

Community Vision Spring 2011

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Growing goodwill in the East Lake Community Learning Garden

The **East Lake Community Learning Garden**, established in partnership between the **East Lake Foundation** and the **Southeastern Horticultural Society** (SHS), will provide a safe, supportive environment where East Lake residents can grow organic produce in a small urban farm and participate in interactive workshops while learning from each other and gardening experts. As an active educational environment, the Learning Garden will serve as an outdoor classroom for East Lake children, especially students from **Charles R. Drew Charter School**. The garden, located near the corners of 2nd Avenue and Hosea Williams Boulevard, will also serve as a gathering place and community-building platform both for residents of The Villages of East Lake and the East Lake neighborhood.

Because of its emphasis on community wellness, the Learning Garden is a natural complement to the other programs supported by the East Lake Foundation. "The health of a community is inextricably linked with the health of its residents, so we are delighted to support the East Lake Community Learning Garden," said **Madelyn R. Adams**, East Lake Foundation Executive Director.

The community's involvement and investment in each phase of the garden's creation has been crucial to the project's early success. The Learning Garden is an effective organizing tool because it will remain a "work in progress" for years to come offering ongoing opportunities for meaningful community engagement.

"This summer we will continue our work with the East Lake Foundation



Members of **CREW Teens** volunteered at the **East Lake Community Learning Garden** to help rake, spread mulch, sweep walkways and clear the land.

to engage community stakeholders. We will work together to plant a garden in time for the **May 7th groundbreaking** that is responsive to neighborhood needs," said **Kate Chura**, Executive Director of the

Southeastern Horticultural Society.

East Lake citizens and supporters came together to learn and share, and participate in several workshops in

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Help Our Garden Grow

To support the new garden and other East Lake Foundation initiatives, email **Brittany Glenn Molinaro** at bglenn@eastlakefoundation.org



CREW Teens are gearing up for an active summer of recreational learning.



Drew Charter School students pilot innovative aquaponics system.



Drew's After School Program prepares students for learning.

Great things
are happening
in East Lake
everyday!

Find out more ▶

The First Tee of East Lake currently provides golf instruction to 545 youth in the East Lake community. To learn more about the program, call **404.373.4351**

East Lake
FOUNDATION

Drew students pilot classroom aquaponics program



The East Lake Community Garden extended its outreach to some of East Lake's youngest residents through the donation and installation of a small-scale aquaponics system. Fourth grade science students at **Drew Charter School** now have access to one of the latest innovations in environmentally

sustainable green technology.

Aquaponics represents a blended production system combining aquaculture, and hydroponics, or growing plants in a soil-less medium. The "Little Tokyo" system, donated by Earth Solutions, is sleek and space efficient, and features a 10 gallon glass aquarium, home to a school of goldfish, and a recirculating pump that transports the nitrogen-rich wastewater from the fish's tank to the plant's growing bed above. The growing bed is a plastic-lined wooden box filled with tiny, gray slate rocks that act as anchors for the plant's roots. The fish waste provides nutrient rich food for the plants, and the plants provide a natural

filter for the water the fish live in.

The classroom setup gives students the chance to observe and manipulate a working ecosystem while offering their teacher a novel approach to covering many of the Georgia Performance Standards science requirements. Drew Charter's fourth grade science instructor **Ms. Consuela Taylor** has taken the lead in developing curriculum tie-ins for the new system. "This is wonderful! Now I have some ideas on how to develop lessons around the system; and formally make

students responsible for the maintenance of the system," said Ms. Taylor. This classroom innovation is a great introduction for students to alternative local food production technology. ■



CREW Teens goes CREWSIN this summer



Creating Responsible, Educated, Working Teens

Learn More
Call **CREW Teens** at
404.687.0001, ext. 2250

CREW Summer Institute (CREWSIN) offers a four-week experiential learning opportunity for students in a wide range of areas by exposing students to interactive classroom instruction and real-life experiences facilitated by professionals in the field.

Guest presenters and related field work exercises will help students become more competitive in high school and in the college admissions process.

Get Involved

The **CREWSIN** program is open to all **CREW Teens** students in 10th–12th

grades, including the most immediate high school graduates. Admission to the program requires a rigorous application and screening process.

