



ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014

Building on the past to move forward

by Jennifer Knapp Beudert, RCLC Manager

It has been a busy and rewarding year at the Robinson Community Learning Center. The RCLC has welcomed new programs and partnerships as well as maintained its commitment to upholding the quality of existing initiatives. I invite you to explore the following pages to learn more about our many events and accomplishments of 2013–2014.



Left to right: Andy Kostielney, Christy Burgess, Marguerite Taylor, Jennifer Knapp Beudert, Ellen Kyes, Velsbonna Luckey, Jennifer Wittenbrink, Kris Arizmendi, Duane Wilson

One of this year’s major efforts has been the creation of a new Strategic Plan to guide the RCLC’s development over the next five years. This process was led by consultant John Pinter and involved input from 120 individuals, including youth, parents, adult participants, volunteers, AmeriCorps members, staff, the Program Advisory Board, community partners, ND partners, and neighbors. As a result of such diverse participation, we are confident that the emerging image of the future RCLC is one that our community can actively support.

Five years from now we envision that the RCLC will:

- maintain an active role in the Northeast Neighborhood;
- serve as a center of educational excellence from early childhood through older adulthood;
- provide leadership throughout South Bend in helping youth access high quality education;
- offer technological expertise and infrastructure as a resource to the community;
- be a “launching place” for initiatives that drive community engagement; and
- act as a “gateway” between the South Bend community and the University of Notre Dame.

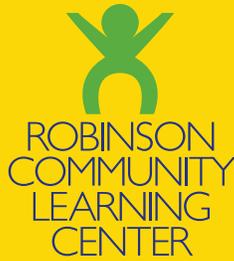
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Our image of the future RCLC also includes a bit more space—but we must regretfully “pass” on a youth participant’s suggestion that we add an indoor ice-skating rink.

As we move ahead into the future, we are building a stronger on-line presence. We invite you to check out our new-improved web site at rclc.nd.edu, and hope that you will “like” the RCLC on Facebook!

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The Robinson Community Learning Center is a department in the Office of Public Affairs and Communication, under the direction of Jay Caponigro, Director of Community Engagement, and Timothy Sexton, Associate Vice President. See more about Notre Dame's local outreach efforts at: **publicaffairs.nd.edu**.

RCLC History

The RCLC was launched in February 2001 as an off-campus educational initiative of Notre Dame in partnership with Northeast Neighborhood residents of South Bend. While RCLC staff report to Public Affairs at the University of Notre Dame, programs are overseen by a program advisory board comprised of residents, program partners, ND faculty/staff, and students.

Mission Statement

The Robinson Community Learning Center welcomes community and Notre Dame partners who strengthen the Northeast Neighborhood of South Bend through relationship building and educational opportunities. By promoting innovation and excellence, the center builds individual capacity and enhances existing systems throughout South Bend.



RCLC Staff

Jennifer Knapp Beudert.....	Manager
Andy Kostielney	Assistant Manager
Ellen Kyes	Take Ten Program Director
Velshonna Luckey	Youth Development Program Director
Christy Burgess	Shakespeare Associate Program Director
Duane Wilson	Advanced Skills and Youth Entrepreneurship Program Director
Jennifer Wittenbrink	Literacy Program Director
Marguerite Taylor	Adult Programs Associate Program Director
Kris Arizmendi	Volunteer Coordinator/TWYB

2013–2014 RCLC AmeriCorps Members:

Alexandra Budz	Molly Gettinger
Christopher Bush	Reem Hassaen
Matthew Caponigro	Jason Koselke
Julia Caulfield	Brianna Leon
Quentin Collie	Terena Love
Andrea DeLonis	Adam Miller
Natalie Dreyer	Brian Miller
Sara Dryden	Ryan Nichols
Chloe Dukes	Mary Rolfes
Ariel Durgana	Rachel Roseberry
Rachael Foster	Victoria Tokarski
Ben Fouch	Denise Umubyeyi
Carly Gettinger	Lu Ella Webster

2013–2014 RCLC Advisory Board Members:

Solomon Anderson	Nicole MacLaughlin
Chuck Ball	Sarah Martin
Michael Ball	Maria McKenna
Mozell Bowens	G. David Moss
Jasmine Brown	Tiana Mudzimurema
Annie Cahill-Kelly	Richard Pierce
Steve Egan	Denise Umubyeyi
Jim Frabutt	Mike Vogel
Mike Hebbeler	Lu Ella Webster
Brianna Leon	Carmen Williams

Goal 1: Hospitality

Create a setting that serves as a place of gathering and interaction among neighborhood residents, ND students and staff, and community partners.

