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Greetings, members!

Warmest of greetings from the Robinson Nature Center! The chill of winter and frigid temperatures are ebbing away as verdant chartreuse hues emerge proclaiming springs' gradual awakening. While the days lengthen bathed in sunshine, we're basking in the warm glow of satisfaction from many recent accomplishments. This is a tremendously fertile and exciting time for Robinson, not even in "kinder-garden" and we've garnered awards for our facility, our programs and our people! Not too shabby for being just four years old!!

Pam Reese

Community Liaison, Robinson Nature Center

IN THIS ISSUE

- Letter to Members
- Awards Spotlight:
LERN Award, Department Awards, Volunteer Awards

Awards Spotlight

LERN award

RNC's most recent award was an International Programming Award from "LERN", the Learning Resources Network, (yes, International!!) for developing a summer camp for children with sensory challenges and issues. The Sensory-Friendly Nature Explorers Mini-Camp was a collaborative program between the Department's Therapeutic Recreation Division and staff at Robinson. The camp was designed for children four to eight and included activities to accommodate their sensory needs. Per the County's official Press Release: "LERN is the world's largest association in continuing education and lifelong learning, offering information about best practices and trends to public institutions. The Best Programming Award is given each year to recognize activities that are creative, innovative or exemplary in some way."

Department awards

Speaking of exemplary, some very special RNC co-workers received awards at the Howard County Recreation & Parks Annual Employee Awards Ceremony. Our very own Director, Stacey Yankee, received the "Leadership Award" for our Department. Robinson's Volunteer Coordinator Brian Campbell received the "Unsung Hero Award" and Meagan Leatherbury, Programming Manager, received the "Innovative Programming Award". Stacey and Brian secured their respective awards at the County level as well!! We've enjoyed the attention and kudos received as we continue to strive to meet and fulfill the mission of the Nature Center. We sincerely hope you'll continue to invest in the Center and all those we serve through your memberships and patronage!

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Volunteer awards

On the subject of awards, let's roll with this theme throughout the spring and allow me to boast about our stellar award winning volunteers in action! Robinson's Volunteers, they're vibrant, vivacious and truly the "wind beneath our wings"! They've become our mentors, our family and friends. These wonderful people with energy and enthusiasm support the Center and have been the catalyst behind many accomplishments. Therefore at RNC's Volunteer Appreciation Gala it seemed incumbent upon us to publically recognize five of our most dedicated and active volunteers:

Volunteer of the Year (with 500+ hours!!) – Mary Kaye Frix
Shining Star – Bob Savoy
Tank Trooper – Ron Douglas
Weekend Warrior – Shakoo Lenz
Honorable Mention – Bill Serin



Cindi & Jerry Jansohn at our recent Volunteer Appreciation Gala



Brian Campbell with newborn son Avery and big brother Levi donning matching hats crocheted by Cindi Jansohn



RNC Volunteers Cindi & Jerry Jansohn in action

Coordinating a successful volunteer program can be a daunting task. Robinson is fortunate indeed to have Brian Campbell and Assistant Volunteer Coordinator Cindi Jansohn at the helm of our volunteer recruitment efforts. Cindi is quite the superstar; she volunteers at special events with husband Jerry and, believe it or not, knits scarves to sell in our gift shop or to donate as prizes for Robinson's special events and programs. She has graciously bestowed many colorful and beautiful handmade hats and scarves as gifts to staff and their family members!

Thawing out and ever so thankful!

Respectfully,

Pam Reese

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Reader Remarks/Comments?
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RECREATION & PARKS