

# Notes from Evergreen



COVID-19 Response Award

## Quarterly Update

EHC Provides Virtual Science Field Trips

EHC Head Start Program Continues Virtually

EHC Develops Virtual Arts in the Schools Program

**EHC Receives COVID-19 Response Award** from

Maryland Community Development Network

## EHC Pivots to Address the Pandemic

Last spring, when the pandemic began and in-school education became school at home, we were grateful that we had completed our winter in-school arts and Head Start programs. However, we were in the middle of our Elementary Edibles program for kindergarten through fifth grade students at three elementary schools to help them learn about and plant vegetables in window box classroom gardens, and our spring science field trips had not yet begun. What could we do to help our partners and their students continue their hands-on learning experiences? In this newsletter issue, we would like to share with you what has happened in the subsequent months.

First, last spring, since so many students did not have online access at the time, we developed interactive worksheets that could help convey the lessons we typically provided during 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, Earth Science, and Biology field trips. With regard to the classroom gardens planted as part of our Elementary Edibles program, at Mount Savage School and Beall Elementary, school personnel continued to water the plants and shared photos with students as the plants grew. At South Penn Elementary, due to the large number of gardens, the window boxes were moved outside to the schoolyard and they continued to grow nicely in the early spring weather.

As the school year ended, we faced summer camp with a decision of what to offer our camp community. After listening to camp parents, we ultimately provided two weeks of in-person camp plus four camp-in-a-box offerings for art, science, young naturalists, and outdoor recreation.

As the summer progressed, we realized that fall would also bring an even greater need to adapt to the ongoing pandemic. As a result, we applied for COVID-19 CARES funding, developed virtual field trips programs for Allegany County Public Schools, and used other grant funding and donations to develop virtual experiences for Head Start, Allegany County After School, Arts in the Schools, and Elementary Edibles students. **We would like to share photos of this journey with you and thank you for helping to make it possible through your support and donations.**

For more information about the Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation and its programs, visit [www.evergreenheritagecenter.org](http://www.evergreenheritagecenter.org) or call 301-687-0664.

## Evergreen is Serving Over 6200 Students Virtually!

**HEAD START:** To date we have developed three video-based programs for Head Start Center that provide 1) an EHC garden tour video and spinach planting experience, 2) a spinach tasting experience, and a pollinator video and Bumble Buddy kits so that each child could make his/her own pollinator bee. All three kits were delivered (complete with necessary supplies) to 14 Allegany County centers (260 children). We also delivered the pollinator video and Bumble Buddy kits for 300 Washington County Head Start children, who have been virtual all year, so they have not yet been able to use the planting and tasting modules that need to be conducted by teachers in the classroom.



*Children planting their window box garden, tasting spinach, and a completed Bumble Buddy*

**AFTER SCHOOL:** We have also provided four video-based tutorials for After School that tell the story of the early settlement of Allegany County at Evergreen, “green” living in the Evergreen Farmhouse (now a museum), 150 years of farming history through a tour of the EHC’s Living Off the Land Agricultural Museum, and the story of the EHC’s educational and environmental programs. If the children go back to school this spring, we will also do a school-based gardening program with them (approximately 160 students).

**ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS:** Our Art Director Maggie Pratt has developed a video-based version of our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Arts in the Schools program, sponsored by the Allegany Arts Council. We hope to have this program presented when students are back in the classroom, however, it can also be used in a home-based setting. We also received a grant to develop and deliver a new 4<sup>th</sup> grade program, which will be virtual. Together these two programs will reach 1200 children. **Below are photos from the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade program.**



## More Virtual Programs and Live Infrastructure Projects!

**STEM Field Trips for Allegany County Public Schools:** To date we have developed video-based online programs for both high school Earth/Space Science and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science (approximately 1200 students). For both of these programs, we worked with teachers to streamline the process and integrate with the Schoology ACPS-chosen platform. Currently we are developing a new energy program for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science (600 more students) funded by First Energy. This new program will incorporate the EHC's one hundred year coal history as well as alternative energy solutions. We are hoping, as is the school system, that we may be able to conduct our spring Biology program in the schoolyard in late spring (600 additional students). This new methodology has been a true learning experience for everyone.



*EHC instructors filming demonstrations for the Earth/Space virtual field trips*

**ELEMENTARY EDIBLES:** This year we are preparing a video-based version of this gardening/tasting program for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade at seven Title I schools (2000 students), where each grade level grows a different vegetable, learns about its health benefits, and tastes and grades their veggie. Through this impactful programs, almost all students taste their vegetable!

**NEW PROJECTS:** Regarding infrastructure projects, the outdoor Appalachian Kitchen is being completed. This new pavilion is made from our own lumber and locally-made Mount Savage bricks and includes a firebrick oven. We have also begun rebuilding our 100 year old Miners' Mule Stable (above the barn) to create a coal museum. This coal trail building will be the first of multiple coal trail features to be rebuilt for tours and education programs.

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Please feel free to contact us at 301-687-0664 or [foundation@evergreenheritagecenter.org](mailto:foundation@evergreenheritagecenter.org) for any questions you may have. You may also obtain more information on our Facebook page evergreenheritage or at our website [www.evergreenheritagecenter.org](http://www.evergreenheritagecenter.org).

## Donations

As always, particularly during these difficult times, as we work to develop online programs for children when in-person programs may not be feasible, we appreciate your support.

Yes, I want to be a *Friend of Evergreen* with my tax deductible contribution of \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My donation is in memory or in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this form and your check payable to the EHC Foundation to:**

EHC Foundation, 101 Braddock Heights, Frostburg, MD 21532-2345

**For more information,** visit our website [www.evergreenheritagecenter.org](http://www.evergreenheritagecenter.org),

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## We Host Weddings and Events!

Evergreen Heritage Center can accommodate your wedding, event, or meetings of **up to 175 people or up to 85 people while Maryland is under social distancing restrictions**. Nestled in the Mountains of Western Maryland, Evergreen provides a scenic setting for your special occasion. At over 2500 square feet on the main level of the Evergreen Barn, as well as other areas on the picturesque grounds available for use, Evergreen is a unique and peaceful setting for your private event. Other charming spots at Evergreen include the main pavilion which accommodates up to **75** and the picturesque pond and its wooden dock. Our green facility provides the picture-perfect location to host a variety of occasions. Let us assist in planning your next function.

For more information, contact 301-687-0664 or [janicekeene@evergreenheritagecenter.org](mailto:janicekeene@evergreenheritagecenter.org).

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