Hosting Innovative Programs

by Marguerite Taylor, Associate Program Director for Adult Programs



There were over
21,000 visits to
the Robinson
Center during
2013-14.

■ Marguerite Taylor to Retire

Marguerite Taylor was instrumental in creating and bringing to life the vision that became the Robinson Community Learning Center, and was the first person to walk through its front door more than 13 years ago. Much of the RCLC's success in the intervening years can be attributed to Marguerite's hard work and dedication, and her ability to foster communication and relationship-building between the RCLC and the local community. She embodies the RCLC goal of "Hospitality" and has often said that she wants everyone who comes into the Robinson Center to be treated as if they were the most important person in the world.

It is therefore with mixed emotions that we announce that Marguerite will be retiring at the end of the summer. However, Marguerite does plan to continue part time as the RCLC Community Liaison, and we know she will continue to be a lifelong friend of the RCLC as she lives out the words of her mother, Renelda Robinson: "Thank you, God, for one more day in this life and may I do some good in it."

■ Lunch and Learn Lecture Series for Seniors

Lunch and learn lectures for seniors are offered at the RCLC in partner-

ship with ND Community Relations. This year an average of 50 seniors met monthly to hear local experts speak on topics including: home safety, social security, home care for the elderly, and planning your future.

■ Clubs for Adults

Two books clubs met at the RCLC throughout the year. Members read *Perfect Peace* by Daniel Black, and this year's "One Book, One Michiana" selection, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Two senior computer clubs, with a total of 16 members, met weekly during 2013-2014. Members learned how to set up email, send photos, and create a website. They even sent emails to the president of the United States.

The Still Art: Photography and Friendship Club is going strong in its second year. Members meet weekly to share photos and stories, listen to presentations from professional photographers, and go on picture-taking field trips. The club presented their first public exhibit this spring, titled "The Picture."

Goal 2: Education

Establish educational opportunities to develop technical abilities, build academic and life skills, and provide support/mentoring at all ages.

Robinson Center Youth Programs

by Velshonna Luckey, Youth Development Program Director



“I have absolutely loved my time at RCLC. It has inspired me to consider my future career and potential to help communities the way RCLC does.”

—Tutor/ND senior



■ Afterschool Tutoring

Anyone who visits the RCLC between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. knows it is literally buzzing with activity. Not surprising, given that 63 youth, grades K-12, and 129 college student volunteers participate daily in the RCLC Afterschool program.

During one-on-one tutoring, K-5th graders participated in book clubs, structured reading and writing, and received homework help. Students read *The BFG* and *Matilda* by Roald Dahl, *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate, and *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis. Each semester concluded with a book club party with themed snacks and projects. Middle/high school students worked with their tutors on homework as well as current events, SAT/ACT prep, college exploration, and logic games.

Youth in Grades 1-5 took the SCOUT Achieve assessment, which identified five goals for each child to serve as focus areas for instruction. They demonstrated an average overall gain of 14 percent from pre- to post-test, with an average gain of 31 percent on identified goal areas. Ninety-seven percent of tutors surveyed felt that they had developed a positive relationship with their student, 95 percent felt that their students had made academic progress, and 100 percent felt their time at the Robinson Center had heightened their awareness of people and circumstances in the Northeast Neighborhood and the South Bend community.

■ Enrichment

Enrichment classes for grades 1-5 included Great Artists, Write On, Around the World, and Speechmaking. Children studied artists such as Picasso, Matisse, and Rothko, and created works inspired by them. Writing projects included a create-your-own country workshop,

code-writing, and postcards to fictional characters. While learning about France, Russia, and Mexico, children enjoyed cheese-tasting, making matryoshka dolls, and drinking *agua frescas*.

