

THE CAROL J. GREER COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
St. Stephen's Community Church, UCC
1007 Kimberly Drive, Lansing, MI 48912
Phone: 517-706-1905
Serving Lansing Area Families and the Development of At-Risk Youth

NEWSLETTER

May 2022

Returned by Popular Demand

The Greer Center youth had been eager to return to Impression 5, which provides many hands-on activities based on our five senses. So, on a rainy day, we went. The water works (See March Newsletter) were their favorite. The youth again were amazed by the tornado-like, spinning water vortex and by being able to put



themselves inside a bubble by pulling a cord that raised a soapy wet ring over their heads. To raise the bubble without popping it took focus, attention and patience. Music was also popular. One youth sat at the piano for more than 20 minutes until she was able to play a simple tune one of the teachers showed her. Once she got it, she was satisfied to get up and let the



others have a turn. Fortunately, there are many fun things to do there including practicing proper pitching form in a pitching box which has both a demonstration video

and life-size pictures on the wall. One brave youth ventured over to pet a live snake. The wide variety of science-related activities kept the youth active and learning, wondering and questioning, trying and exploring new things. Once again, the youth were unable to get to all of the science activities at Impression 5. I guess we will just have to come back again on another rainy day.



A Visit to the Williamston Nature Discovery Center

"I liked how we got to walk in the wilds" was a comment by one of the Greer Center youth after a walk through the acres of the Williamston Nature Discovery Center. When, on the count of 3, the order for complete silence was given, suddenly all were aware that the air had been filled with the sounds of all kinds of bird calls including a Pileated woodpecker. The owner and fantastic instructor, Jim McGrath, filled the youth with knowledge about nature including the identification and challenge of the invasive bittersweet vine that eventually kills the tree it climbs. Even with many of the youth pulling together as hard as they could, they



could not pull that vine out of that tree. His instruction also gave them confidence in how and when wild animals could be safely handled. To

try out their new skills, they picked up turtles, black snakes, and crayfish. The black snakes were a big hit as the youth took turns holding them securely so they felt safe. One, in his aquarium, was shedding his skin. A very large tortoise, who walked around the floor while we were there, seemed as interested in the youth as the youth were in him. At the end of the exciting visit, a healthy and delicious lunch provided by the MSU Department of Biochemistry was enjoyed outside on the Center's picnic benches. What fun!



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

Or directly into our Endowment (See Oct. Newsletter): Google Capital Region Community Foundation, click DONATE NOW.

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