

Sensible Alternative to Valuable Excess



Quarterly Newsletter for **Recycling for RI Education:**
A Non-Profit Organization Providing Material Resources for Teachers and Other Educators

Volume 15, Issue 1
February 2006

Recycling for Rhode Island Education a 2005 Recipient of a Grant from Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation

The Recycle Center once again thanks Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation for their ongoing support to Recycle for Rhode Island Education in the form of operational grants. The Recycle Center has grown tremendously, serving more and more teachers, childcare providers, and human service organizations each year. This year we have begun entering distribution data electronically, so that we can track usage of the

RIRRC's dynamic MaxMan will venture out of his MaxCave and make the trip to your school. To request a visit that is sure to be both entertaining and educational go to www.rirrc.org/education.

Recycle Center, and better demonstrate our value to large organizations & school systems.

Our partnership with RIRRC has continued to grow as well. We now connect with the Free Market database, and have had several important materials diversion connections develop through this alliance. The Recycle Center now links from our homepage to several RIRRC programs.

Once again, we thank RIRRC for their partnership in assisting us with our operational needs and memberships for the Johnston schools as we provide significant materials diversion that benefits both our community & the environment.



OUR VISION: To encourage self-discovery by active participation in teaching and learning through creative experiences.

OUR MISSION: To encourage preservation of the environment by diverting clean, non-toxic, reusable excess inventory from the business community to educators and community organizations.

ATTENTION AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS!!

Please keep RRIE in mind for projects/supplies/workshop ideas/collaborations with other organizations & after school programs!!

We are a great resource for ideas as well as materials!

NEW MEMBERSHIP RATE APRIL 1st

Because RRIE's budget is extremely close to a bottom-line budget, we can no longer reconcile the increasing costs the Recycle Center is incurring, particularly in the area of fuel to truck the materials. It is imperative that we take immediate but long-term steps to increase earned income revenue.

The cost of an **INDIVIDUAL** membership (one card to be used only by one individual) will increase to \$60.

An **ORGANIZATIONAL** membership (4 cards issued to the organization that can be used by anyone who is on the staff/faculty) will increase to \$215.

A **CORPORATE** membership (large groups or supporting donors) will move to \$365.

In consideration of our long-time, loyal members in preparation for an adjustment in membership cost, we have set up a 'shoulder' offer until April 1, 2006. Members renewing at their current or higher level are offered the opportunity to renew for one year at the current rate. *For example: If the membership expires June 2006, and we receive a renewal, postmarked by April 1st, the membership will not be due for renewal again until June 2007.*

OPEN DAYS
Wednesdays noon-4:30
Fridays 9am—1pm
Saturdays 9am—1pm

DAYS CLOSED 2006

Sat., Sept., 2
Fri., Nov. 24
Sat., Nov. 25

Closed Mon., Dec. 25
through
Mon., Jan. 1, 2007

**PARKING AVAILABLE IN
SPOONER ST. LOT**

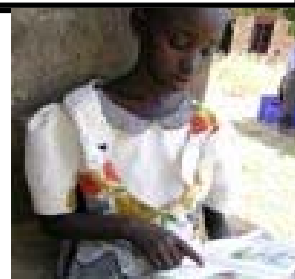
**LOADING DOCK AREA
FOR PICK UP ONLY
NO PARKING AT
LOADING DOCK!!!**

Africa Day with Africa Reads

In December, 2004, as Racheal Adriko Spillberg & her husband Richard were preparing for their trip back home to her native Uganda for the holidays, she came across a box of books that were sitting outside her school library with a sign that said "FREE BOOKS". After a week went by without anyone taking the books, she thought, "I am going home. Why not take the books back to my village of Arua in Uganda, because they would be seen as a precious commodity there."

In Uganda, the Universal Primary Education (UPE) initiative instituted free elementary school education up to 6th grade. The result has been schoolrooms filled with children, but still **lacking in the tools necessary to facilitate learning**. With the help of friends & supporters, they were able to collect 1,000 books which they took back to her village. Then they instituted a mobile bicycle library.

The librarian is a village elder who travels by bicycle to 5 different villages and 2 schools on a weekly basis bringing the joy of reading to so many children. Recycling for RI Education has teamed with Africa Reads to help promote this program and house their administrative coordinator. Please join us Sat. 2/25 from 10am-1pm at RRIE for an *Africa Day w/Africa Reads*; a tactile, auditory, visual, hands-on enrichment approach that introduces children, ages 4-10, to the African Culture. The cost is \$10. Registration required. For more information, please e-mail info@aficareads.com or call 401-781-1521.