Students in Grades 6-12 participated in goal-setting workshops as well as the Be InSpired lecture series, in which college students, community members, and professors shared their history and inspirational messages. One speaker discussed the monetary value of education and another shared a love of industrial design (prompting many RCLC students to consider this as a potential “major”).

Fourteen 6-12 graders participated in fiction, poetry, slam poetry, and creative nonfiction workshops as members of the new RCLC Young Authors Club, which was established through a partnership with the MFA program of the ND English Department.

Thirteen middle-schoolers participated in the Lego Club this year and the iRobotics Team was awarded a First Place Trophy for “Inspiration” in the “Core Values” category at the 2013 ETHOS First Lego League Qualifying Tournament.

■ My America

Eighteen youth traveled to Washington, D.C., this spring, visiting the National Mall, the Smithsonian, the Air and Space Museum, Mount Vernon, and Howard University. They even went to a baseball game! One RCLC member commented: “I think the MLK Memorial was the most powerful for us because the majority of us are African American, and seeing an African American person have a monument in such a beautiful place is awesome and very moving. Martin Luther King did a lot of great things and it was important for us to see him remembered for fighting for our rights.”

Literacy Corps

by Jennifer Wittenbrink, Literacy Program Director

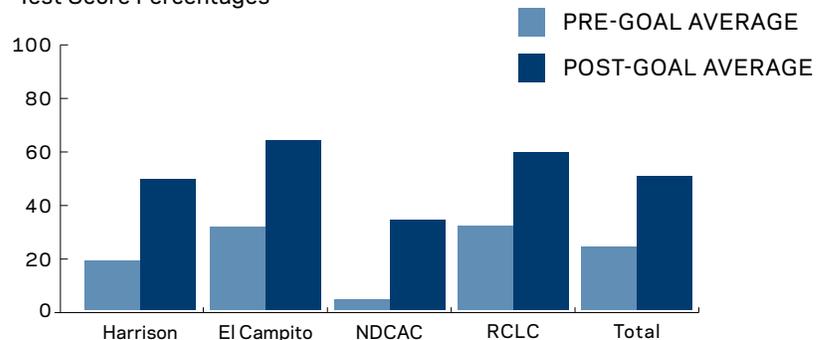
■ Tutoring

The RCLC's Literacy Corps Program provided tutoring for 104 students, grades K-6, at the RCLC, El Campito, Harrison Primary, and the ND Center for Arts and Culture. Children were exposed to high-quality lesson plans focused on standards-aligned topics through reading aloud, writing, and sight words. Sixty-three volunteer tutors provided 4,000 contact hours during the school year. Each tutoring participant completed a pre- and post-test assessment which measured skills across several areas of reading/language competency. The average overall pre-post gain was 12 percent. Based on the initial assessment, four goals were identified as focus areas for tutoring sessions. As illustrated (right), students showed statistically significant growth across goal areas, with an average pre-post gain of 30 percent. In addition, over 50 percent of students mastered sight words three or more grade levels higher than their current grade, and 70 percent increased two or more grades.



Progress on Student Goal Areas by Site

Test Score Percentages



“My son is above the required reading level to pass 1st grade! He was behind when he started. And he now loves reading to mommy more than he EVER has!”

— Parent at Harrison Primary

“My favorite part of tutoring was when my student turned to me as I was laughing and said, ‘Hey, you know what? You love when I make you laugh.’ And I told him he was right and asked him how he knew that. He responded, ‘You wrote it in my book that I read every night.’ That melted my heart. We had inscribed books for the kids the week before and he loved

the book so much that he read it every day. He understood my message and acknowledged that we had formed a friendship over a love for books and laughter. I realized that even something as small as volunteering to tutor for an hour twice a week can make an impact on children.”

— NDCAC Tutor

Goal 2: Education

Establish educational opportunities to develop technical abilities, build academic and life skills, and provide support/mentoring at all ages. -----

Robinson Shakespeare Company

by Christy Burgess, Shakespeare Associate Program Director

“Over the past year I have become more at home and confident around large groups of people, I have started to read Shakespeare in my spare time. I am able to get over stage fright and I can trust people easier than before and I am not so nervous in group activities.”

