

ELPM BUILDING BLOCKS

Building a Future

A Quarterly publication for our partners, supporters, and friends

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June 17, 2012

The Sibley Award

For Early Learning Leadership & Program Excellence

CONGRATULATIONS to **Minnie Howell Child Development Center**, winning recipient of the first annual Sibley Award for Early Learning Leadership & Program Excellence. 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 innovative program approaches and the ability to engage and support the development of children, including families and communities, as well as the center's overall commitment to the early childhood education profession.

ELPM engaged high profile community leaders to serve as the judging panel to review all project submittals received. The competition highlighted creative, innovative ideas and the diversity of all the projects submitted made the selection of a winner challenging for the judges. Minnie Howell's winning proposal "Watch Me Grow - Community Garden and Greenhouse" is an interdisciplinary hands-on learning series that teaches preschool age children practical lessons on making healthy lifestyle choices with a goal to combat childhood obesity by reinforcing healthy nutrition and physical activity for at-risk and low-income children, their parents and the community.

On Monday, April 30th, ELPM hosted a winning celebration at Minnie Howell 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 "Watch Me Grow" 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.



Jane Hardesty, The Harland Foundation; Cindra Taylor, Executive Director, Minnie Howell CDC; Lynn Pattillo, The Pittulloch Foundation



Dr. Clifford Johnson, (Ret.) GSU Reading Recovery & Literacy Program



Pam Tatum, President & CEO Quality Care for Children



Audrey Jacobs, Director, Center for Family Philanthropy, The Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta



Getting ready to present gifts to Judges



Pre-K Class Performance

PREMIER ACADEMY'S "WATCH ME GROW" PROGRAM

Anticipated Outcomes

❖ 126 children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old enrolled in the Minnie Howell CDC will recognize and appreciate healthy foods in an age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate manner.



❖ 126 children enrolled in the Minnie Howell CDC will engage in at least 60 minutes of structured and unstructured physical activity each day.

❖ 113 parents of children enrolled in the Minnie Howell CDC will have an increased awareness of the importance and implementation of improved feeding practices, reduced TV/screen time, and increased daily physical activity, resulting in a family life that includes healthy nutrition and an active lifestyle.



❖ 20 Minnie Howell CDC teachers and a nutrition worker will become more knowledgeable and proficient in consistent nutritional feeding and physical fitness best practices for young children

❖ Minnie Howell CDC will facilitate opportunities for parental and community engagement, including other early learning centers and community partners, in advocating health nutrition and active lifestyles by planting and harvesting a community vegetable garden that will serve a local homeless shelter or nursing home with harvested crops.



News Around the Block

GEEARS and Sesame Street

GEEARS has been working around the state with several new and exciting partners! They recently held a series of meetings with Mel Ming, the CEO of Sesame Workshop, the non-profit educational organization behind Sesame Street. Sesame Workshop is working to design Sesame Learning, a curriculum that addresses children's critical developmental needs with the sophisticated use of media and a large dose of fun. GEEARS was happy to have the opportunity to give foundation leaders, early educators and staff at the Bright from the Start, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning an opportunity to learn about this new initiative.



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For more info, please visit: www.geears.org*

College Heights Early Learning Center

The graduating Pre-K students received an opportunity to visit their new Kindergarten home schools! The children got to tour their new schools, visit with teachers and experience a part of the Kindergarten day.



Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy *Making an Impact!*

The Ferst Foundation began mailing free age appropriate books along with a Leap into Books newsletter, packed with parent information, a book guide and activity page, 12 years ago in Morgan County, Georgia, to children under five. In 2011, the first Ferst graduates (8th graders) scored 99.6% (met or exceeding goals) on the reading portion of the CRCT. Imagine the possibilities if every student in Georgia had access to the Ferst Foundation program and in a few years able to see dramatic results like this in every county in Georgia!

Vocabulary development by age 3 is a predictor of reading achievement by third grade. Children often enter school behind their peers because they experience low literacy levels at home that affect their ability to learn. This readiness gap persist and gets wider as children age. Families living in poverty often lack the money to by new books, as well as access to libraries. In fact, 61% of low income families have not children's books in the homes. The Ferst Foundation's goal is to remedy the reading gap by mailing books to every child under five in every household in Georgia.

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For more info, please visit: www.info@ferstfoundation.org*

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 ELPM center program information, please visit www.elpm.org



57 Executive Park Drive
Suite 315
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TO: Our Partners, Supporters and Friends