup CEO, and nonprofit director. She is a graduate of Harvard and Columbia Law School.



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