—10th grade RSC member

“This play was an AMAZING experience, and it started by having faith and trust in not just my scene partners, but in everybody. I can’t explain the joy and warm bubbly feelings on the inside that being with my ensemble gave me. I am filled with hope and happiness for my future. I gained courage, I gained confidence, trust, and experience.”

— 11th grade RSC member

■ Performances

It is fitting that the twelfth production of the Robinson Shakespeare Company (RSC) be *Twelfth Night*. The 35 members of the RSC were divided into two casts (grades 3-6 and grades 7-12) and offered two fully staged productions of *Twelfth Night* to a total audience of 200 at the end of spring term.

During the fall, RSC members prepared individual Shakespeare monologues, partnering with students from the Community-Based Learning Class, Drama in the Classroom: Active Techniques for Theatre Education, taught by Christy Burgess. Their work culminated in a winter recital for an audience of 100 RCLC friends and family. Thirty-three RSC students also participated in the Annual Shakespeare at ND Regional Shakespeare Monologue Competition. Two RSC students advanced to the state competition, and high school junior Lydia Moss won first runner-up!

■ Outreach

In the second year of the RSC Outreach Initiative, RCLC staff and AmeriCorps members implemented afterschool drama clubs and in-class drama integration workshops at Muessel Primary, Perley Fine Arts Academy, Jefferson Intermediate, Dickinson Fine Arts Academy, the ND Center for Arts and Culture, and the OC Carmichael Boys and Girls Clubs. More than 1300 local youth participated in RSC Outreach activities. These efforts yielded 23 performances, with a total audience of over 6,000--more than double the previous year! A sample of 100 participants were surveyed about their experiences with the following results:

- 65 percent felt that studying drama helped with other school subjects
- 71 percent felt more comfortable speaking in class after participating in drama activities
- 79 percent felt that drama had helped them to work better with others



Advanced Skills and Entrepreneurship

by Duane Wilson, *Advanced Skills and Entrepreneurship Program Director*



Robinson Enterprises

Robinson Enterprises offers youth the opportunity to “earn as they learn” and practice marketing, customer service, and money handling skills. During fall 2013, 12 high school students, working with ND volunteers, managed three parking lots on football weekends. Their friendliness and teamwork led to the highest sales ever: over \$56,000! Seventeen middle schoolers also provided exemplary customer service at the ND Experience activities prior to the football games, earning \$3,000.



■ Youth Entrepreneurship

During fall term, 18 RCLC Youth Entrepreneurs and their ND MBA student mentors used creative problem solving to tackle local issues such as abandoned homes, juvenile delinquency and run-down parks. They presented their ideas to consultants at Deloitte in Chicago. After revising their projects in response to feedback, the students presented them to Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Their efforts helped spark the creation of the Youth Task Force South Bend.

During spring term, 22 students from the RCLC, as well as Clay, Riley, and Adams High Schools worked with 22 ND mentors to prepare business plans to present at the annual Invention Convention. A panel of MBA students judged participants on five areas of business plan development, giving 87 percent an overall rating of very good or exemplary. These activities were made possible through the RCLC’s partnership with the ND Gigot Center for Entrepreneurship.

■ 2013 Invention Convention Prize Winners:

- **Investor’s Choice:**
“C.A.R.M.A.,” Tomas Delgado
Clay High School
- **Best Presentation:**
“Musicana Lights,” Tamera Bruce,
Clay Intermediate
- **Most Creative:**
“K.I.D.S.,” Valencia Randolph,
LaSalle Intermediate

- **Best Presentation:**
“Melodic Rain,” Gerardo Uribe,
Riley High School
- **Investor’s Choice:**
“Entender,” Alberto Lopez,
Adams High School
- **Investor’s Choice Runner-Up:**
Victor’s Innovative Cosmetics,
Victor Malone, Adams High School

■ Community Outreach

Through a wide range of partnerships, the RCLC Entrepreneurship program directly impacted 224 middle and high school youth during 2013-2014.