The **CREWSIN** program will be held June 6–July 1 at **Drew Charter School**. ■



Spring is a bloomin' good time in the After School Program at Drew

Spring is in the air and students at **Drew Charter School** who are enrolled in the **After School Program (ASP)** are excited that they can add outdoor activities to the already academically integrated and robust enrichment program that is supported by the East Lake Foundation.

Expanding Young Minds

Enrichment begins with an innovative approach to engage students while keeping them interested throughout the year. ASP students have access to a wide range of resources that support and nurture their academic development as well as activities that contribute to healthy bodies and creative minds.

ASP classes balance educational activities that support classroom learning with healthy recreational outlets such as tennis, golf, soccer and gardening. Imagine learning the game of chess one day and then learning all

about robotics the next! ASP Students can also join special interest clubs that appeal to curious minds, unique talents and budding enthusiasts – clubs like the Newspaper Club, books clubs and the Running Club.

Academic Preparation

Helping to support academic learning means ASP students are prepared for success.

- ▶ Volunteers provide academic support during and after school to help students
- ▶ College students and community members tutor ASP students on a regular basis
- ▶ Special academic opportunities are available through the ASP such as Emory University's "Philosophy for Kids," a group of Emory students who work with second graders, and the "Math and Science Club" created by The Westminster Schools' students, offered to



Drew's After School Program students strike a pose as they learn to plant a blueberry bush.

third and fourth grade students.

Upcoming Events

The third annual **Art Auction** will take place on May 17. This year, the **Art Auction** and the **Spring Showcase** will be combined so that families and guests can celebrate the learning that takes

place all spring. Attendees will see martial arts, drama, puppetry, dance, and drumming performances. It's a great opportunity to bid on art created in ASP classes. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the ASP program. ■

Learn More or Get Involved

For more information or to volunteer, contact **Lindsey James** at 404.687.0001 ext. 2271 or email: lindsey.james@drewcharterschool.org

Get high school-ready with High Prep

A four-week program offered through **CREW Teens**, The **High Prep Summer Program** prepares rising ninth grade students from **Drew Charter School** and the East Lake community for the challenge of high school academics. The curriculum, taught by certified high school teachers, focuses on math, language arts, science and high school orientation.

Students will also receive school supplies for the summer program and attend three field trips upon

successful completion of the program.

The program will be held June 6–July 1 and hours will be Monday–Thursday from 9:00 am–Noon and Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. ■

Space is limited. Reserve your spot now.

For more information or to get an application, call **Quintez Gurdy or Jana Broadie at 404.687.0001**



Celebrate 2011 CREW Teens grads



*Creating Responsible,
Educated, Working Teens*

CREW Teens, a program for **Drew Charter School** graduates and East Lake community teens, provides tools that enable participants to earn high school and college degrees and build productive futures. **CREW Teens** offers an integrated program of academic

tutoring, college readiness activities and initiatives that build leadership, critical thinking, life skills, collaboration and civic awareness.

Moving Beyond the Bridge is a culminating event designed to highlight the accomplishments of CREW's 2011 high school

graduates. The ceremony will take place on June 4th, 10:00 am–Noon, at the Georgia Power Building (Preston S. Arkwright Auditorium). CREW's 2011 scholarship recipients will be recognized, including **Ann and Tom Cousins Scholars.** ■

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2010. "We're going to harness this positive energy and use it to build a great garden this spring," says one of the garden's organizers **Khari Diop**, who also serves as a community environmental educator in East Lake. Last October, the popular "**Goats in the Garden**" Fall Festival that celebrated the arrival of two-dozen Boer goats who cleared the land of invasive plant species, marked the

land-clearing phase of operations.

The garden is entering the construction stage in anticipation of its **official groundbreaking being held on Saturday, May 7**. Volunteers are needed to help build garden beds, lay pathways, and remove invasive plants from the garden during the **Garden Build Day on Saturday, March 19.** ■

Learn how you can get involved! Contact **Khari Diop** at 404.828.0480 or email: kdiop@sehort.org

You can help make a difference

The East Lake Foundation is nationally renowned for our holistic approach to community revitalization through support of excellent cradle-to-college education, safe and affordable housing, and community wellness. Your support makes programs like **CREW Teens**, **The First Tee of East Lake**, **Drew's After School Program** and **East Lake Summer Camp** possible.

To make your donation, call **Brittany Glenn Molinaro** at 404.373.4351 or visit eastlakefoundation.org