

CAROL J. GREER COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
St. Stephen's Community Church, UCC
1007 Kimberly Drive – Lansing, MI 48912
Phone: 517-484-2180
Serving Lansing Area Families and the Development of At-Risk Youth
NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Determining Life on a Planet



The Greer Center's Saturday morning *Science Field Initiative*, meets every first Saturday for the Young Astronomers Club at the MSU Planetarium. In March, they explored interesting ways to tell if there is life on a planet by examining soil samples from PlanetX for signs of life.

A Foggy Day in Lansing Town

A chilly and foggy Saturday morning did not keep the Greer Center city youth (or their graduate student Biochemistry and Molecular Biology mentors) from enjoying a day at the MSU Sheep Teaching and Research Center. The youth learned to tell the difference between



adult male sheep (rams), and adult female sheep (ewes). The sheep ate from their hands and let them feel

their fluffy fur (wool) which is used for things like coats and blankets. Down a farm road they visited the baby sheep (lambs). Nearby, were barns with the cows who seemed to enjoy the youth as much as the sheep did although one stuck her tongue out. The youth were surprised that each day, a milking cow eats 100 pounds of food and drinks 30-50 gallons of water. That's a lot!



The cows weight about 1500 pounds and produce 7-9 gallons of milk a day. At the end of this trip, the youth once again went to the MSU Dairy and enjoyed a neat product made from that milk —
ICE CREAM!



CONGRATULATIONS

The Greer Center Board of Advisors has elected its former Secretary, Evita Gilbert, Greer Center Transportation Coordinator. This new volunteer position was approved by the Board to help in the management of the Center's growing program. Ms. Gilbert, retired from MSU, has considerable logistics experience in coordinating events, transportation and other activities. She will work with Dean Transportation, help organize and chaperone field trips, and help with publication of the Newsletter. *Congratulations "Ms. Evita" and thank you.*

A New MSU/Greer Center Collaboration

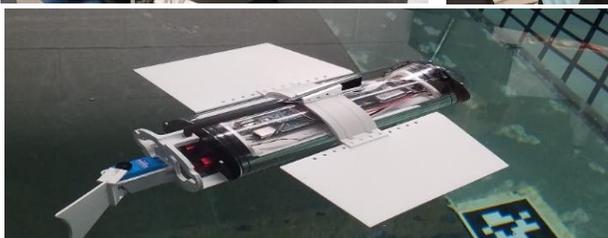
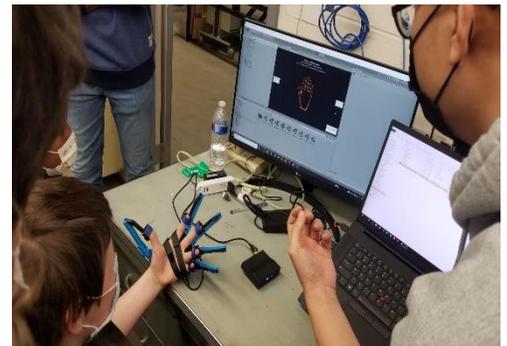
The Saturday Science Program, which began with the MSU Department of Biochemistry, now includes MSU's College of Engineering. It was a huge success. The youth were engaged in Micro-bit lab exercises guided by



Engineering graduate students. The coding lesson involved creating a pattern of lights on a simulator program and downloading it to run on a real mini PC-board. **In the flexible robot lab**, a plastic snake made on a 3D printer and driven by compressed air is demonstrated as the youth watch a video of an operating robot snake



cleaning a clogged tube. A flexible robotic hand communicates position, motion, and grip between a person and a computer. It can aid in sports training and the rehabilitation of disabled persons. A flexible fish model robot navigates in a water tank to test the water in real lakes and rivers for data on pollution, temperature, bottom topography, etc.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

"I love doing this because it is a fun way to learn." RN

"This helps kids understand that even though life is hard parents try their best to make you have a good life." KN

"Just because we don't write anything doesn't mean we don't learn nothing. Thanks for donating. We learn a lot!" JA

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.2022 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.