- A new Entrepreneurship Club at the OC Carmichael Boys and Girls Club planned and implemented their own on-site business—the “Beyond Ordinary Snack Shack.”
- RCLC staff worked with 120 youth at Rise-Up Academy, providing instruction in personal branding, setting goals, resume writing, mock interviews, and professionalism.
- Six ND students traveled weekly to Clay High School to mentor students as they developed business plans.
- Through partnership with the Jobs For America’s Graduates (JAG) program, RCLC staff provided weekly workshops at Adams High School. This helped participants prepare for the JAG Career Development Competition. Five students won top awards at the regional competition, and two won national awards.

Goal 2: Education

Establish educational opportunities to develop technical abilities, build academic and life skills, and provide support/mentoring at all ages. -----

Take Ten

by Ellen Kyes, *Take Ten Program Director*



Take Ten is a violence prevention/conflict resolution program with a school-based curriculum focused on teaching skills to handle conflict in a peaceful way. Take Ten provides participants with the tools to “Talk it Out, Walk it Out, or Wait it Out” as alternatives to violence, and builds their capacity to make better, more positive choices. Take Ten has been serving the South Bend Community for more than 13 years.

■ Take Ten for Youth

During 2013–14, the Take Ten program served youth, grades K–12, in 17 local schools—seven elementary schools, five middle schools, and five high schools. Take Ten was also offered in agency settings, including the Center for the Homeless, the RCLC, El Campito, and the NDCAC. Take Ten continues its outreach through the Boys and Girls Club Alliance, impacting an additional 30 sites. Through these efforts the Take Ten curriculum

was delivered to more than 3,000 youth. School participation in Take Ten also indirectly impacts approximately 10,000 additional students through bulletin boards, assemblies, newsletters, and announcements.

■ Take Ten Volunteers

Take Ten’s capacity to make positive change in the community would not be possible without college volunteers. In 2013–2014, a total of 185 volunteers from Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s, Holy Cross College, IUSB, and Bethel College donated their time to teach Take Ten in local classrooms, afterschool programs, and organizations. More than half of these volunteers returned for multiple terms. Take Ten volunteers worked with over 1,500 students each week teaching them how to make peaceful choices.

■ Take Ten for Adults

Working with children has taught the

Take Ten program many things. For example, Take Ten staff members repeatedly heard from children that they learned their behaviors from their parents. When asked why they hit a child who said something disrespectful, students often replied with some version of “Because my mom and dad told me to!”

The prevalence of these remarks led to thinking about ways to reach parents and other adults in our community. At first, this meant presenting information about Take Ten to parent functions, PTO meetings, and community groups. Eventually, however, Take Ten staff felt that more was needed. That realization led to the development of an adult/parent Take Ten curriculum. This past year Take Ten classes for adults were held at the Center for the Homeless, St. Margaret’s House, the Women’s Care Center, and the Indiana Department of Corrections South Bend Re-Entry Center.

■ Evaluation

Take Ten focuses on the central belief that youth can make positive changes in their lives based on the principles taught in the Take Ten curriculum. Students who participate in Take Ten have shown, through anecdotal evidence as well as years of quantitative research, that they do learn skills that enable them to make positive changes and peaceful choices. Take Ten conducted its sixth annual evaluation in 2012-2013. The three main areas of analysis include knowledge of the curriculum, feelings and attitudes toward all types of violence, and behaviors when faced with conflict and potential violence.

In the area of Knowledge, the students in both the younger cohort (grades 3-4) and the older cohort (grades 5-8) made improvements, compared to both the control school and themselves during the course of the intervention; growth in the older group showed statistical significance.

In the Feelings area, statements that were key in findings revolved around violence and feeling safe at school.

In this instance, both the cohorts of students made significant gains versus students at a control school and versus themselves during the course of the intervention.

Most essential to assessing the impact of the Take Ten intervention is the area

of Behaviors. For the first time, the data were broken into three categories: “intervening behaviors,” “prudential behaviors,” and “respectful behaviors.” The statements used to define these categories appear below:

Intervening Behaviors:

- When I hear someone calling other people names, I tell them to stop.
- I stand up for what I think is right.
- I try to stop my friends from fighting.
- My friends and I help other kids when they get into trouble.

Prudential Behaviors:

- When I am angry, I find adults to talk to.
- I encourage people to talk their problems out with each other.
- I encourage my peers to be respectful to others.

