

NEWS FROM THE NATUREHOOD

SEE HOW YOU'RE CONNECTING PEOPLE IN CITIES TO NATURE AND EACH OTHER | AUTUMN 2022



***Together,
we are creating
spaces for
EVERYONE
to enjoy the
outdoors.***



YOLANDA IS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF A SPECIAL PROGRAM THAT CONNECTS STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS, LIKE TJ, TO NATURE AND EACH OTHER.

“Momma! Fill out my form. I’m going to the Urban Ecology Center!” Yolanda remembers her son, Terrence (TJ), eagerly coming home from school with a permission slip. TJ’s excitement stems from a one-of-kind partnership between Milwaukee Public Schools and the UEC’s Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP), called MPS Vision. MPS Vision brings together visually impaired students from middle schools across Milwaukee for a special NEEP program where they can explore urban nature through hands-on activities. ***Thanks to your support, children like TJ have been attending field trips at the UEC for over 12 years!***

The Urban Ecology Center is committed to connecting people in cities to nature and each other. MPS Vision provides students with visual impairments the opportunity to gather away from a formal school setting. Ms. Kapperman, an MPS Vision teacher, raves about the benefits of this program: “Students with visual impairments don’t often get opportunities to get outside and explore without people hovering over them and worrying. And they might be in a school without other students like them.”

Yolanda was shocked to learn that opportunities like this aren’t widely available in other cities. “MPS and

the UEC have a lot to offer. I know there’s obstacles with TJ being visually impaired. He has to wear glasses and can’t really see. I’m glad that he got the opportunity to do this.”

TJ was born with two rare disorders: hypopituitarism, a hormone deficiency condition, and hypoplasia, a condition where the optic nerve is underdeveloped, leading to visual impairments. These diagnoses didn’t slow him down at The UEC, where he went canoeing and rock climbing, claiming to be the only one not afraid of the water and the only one who made it to the top...twice!

TJ likes that in the Vision program, “there were different kids. And going on adventure hunts and hiking.” Being a creative child, it’s no surprise that Ms. Kapperman said one of TJ’s favorite NEEP activities was kite making!

Speaking with warmth and sincerity, Yolanda says, “At the UEC, they are having fun in the fresh air, meeting different people, experiencing different things. I’ve been wanting him to feel that. The kids in this program are just like my baby. And my baby has been through a lot...”

As TJ enters 8th grade, this will be his last year visiting the UEC with the MPS Vision group. ***Will you help ensure that urban nature programming is available for Milwaukee students of all abilities, like TJ, with a gift to NEEP today?***

PAT'S SECRET TO A LONG, ADVENTURE-FILLED LIFE? THE UEC!



Patricia Mueller, a dear friend to the Center, has held many titles - board member, volunteer receptionist, mission advocate, just to name a few. Pat has been involved with the UEC longer than most of our program participants have been alive - over 30 years!

At 99 years old, Pat's passion for the UEC remains strong, and her kind heart forever young. During this year's Summer Solstice Soiree, she shared her secret with guests - "You know, after 30 years with the Urban Ecology Center - you just don't age!"

She also shared some memories. At the age of 83, she took her first UEC trip to Costa Rica with Tim Vargo. Facing her fears, she ziplined through the jungle. Pat remembers zipping towards a small, tree canopy hole thinking, "I'll never get through that hole, I'll never get through that hole." She laughed, "Well, try it some time - you will get through the hole!" What a great analogy for life's scary, but exhilarating, moments!

When Pat was 95, another friend of the Center was turning 100 years old and he wanted to canoe for his birthday. With the help of Ken Leinbach, Pat made this wish a reality. "We had the most wonderful celebration of this man's 100th birthday!" Seven canoes set out, each carrying a person 75 years or older! With Pat's help, we are reminded that curiosity has no age limit and that a love of the outdoors will last a lifetime.



Thank you for spending some ageless years with us at the Urban Ecology Center - as a volunteer, donor, member, program participant, and more! Learn about how you can get more involved by visiting urbanecologycenter.org/volunteer

SOMETHING WORTH BUZZING ABOUT... INTRODUCING THE HIVE: UEC'S COMMUNITY OF MONTHLY GIVERS

the
Hive

Urban Ecology Center's
Community of Monthly Givers

Do you think our parks, programs and people are worth buzzing about? Are you interested in investing in your community, furthering your impact and prioritizing giving back? Then, bee-come part of The Hive today! The Hive celebrates the big impact that combined monthly gifts have on the Center! hive.urbanecologycenter.org





PROGRAM PREVIEW

VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR ONLINE



presented by  **Rotary**
Club of Milwaukee

On Sunday, October 9, our HKE MKE fundraiser presented by the Rotary Club of Milwaukee is back for a BIG hiking event at Riverside Park! Fundraise to earn badges and prizes throughout the week and then join us with other community members to HKE MKE! This is a family friendly fundraiser suitable for ALL ages.

Learn more at urbanecologycenter.org/HKEMKE2022

Autumn Celebration

at Washington Park UEC

Saturday, October 15

10am-2pm | Free! | All ages

Welcome the cooler weather with the Washington Park neighborhood! Enjoy pumpkin carving, colorful canoe rides, fall food staples and more.



Planning for the future?

When you include the Urban Ecology Center as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance, or retirement plan you help ensure that the UEC mission and your values continue into the future. Please contact Jen Hense at jhense@urbanecologycenter.org or 414-626-8544 for more details.



Riverside Park

1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 964-8505

Washington Park

1859 N. 40th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 344-5460

Menomonee Valley

3700 W. Pierce Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 431-2940

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