

Spring Thaw at Fire+Ice

Friends of EV gathered for wine and cheese in Harvard Square. EVtutors and EVkids shared stories and exciting news about EV's springing forward with new office space in Boston and expansion to Boston College. Thanks to **Fire+Ice** for sponsoring our event.



EV welcomed new Board members George Bard, José Edwards and Diana Rodriguez (not pictured).



Realtor Aimé Amar and Eleni Sacre of Schönhof's Foreign Books enjoy the moment.



Jana Kiely catches up with Buck Ewing of Cambridge Transcriptions.



EVkids shared their experience and joy... and had a good time in the process.



Eric Thompson, President of the EVboard, chats with Fuyuo Nagayama (EVtutor '11) and Moise.



Johann Sadock (Boston Latin School) getting to know EVBoard members, John Danahy and Jaime de Zengotita.

SAVE THE DATE

2011 EV GALA

October 21, 2011
Charles Hotel, Harvard Square

Join the Gala Committee to help make it a memorable event

Contact Eric: eric@evkids.org

EV News

Volume 14, Issue 1

Spring 2011

"Transforming lives from the university to the inner city"

It's Time to Send a Kid to Camp!

June is EV's "Send a Kid to Camp" month. Sharmaine is 12 years old and has never been to camp. In fact, she has never left the Boston metro area. She is excited about going to EV camp this summer, but also a little apprehensive about leaving her family behind for a whole week and traveling up to Vermont where she knows she will be hiking up mountains for the first time.

What made her want to go was hearing about it from her cousin who came back from camp last summer with tales of fun and accomplishments with counselors who were nice and caring. Although Sharmaine doesn't know how it will be without television for so long, she is looking forward to the daily swimming, organized games and workshops, and learning the camp songs her cousin is always singing. After a family visit by EVstaff, Sharmaine's mother signed her up for a total fee of \$25, thanks to EVdonors like you. EV will bring two dozen children like Sharmaine to our own nine-acre camp in the Green Mountains of Vermont this summer.

Help
EVkids
expand
their
horizons.



Every summer, EV kids come from inner-city Boston and dive head first into community life and the great outdoors, here at the spring-fed pond just up the road from camp.

My Story: Seven Years with EV and College-Bound

Kathy Castro, EVkid '11

I've been in tutoring for 7 years, since the 6th grade, and what I appreciate the most about EV is the bond I have had with my tutor. It was more than just going to tutoring to get help on homework or assignments; it was like going to see a friend. I came in with a better attitude and I didn't feel shy about asking questions. I learned how to write better. I remember I was having trouble with science homework but my tutor showed me how to do it by using playing ball as an example. I thought it was weird but the example stuck with me and it really helped me to understand the problem better.

I also learned how to talk to people. I'm not so shy anymore. I remember the first time I had to perform for the community event and I had to memorize a monologue. It was fun rehearsing with my tutor, making funny faces and practicing speaking loudly. I was so nervous for the performance, I just kept staring at a drawing of a rainbow at the back of the room instead of making eye contact, but now I have done the community event three times and I'm not as scared anymore.

I learned how to climb mountains at EVcamp. Camp got me fit for the summer and it got me into sports. I tried out for the volleyball team in the fall after camp and I stuck with it the whole season. I learned how to do a split by watching Lauren do one very, very, very, slowly. At camp we also had to do the "name game," which meant that every day we had to secretly do something nice for someone else whose name we chose out of a bowl. It was fun to try to guess who had your name. It was funny when

continued on back

My Story, continued from front page

Marie-Claude got my name because she would compliment me and give me shoulder rubs—so that was great.

I have always wanted to go to college, but EV and my tutor helped me with the application process, my essay, narrowing down my list of colleges, and took me on college visits. They helped me feel a little less stressed about it.

I got into some good schools: Assumption College, Suffolk University, UMassBoston, and College of Mount Saint Vincent in New York.

Next year in college I hope to meet new people, figure out what my major will be and what my interests are. I hope the classes will open up my eyes, and I am looking forward to becoming more active and involved.

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.

- Send checks to EV at 170 Appleton Street, Cambridge MA 02138.
- Make a secure one-time or recurring donation via credit card at evkids.org.
- We welcome referrals of companies, institutions or other entities who need to recycle computers or electronics. 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

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



EV Expands to Boston College This Fall

For 25 years EV has been matching Harvard students with disadvantaged children and teens from inner-city Boston in multi-year tutoring and mentoring relationships. Currently, 30 Harvard student volunteers are recruited, trained and supported in partnership with the Harvard Catholic Center. EVtutors take the Redline to our tutoring site in Dorchester every week and participate in campus and other mentoring events with their EVkids during the school year. We are very proud that 100% of our 2010 EVkid graduates are now in college.

