

ELPM BUILDING BLOCKS

Building a Future

A publication for our partners, supporters, and friends

Winder Early Learning Center

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A Big Welcome to ELPM's Newest Center.....

Early Learning Property Management is very happy to announce the acquisition of its newest center; **Winder Early Learning Center** located in Winder, Barrow County, GA. Barrow County is one of the fastest growing counties in Georgia with 5,593 children under the age of five years living in the county and approximately 1,000 of these children are living below poverty level. Through a partnership between ELPM, United Way of Metro Atlanta/Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, the Pittulloch Foundation and the Sartain Lanier Family Foundation, ELPM purchased the facility and renovated the interior to showcase a welcoming secured entry area, spacious classrooms, reading nook, teacher work room and break room, laundry facility, full kitchen for preparing nutritious meals, administration areas and a conference/meeting room. An age appropriate, secured playground is planned as well. Easter Seals North Georgia, a NAEYC accredited program provider, will be providing comprehensive Head Start program services and family outreach programs for this center. Currently, the Easter Seals program serves 1300 children at 11 locations in Fulton County and North East Georgia. The Winder Center will open its doors at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year with full enrollment and will provide quality care and program services to children ages 3 and 4, as well as offering family service programs and community outreach initiatives.

ELPM is excited to open this nurturing, beautiful center and expand access to high quality early learning programs critical to help the increasing demand for affordable, quality early education programs in this community. ELPM and its Board of Directors are very grateful to our committed funding partners who continue to help ELPM expand its mission to help bridge the educational gap for our young children and enriching lives for hundreds of families.

Kara Portnell, Executive Director

For Easter Seals program information, please visit www.easterseals.northgeorgia.com



**The Sibley Award for Early Learning Leadership & Program Excellence
2013 Winner
YMCA Chattahoochee Early Childhood Academy**



CONGRATULATIONS to the **YMCA Chattahoochee Early Childhood Academy**, the winning recipient of the second annual Sibley Award for Early Learning Leadership & Program Excellence competition.

The Sibley Award was created to honor Mr. James M. Sibley, an Atlanta native, and his commitment to the advancement of young children as well as his enduring interest to encourage and promote high quality early education by recognizing outstanding early childhood programs and educators.

The Sibley Award is an annual competition between the ELPM centers and was made possible through a generous gift from the Harland Foundation and the Pittulloch Foundation, both of whom share a common goal and commitment to the early learning initiative. The project submittal criteria was based on environmental initiatives that would educate and inspire children and their communities to take care of the environment, as well as the center's overall commitment to the development of children. ELPM engaged high profile community leaders to serve as the judging panel to review all project submittals received. The competition received creative project ideas which made the selection of the winner challenging for the judges.

YMCA Chattahoochee Early Childhood Academy's winning proposal, "Edible Urban Garden", envisions an active, organic space that is designed, maintained and enjoyed by student, teachers, parents and other community volunteers. The garden will instill community pride, lift self-esteem and nurture love for self, others and nature. It will be a safe place for children to understand cycles of life and have eye opening learning experiences in the dirt as they bring food and plants to life in their urban garden. The garden will provide Head Start students and teachers improved understanding of and respect for nature, others and self through exposure and experience with gardening in an urban setting.

On Wednesday, March 27th, ELPM hosted a winning celebration at **YMCA Chattahoochee Early Childhood Academy**, to present the \$15,000 Sibley Award to the center. The judges were also recognized and presented with special gifts made by the Pre-K class. ELPM looks forward to sharing progress results of the "Edible Urban Garden" program in upcoming newsletters.

ELPM is grateful to the Harland Foundation and the Pittulloch Foundation for making the Sibley Award possible. It is a tremendous honor for ELPM to commemorate Mr. Sibley's dedication to our young children and at the same time make a positive impact in the lives of our children, their families and their community.

For program information, please visit—www.ymcaatlanta.org



"Edible Urban Garden"
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Educate and inspire students and families to live and eat better.
- ◆ Encourage healthy living choices to defeat obesity and related multigenerational illness.
- ◆ Create opportunities for intergenerational mentoring and family time.
- ◆ Increase beautification and create a greater sense of community pride.
- ◆ Nutrition information and artistic expression.
- ◆ Leave a legacy for the next set of Head Start children to come to the center.



Pre-K Class performing for the guests



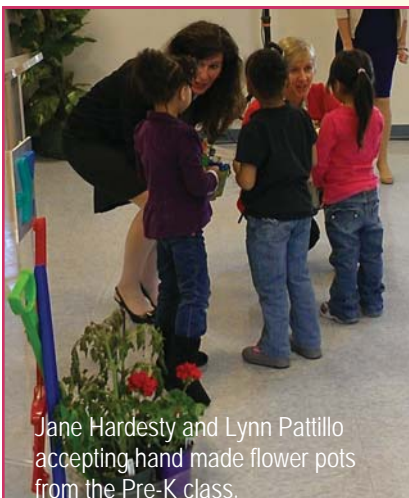
(L to R) Brenda Peel, Quality Living Services Garden Club, Kurdics Neal, Assistant Center Manager, Melissa Finch, Education Specialist



Yvonne Williams-Randall, Assistant Director of Services, Head Start Program



(L to R) Gail Morgan, ECDC Asst. Director, Jane Hardesty, Executive Director, Harland Foundation, Melissa Finch, Yvonne Williams-Randall, Lynn Pattillo, President, Pittulloch Foundation



Jane Hardesty and Lynn Pattillo accepting hand made flower pots from the Pre-K class.



Kara Portnell, Ex-Director, ELPM, and Wayne Lord, President, World Affairs Council of Atlanta accepting gift made by the Pre-K class.

Early Learning Property Management Mission Statement

To support and promote early childhood learning and development by providing safe and adequate facilities where early learning programs and activities can be conducted.



ELPM CENTER LOCATIONS

For program information, please visit the following links:

Beacon of Hope - Renaissance Child Development Center—www.renaissancelearningctr.org

Brookvalley Child Development Center— www.esng.easterseals.com

Chattahoochee YMCA Early Childhood Academy— www.ymcaatlanta.org

D. Scott Hudgens, Jr. Early Childhood Development Center— www.gwinnettech.edu

Dean Rusk YMCA Head Start Academy— www.ymcaatlanta.org

Guice Educare Center— www.esng.easterseals.com

Mansell Child Development Center— www.esng.easterseals.com

Minnie Howell Child Development Center— www.premier-academy.org

Sylvan Hills Child Development Center— www.esng.easterseals.com

Tendercare Early Learning Center— www.tendercare.org

Warsaw Child Development Center— www.esng.easterseals.com

Winder Early Learning Center— www.esng.easterseals.com