

COMMUNITY CORNER

PEAK ADVENTURES

Group helps local youth learn leadership skills

As many know, in the Greensboro and High Point area prosperity and brokenness exist side by side. Some neighborhoods are affluent and quiet and others are characterized by poverty and violence.

PEAK Adventures, a nonprofit in our area committed to breaking cycles of poverty, violence and wasted potential, meets this community gap in a unique way.

PEAK Adventures, using instruction, adventure experiences and paid employment, develops character, good habits and self-leadership. The group works with schools, congregations, local agencies and the business community to develop young leaders who will positively affect our city now and for generations to come.



RUTH ANDERSON

Nonprofits

PEAK Adventures works in Hairston and Jackson middle schools in Greensboro and Welborn Middle School in High Point.

"We specifically chose these three schools because they draw students from neighborhoods that suffer the highest rates of violence in our city," said Britt Lassiter, the executive director of PEAK Adventures Ministries, said. "We know, based upon experience, that students from these schools can be leaders."

The group teaches a program titled "LEADERSHIP Team," which offers a simple goal for each student, "I can lead myself well." The program focuses on the practice of seven core skills: self-control, honesty, resourcefulness, self-discipline, self-respect, hard work and perseverance.

"We run it like any other sports team: we have practice twice each week, the adult leaders are coaches, we have uniforms, and we compete against other schools," Lassiter said.

PEAK Adventures hires some of the students who complete the leadership program to work for the group's Summer Work Project. This workforce development program lets students earn money while learning the skills needed to be successful in the workplace.

"We provide wrap-around services to make this program work for the students: uniforms, meals, transportation and patient instruction from adults who are invested in the students' success," Lassiter said.

The students work hard. Almost all of the work is outdoors in the summer and involves manual labor. Last year, students worked 650-plus hours without any absences and the average earnings per student was \$400.

"That amount of money



BRITT LASSITER/Special to the News & Record

Students who enrolled in the Summer Work Project painted the ceiling of a new carport for Community Housing Solutions.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

PEAK Adventure Ministries: For more information visit www.peakam.org or call 336-580-5311. To volunteer as a leader in a middle school or for a summer work crew, or to donate a truck or a van this summer call Britt Lassiter at 336-580-5311.

Guilford Nonprofit Consortium: A collaboration of organizations in Guilford County that fosters mutual assistance and support within the nonprofit community to create more efficiency and effectiveness. Visit www.guilfordnonprofits.org to learn more or contact director Steve Hayes at shayes@cfgg.org.

is a big deal to a lot of the families we serve," Lassiter said.

The Rev. Audra Abt of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, a small mission in northeast Greensboro, said that last summer PEAK Adventures served the church by repainting the back deck and accessibility ramp, breaking down some rotting outdoor tables, and clearing the church grounds of fallen limbs and taking them to the woods to create a wildlife habitat.

Abt said he appreciated how the young people, through this kind of work, learned new skills, practiced leadership and teamwork, and developed relationships with individuals and organizations in the wider community while also being of service.

"Not only are they building a resume and work experience, I love that this is an opportunity for them to get to know their wider community better (and) the wider community to know them," Abt said.

Last summer, Nikki Donald's son, Marshall, participated in the Summer Work Project, or SWP. Donald said the work was good for her son, who was 14 at the time: "My son has matured and the program helped him get back on track."

Not only did Marshall earn some money and open a bank account, but he also did some things he had never done before.

"I learned some new

skills like painting a garage and also I learned how to be helpful to others," he said.

Both mother and son are looking forward to continued involvement with PEAK Adventures.

Faye Stanley was introduced to this nonprofit by Pastor Odell Cleveland of Mount Zion Baptist Church. Stanley, in a Widows/Widowers Group at the church, knew that several people in the group needed help with lawn care. Stanley said that not only did PEAK Adventures help with their yards but the young people provided other services such as painting, removing debris and other jobs for four widows and one visually impaired woman.

"They were attentive to their jobs, respectful and did a great job," Stanley said, showing photos of her yard as proof.

Bret Grievies, a PEAK Adventures board member, said he likes the way the nonprofit provides a "highway" for youth in our community to go to new places, achieve leadership skills and develop new relationships. Part of the best work that PEAK does, according to Grievies, is the opportunity of PEAK leaders "to simply spend time with the youth in our city and express genuine care about their lives."

Grievies said he believes the work being done today through PEAK will yield significant dividends in the future for both the students and community alike. Grievies encourages others to support this organization in partnership to help our youth thrive and for our entire community to benefit.

"Our greatest need is adults who can train as leadership coaches so that we can expand into more schools," Lassiter said.

The second greatest need is for adults who can work part time during the summer leading work crews.

"To expand the SWP, we need access to a pickup truck for 10 weeks," Lassiter said, "as well as access to a passenger van for 10 weeks."