Respectful Behaviors:

- I do not make fun of other kids.
- I treat everyone fairly.
- When I hurt someone’s feelings, I apologize.

Both cohorts of students demonstrated significant improvement (versus control and themselves) in all of the behavioral breakdowns, with the highest gains for both groups in the area of respectful behaviors.

For the sixth year in a row, significant



“Violence is never the answer, unless the question is what NOT to do!”

growth was found in schools with both long- and short-term participation in Take Ten, but growth was greater in schools that had participated in Take Ten for the longest period of time. As in past years, higher gains were demonstrated by students who participated in Take Ten during the school day rather than after school.

Goal 3: Partnership

Provide space and support for programs through health care, business, school, and community organizations that promote education and enhance the quality of life.

Through partnership with the South Bend Community School Corporation, English as a New Language (ENL) classes for adults are offered at the RCLC throughout the year. A combined total of 29 countries and 18 languages were represented, creating a rich and diverse community at the RCLC each morning!

■ 2012–13 English as a New Language classes

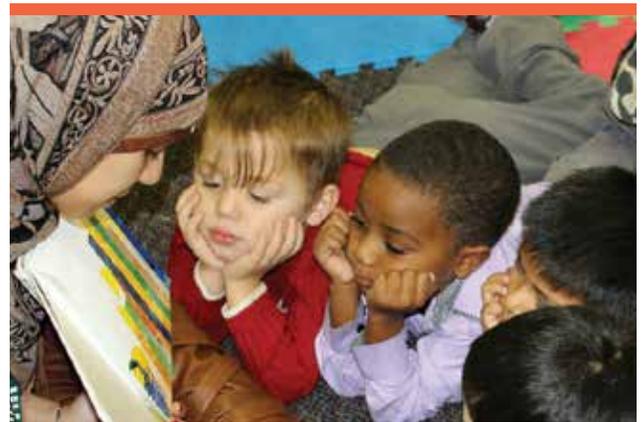
- Level 1: 49 students, from 22 countries, speaking 16 languages; 77 percent completed the level.
- Level 2: 32 students, from 17 countries, speaking 13 languages; 95 percent completed the level.

- Level 3: 27 students, from 14 countries, speaking 10 languages; 83 percent completed the level.

■ ENL Preschool

Now in its third year, the ENL Preschool serves the children of adult ENL students. This year's class of 14 children, ages 3-5, came from Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Palestine, Japan, Sudan, Iraq, and the Ukraine. The ENL preschool provides a literacy-rich environment, incorporates family activities, and sends home "Literacy Exploration Activity Packs" for families to enjoy together. Field

trips included the planetarium, the zoo, and the Snite Museum. The children showed remarkable growth in English skills over the nine months of programming, demonstrating an average pre-post gain equivalent to 30 months of language development on the Peabody Test of Receptive Language.



■ The Africana World: A Historical and Cultural Mosaic

This year-long celebration of Africa and the African Diaspora was an exciting series of programs and events conducted in collaboration between local higher education institutions and community organizations. Youth enrolled in the arts programs

offered by the RCLC at the ND Center for Arts and Culture were able to participate in many "Africana World" activities. These included creating an art show focused on civil rights, marching to commemorate the Birmingham bombings, and producing a video and quilt for visiting artist/author Faith Ringold.

■ Art

RCLC participants continue to enjoy visits from artists, trips to exhibits, and creative projects through the partnership with ND's Snite Museum. Once again, museum staff hosted "RCLC Family Night at the Snite," training RCLC youth as docents for the evening. A second "Night at the Snite" occurred later in the spring, when 200 members of the Literacy and ENL programs (many of whom had never been to the museum before) had a chance to explore the galleries.



■ Music

Sixteen youth took piano lessons at the RCLC in 2013–14, taught by ND music students. The year culminated in a spring piano recital. This program is made possible by the Music Department of the ND College of Arts and Letters.

Goal 4: Civic Engagement

Foster active citizenship and a commitment to community building among the center's partners and participants.