In the fall of 2011, EV will be expanding its successful university service model from the Harvard campus to Boston College. In partnership with the BC chaplaincy's student organization, 4Boston, EV will be adding an inaugural class of 15 Boston College student volunteers that will allow a 50% expansion of our Afterschool Program.

Like EV, 4Boston already has in place the regular meetings for reflection and support among its volunteers that has proven invaluable to the retention of our Harvard volunteers in the EV program. This expansion also offers the potential for additional growth as 4Boston currently places hundreds of volunteers in local service organizations.

We are thrilled to be welcoming Boston College students into the EV family.



Kathy Castro shares her four college acceptance letters with Education Coordinator Nancy Jiménez—an inspiring moment for eighth-grader Andy who looks on.

4Boston volunteers will expand our capacity by 50%.



Miles from radio or TV, EVkids build vocabulary and sharpen critical thinking skills with *Scrabble* and *Set*.

Forging a Lasting Bond

by Sam Chalsen, '12

The first Sunday of my freshman year at Harvard, my roommate and I decided to check out the student mass at St. Paul Church in Harvard Square. I am so glad I went because during the announcements a call was made for student tutors for the EV Tutoring Program. Within a week I was introduced to my tutee Doogie, and over two and a half years later I'm still working with Doogie every week.

My time with EV has been, without a doubt, one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Doogie and I have been through a lot together. I've helped him work on homework assignments, write essays, and develop better study habits. Sometimes it can be a struggle, but Doogie's academic performance has been steadily improving, especially as he has encountered more interesting areas of study in high school like Physics. This year during our tutoring sessions we've also been working on Doogie's growth as a creative writer, and this weekend Doogie's first original play will be performed at the EV community event.

More important for both of us, though, is the personal connection that we've created over these past two and a half years. Doogie and I have bonded over a shared enjoyment of fantasy novels and comic books. Last year Doogie also had the opportunity to join me in another Harvard group I work with that performs music at nursing homes. This was not necessarily the easiest thing for Doogie to do—though very friendly and talkative, he can be a little shy around people he's just met. However, Doogie soldiered through and joined us for a number of songs, and afterwards talked with many of the appreciative nursing home residents.



Sam and Doogie working on math at their weekly session.

My time with EV has been, without a doubt, one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

continued next column



EVkids help one another negotiate a ledge near the top of Camel's Hump. Making it to the top together becomes a metaphor for life.

Lasting Bond, continued

The greatest benefit of EV is that we tutors are able to work with our tutees in one-on-one, personal relationships that continue over several years. Of all the work we've done together, I'm most proud that Doogie trusts me enough to confide in me his joys and concerns. It's great that Doogie has the opportunity to get extra help on his Math homework; but I think it is really amazing that a program exists where Doogie can get that extra help from someone who knows him and cares about him.

Of course, the benefits of EV go both ways. Being away from home under the pressures of college can be hard sometimes, especially during the cold Cambridge winters, but knowing that for at least a few hours every week I'll get to spend some time with Doogie exploring English and History or doing Math problems or just talking about comics makes everything seem a little more worthwhile. Doogie is a part of my college family, and I know that even after I graduate our friendship will continue to grow.

Talking about EVolution

Sophia Tzeng, Acting Executive Director

Happy spring! I am honored to report on the blossoming of EV this spring, made possible by the surge of support from last fall's 30th anniversary celebration.

EV is moving our headquarters from Cambridge to Boston, near our tutoring site. This significant change will bring together staff and volunteers and empower EV to better connect with our EVkids and their families. EV is also joining Mass Mentoring Partnership's Quality-Based Membership (QBM) program, a community of more than 170 mentoring organizations. This move will allow us to benchmark our practices against national standards. We will gain access to training and technical assistance, professional development, and mentoring activities.

EV's first-time partnership with 4Boston at Boston College will help us to expand our after-school impact by 50% this fall. EV is also working with the Harvard Catholic Student Association and the Harvard Catholic Center to improve outreach, recruitment and support at Harvard.

Finally, EV has begun a national search for a permanent Executive Director to lead ongoing growth. This critical step will ensure the strengthening and deepening of EV's impact from the university to the inner city.

I have deeply enjoyed my work helping to strengthen EV over the past few years, and am most thankful for the relationships forged and renewed in our journey together since my first encounter with EV nearly 20 years ago as an EVtutor. I look forward to continuing with you and EV, giving hope, teaching respect, and expanding compassion.



Second-year EVcamper, Jemal, offers to share his water at a snack stop on the way up Camel's Hump.