Ruth D. Anderson is a co-director of Second Breath Center. She can be reached at ruth@secondbreathcenter.com.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Activities

Hamilton Lakes Lions Club played Santa at Wiley Elementary School shortly before the Christmas break.

Each student at Wiley was able to select three books of his or her choice as Santa's gift from the Lions Club. They took them home at the end of their last day of class.

The Hamilton Lakes Lions Club, one of three Lions clubs in Greensboro, focuses on vision assistance, literacy and stamping out hunger in the Greensboro area.

Lion Ron McKinney coordinated the outreach.



Provided by Hamilton Lakes Lions Club

Preschooler Alex Atoyebi asks Lions Eric Lee (left) and Larry Harris for assistance in reaching the book of his choice. Lion Gordon Vermillion (far right) arranges books for members of the next class to make personal selections.

The **High Point Jaycees** set a goal to help 10 children at Christmas but received enough donations — more than \$2,500 — to allow them to sponsor more than 20 children.

Club members met at a Walmart on Dec. 14 to shop. A wrapping party followed that afternoon at Victor Jones' home.

The presents were later given to the parents to present to the children.

Announcements

The **Triad Chapter of the North Carolina Native Plant Society** will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Library, 1420 Price Park Drive in Greensboro.

Adam Webb, a chapter member, will present "How to Start a Native Garden."

Webb and his family moved into their Summerfield home in the summer of



Webb

2015. What started as a small butterfly garden soon turned into becoming a National Wildlife Federation backyard habitat. Webb will share how he became interested in native plants and his eventual decision to move into the world of natives. He will discuss techniques and methods

tried, as well as resources and challenges involved in the process.

For information, call 336-708-1196 or visit www.ncwildflower.org.

The January Meet & Mingle for the **Greensboro Newcomers Club** will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at Indian Motorcycle, 201 S. Church St. in Greensboro.

Spouses, partners and friends are welcome. Confirm attendance by Wednesday; contact Kimberly Marriott at 336-880-8768 or kmarriotthasley@gmail.com.

Send press releases to people@greensboro.com.



Share the story of a nurse who cared for you or a loved one.

NOMINATE A NURSE ONLINE:
greensboro.com/WeLoveNurses

(OR FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW)

Nomination Form

First Name of Nurse:	Last Name of Nurse:
Place of Employment:	Department/Specialty:
Email Address:	Phone Number:
Complete Home Address (If Known):	
Your First Name:	Your Last Name:
Your Email Address:	Your Phone Number:
Your Complete Home Address:	

celebrating nurses OF THE TRIAD

Please attach a separate sheet of paper and share your story about this nurse and how they made a positive impact in the life of a patient, family or nursing profession in 2019. Please be as detailed as possible to help the judges know what makes this individual so special.

Share details that demonstrate why this nurse is outstanding and what he or she did to make a difference. Add any additional comments you would like to include.

Twelve nurses will be selected by the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) and honored with a special luncheon during National Nurses Week 2020.

Mail hard copy nominations to:

WE LOVE NURSES OF THE TRIAD

200 E. MARKET STREET | GREENSBORO, NC 27401 | ATTN: LEA ANNE LAMB
Nominations must be submitted online or postmarked by January 10, 2020.

SPONSORED BY:



STUDENT NOTEBOOK

Grants

ArtsGreensboro has announced the recipients of the 2020 Wells Fargo Teacher Art Grants.

This year's grant awards total \$13,000, and range from a few hundred dollars up to \$1,500, for arts projects in public, charter and private schools serving Greensboro-area students in kindergarten through 12th grades. Grant recipients were selected through a competitive application and panel review process that included community volunteers and ArtsGreensboro staff.

The grant recipients and their projects include:

- Lisa P. Williams, Sternberger Elementary School,

West African drum and dance performances

- **Howell D. Ledford Jr.**, Weaver Academy, Music Production Renovations — Sibelius Ultimate

- **Heavenly McDuffie**, Hunter Elementary School, Ukuleles for Literacy

- **Kathryn Sayani**, Northern Guilford High School, supporting the Northern Photo Design Inaugural Course
- **Penny Casto**, Falkener Elementary School, celebration of tolerance, diversity and unity through visual art

- **Denise Lineberry**, Pleasant Garden Elementary, Art Rocks! Make the World a Better Place

- **Kerrie-Jean King**, Northern Guilford High School, West African Dance and

Drum: Tracing the Diaspora through the Arts

- **Marta Richardson**, Bluford Peeler STEAM Academy, sound painting

- **Kirsten Joseph**, Jefferson Elementary School, break dancing with the fourth-graders

- **Stephanie Bartis**, Sedgefield Elementary School, Carolina on My Mind

- **Stephanie Allen**, Western Guilford High School, Shared Radiance Performance/Workshop: Shakespeare Alive!

- **Elizabeth Brown**, Erwin Montessori Elementary School, Erwin Cultural Diversity Festival

For information, email grants@artsgreensboro.org or visit www.artsgreensboro.org.