■ NENC Back To School Picnic

The Back To School Picnic occurred during the height of the road construction surrounding the RCLC last fall. This posed a range of challenges, from explaining how to find the RCLC entrance to figuring out where to put the barbecue. However, the 350 people in attendance didn't seem to mind the new layout, and appearances by the ND cheerleaders and the lacrosse team made the event very festive.

■ Homeward Bound and CommUniversity Day

In partnership with five local agencies, the RCLC hosted the annual Homeward Bound 5k Run and Walk. Student leaders from Holy Cross, IUSB, Bethel, Notre Dame, and Saint Mary's College, inspired by the event's "superheroes theme," participated as honorary chairs. The 300 participants raised \$20,000 to fight homelessness. This event also kicked off the sixth annual CommUniversity day, sponsored by the ND student government in partnership

with the Center for Social Concerns, the City of South Bend, and the RCLC. Over 250 student volunteers completed work projects throughout the city. At the RCLC and the NDCAC, mural panels, rain barrels, and a shed were painted, and garden boxes were built and prepared for planting. The day ended with an RCLC picnic for 175, including the ND Marching Band.

■ Kelly Park

More than a year ago, 12 children in the RCLC Photoformers Club entered the Neighborhood Resource Coalition (NRC)'s "Engaging Youth, Engaging Neighborhoods" competition, presenting their ideas for improving Kelly Park. After winning the competition, these intrepid youth continued to share their vision with the community. Working with ND researchers, RCLC staff and architect Thomas Stroka, the students developed a plan for the park

that includes basketball courts, playground equipment, and a community garden. Thanks to the efforts of local volunteers, and the support of underwriters Kuert Concrete, Ginger Valley, Hill's True Value, the Pokagon Indian tribe, the NRC, and the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization, construction began in May.



A Sampling of our Organizational Guests in 2013-14

Northeast Neighborhood Council
Eastside Reunion Committee
AARP Tax Assistance
Quarknet
Shakespeare at Notre Dame
Circle K
Bridges Out of Poverty
City of South Bend
Homeward Bound Walk
Logan Center

Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars
Chamber of Commerce
TRiO/Upward Bound
South Bend Heritage
IUSB classes
Community Campus
Advisory Coalition
South Bend Community
School Corporation
Northeast Neighborhood
Revitalization Organization

Goal 5: Sustainability

Acquire resources necessary to achieve program goals.

Many thanks to our 2013–14 sponsors!

The Robinson Community Learning Center would like to acknowledge our generous sponsors, without whom our work throughout the community would not be possible:

ARCO/Murray National Construction	Serve Indiana/ AmeriCorps
The ArtsEverywhere Initiative of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County	The Kelly Cares Foundation
Better World Books	Key Bank of Northern Indiana
Bowsher-Booher Foundation	Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns
Carroll Charitable Trust at Wells Fargo Bank	Notre Dame Federal Credit Union
John, Anna, and Martha Jane Fields Foundation at Wells Fargo Bank	Shakespeare at Notre Dame
The Family Connection	The South Bend Community School Corporation
Indiana Arts Commission	Individual donors and those who wish to remain anonymous
Indiana Michigan Power Company	

Talk With Your Baby

by Kris Arizmendi, *Talk With Your Baby* Coordinator

The most recent addition to RCLC programming is the Talk With Your Baby (TWYB) program. TWYB is a multi-organizational program aimed at educating parents and caregivers about the importance of talking with babies and young children. Research shows that frequent verbal interaction in the first years of life builds the brain architecture that supports reading and cognitive skills. Lots of talk from loving adults also builds healthy relationships and social skills.

TWYB started in 2009 as an outreach of the Memorial Health Foundation R&D Committee and ultimately grew

into a 30-organization grassroots initiative. The RCLC was one of the original TWYB partners. The RCLC has now become TWYB's permanent organizational home, and is responsible for all aspects of its administration.

TWYB offers both neighborhood-based and agency-based classes. Classes are available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. During 2013–14 more than 100 participants enrolled in neighborhood classes offered at a public venue. Agency-based classes are offered to clients by agency facilitators who have been

trained in the TWYB curriculum. This year 378 individuals participated in classes based at St. Margaret's House, Women's Care Center, NDCAC, El Campito, the Brain Train, Healthy Families, and Memorial Hospital Latino Doulas program.

