

THE CAROL J. GREER COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

St. Stephen's Community Church, UCC

P.O. Box 841 - East Lansing, MI - 48826

Serving Lansing Area Families and the Development of At-Risk Youth

NEWSLETTER

December, 2021

The Joy of Halloween Jack-O-Lanterns

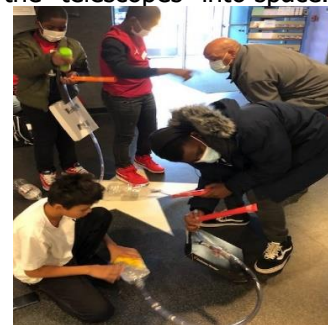
Cold weather is no match for Jack-O-Lantern artists. While the MSU Spartans were preparing to win the football game against the Univ of MI, MSU's Biochemistry and Microbiology grad students joined the Greer Center staff to engage with Hildebrandt youth to prepare for Halloween. Much paint was spilled, creative cosmetic surgery was performed on the pumpkins with keyhole saws and table knives, and lively conversations were held around the tasks. For several of the youth it was their first time carving and painting pumpkins and observing the seeds inside. Extracting the seeds and membranes with their bare hands generated comments like "euwe" and "nasty" that with a little guidance quickly turned to conversations about baking the seeds



in a little butter and eating them like peanuts or popcorn with a bit of salt. To take home to try with their families, the youth received commercially prepared seeds --a good thing because their own seeds were covered with paint that was on their hands.

Unmasking the Secrets of the Universe

As an image of the giant James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) slowly rotated in 3D on the dome overhead, the Greer Center youth began their first experience as new members of the Spartan Young Astronomers Club. The JWST, an international collaboration, is being constructed to hang in the darkness of space a million miles from Earth. It will examine history from the first galaxies to form after the Big Bang, to the evolution of other planets capable of supporting life. Following the JWST video, were hands-on science activities, e.g., assessing different gases on planets via their fingerprints as seen through special glasses, and estimating how many galaxies are out there by multiplying out from the number they count in one Deep Field photo image sent back from Hubble. With billions of galaxies in space, are we alone? The most popular activity was launching paper rockets which were placed on the ends of tubes attached to 2liter bottles. Stomping the bottles launched the "telescopes" into space.



2022 GREER CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

Bennie Boyd	Evita Gilbert	Pat Barnes-McConnell
Board Chair/Asso. Coordinator	Secretary	Greer Center Coordinator
Maxine Hankins Cain/Evelyn Dungey/Tama Hamilton-Wray/June Newsome/ Emerson Shaffey/Matthew Sherrrod/Celeste Starks/George Stockman/Jessie Story-Fry		

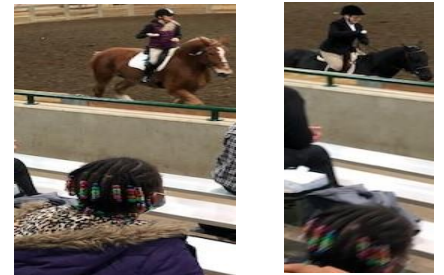
Horses are MAGNIFICENT !



When you've never seen a real live horse, a Horse Show can be quite an experience. This is especially the case when many of the competing riders are kids. In collaboration with Kristine Ranger of the Lansing Housing Commission, and assistance from MSU BMB grad students, Greer Center youth were treated to a competitive horse show at the MSU Pavilion during which youth and adults competed in



such events as Egg and Spoon in which the rider had to hold an egg in the spoon while riding to the directions of a caller, the last part being the rider had to move the spoon to her mouth and continue riding with the egg still in it. The Horse/Rider Costume event got considerable attention (and boos) from the youth when the team they chose came in second from the bottom. An accomplished rider herself, and owner of two horses, Ms. Ranger narrated each event for the youth, explaining what each required and what the judges were looking for as each horse and rider team passed by. She also pointed out the different horse breeds and their various characteristics. At noon, a healthy sack lunch was provided by the MSU BMB department.



SSCC Church members and the staff and youth of the Greer Center are saddened by the death of Bear, a 16 year old loyal, obedient and compassionate member of the St. Stephen's-Greer Center family. He would calm troubled youth in the Center and lay quietly under a Church pew by his owner's feet during Service. With his soft and warm fuzzy coat, he seemed to know his role in life was to offer peaceful expressions of love and complete acceptance to everyone. We all love him and miss him tremendously.



The Greer Center, a nonprofit organization, serves the community through the generosity of people like you.

Please help us with a generous donation today.

By check: Mail to St. Stephen's Community Church with Greer Center on the memo line, 1007 Kimberly Dr, Lansing, MI 48912

On-line via our website: St. Stephen's Community Church Lansing. Click on Donate, then Community Outreach Greer Center.

Or directly into our Endowment (See Oct. Newsletter): Google on Capital Region Community Foundation, click DONATE NOW, in the "Search All Funds" box type Carol J. Greer, then click DONATE in the yellow box to add your information..

Thank you for your interest, encouragement and support.