The Canterbury Tales Inspires a Cranston Crusader



Joseph Piccione, pictured left, a Senior at Cranston High School West, in true crusader fashion, was challenged, along with the rest of his class, by English teacher, Mr. Grenier, to create a 3-D project inspired by *The Canterbury Tales*. Students made posters & gave presentations. Using Recycle Center materials that he picked out himself, Joe created the crusader garb you see. Interestingly, for his art class, Joe created a necklace & bracelet from materials that his teacher, Miss Russell, picked out from her visit to the Recycle Center. That jewelry won a Silver Key Award for Design in this year's Rhode Island Scholastic Art Awards! Congratulations Joe! And, thank you for sharing your story with us!

ATTEND A WORKSHOP - Call Kathleen McAreavey at 401-781-1521 for reservations.
See www.rrie.org for updates, registration form, complete workshop descriptions & instructor bios!

SPRING 2006 - BOOKS & CIVICS THEME ***Earn Professional Development Credits!

Sat. March 4th
9:00am-11:00am \$25/person
Make & Take Bookmaking
Instructor: Jean Boucher

Sat. March 11th
9:00am-1:00pm \$65/person
"Jiffy Journals"
Instructor: Gretchen Halpert

Sat. March 18th
2:30pm-4:30pm \$40/person
Independent Learning Centers***
Instructor: Annette Mendonca

Sat. March 25th
9:00am-noon \$55/person
Conflict Management***
Instructor: Virginia Law, J.D.

Sat. April 1st
9:00am-11:00am \$25/person
Simple Math with Reusables
Instructor: Pam Wamester

Sat. April 8th

9:00am-11:00am \$25/person
Make & Take Storytime-Books & Games***
Instructor: Kathleen Samways

Sat. April 15th
2:30pm-4:30pm \$40/person
Independent Learning Centers***
Instructor: Annette Mendonca

Sat. April 22nd
9:00am-11:00am \$25/person
Projects inspired by the children's book
R is for Rhode Island Red
Instructor: Pam Wamester

Sat. April 29th
9:00am-1:00pm \$40/person
Altered Books
Instructor: Kathleen McAreavey

Sat. May 6th

9:00am-noon \$40/person
Create a Lighthouse with artist Bill Murray

Sat. May 13th
9:00am-noon \$40/person
sensAbility***
Instructor: Kathleen Fresher Samways

Sat. May 20th
2:30pm-4:30pm \$40/person
Independent Learning Centers-RI CIVICS CURRICULUM***
Instructor: Annette Mendonca

Sat. May 27th
9:00am-1:00pm \$40/person
Introduction to Scrapbooking & Recycled Greeting Cards
Instructor: Kathleen McAreavey

You count on us – We count on you!

Dear Friends,

Every week we get notes & stories from our members, telling us how important we have become to you and your programs. Members write to us... "You guys ROCK!!", on an e-mail confirmation. "My colleagues and I can't imagine how we would do near the things we accomplish with our students if not for the access we have to neat, inexpensive stuff at the Recycle Center", a long-timer writes in, or, "What is this place, Toys-R-Us for grownups?" remarks a sparkley-eyed first-timer. Since 1992, we have kept a variety of materials flowing into the Recycle Center, with ease of access to you, and cost to your programs kept quite low. It's really so simple. Keep it out of the Waste Stream, bring it together into One Big Place, and Give it Back to educational programs. In fact, we've realized, hmmm...maybe we've made it look *too easy*!?

Keeping it out of the Waste Stream – a slam-dunk, right? It's going to be thrown away anyway, so it's free. Not so fast. We make calls to targeted companies, or network through Chambers of Commerce, cold calls to corporate businesses or 'fishing' calls for products you may request. Sometimes it takes many such calls to locate a key contact inside the company, more to secure a product, more to arrange a pick-up. Someone at the company puts the product aside at the manufacturer, and saves it for us, rather than mindlessly pitching it into the dumpster. Space = money for the business, so we are grateful that they are patient with us as we juggle pick-ups. We frequently rent a truck to make the pick-ups. Each truck costs us about \$180.00. Last year we spent nearly \$12,000.00 bringing unique stuff into the warehouse. That gets it to the doorstep.

One Big Place – in the cheapest place we could find, runs us approximately \$2,800/mo. Here we run the 'business' end of this *non-profit* business (boy, did they know what they were talking about when they invented THAT term). We mail, process memberships, volunteer hours, track all our in- and out-flow, create reports and write grants. We continue to expand our accredited workshop program in this new area. Please look for our new schedule of workshops with professional development credits in this newsletter.

Give it Back – this is actually a labor-intensive challenge. In order to distribute materials to you in manageable handfuls, grabs and parcels, and run our Open Days and Resource Center, our regular part-time employees, and supported employees and their job coaches work a total of about 214 hours per week. Our payroll, with associated costs, is more than \$2,300.00 every week, or close to \$121,650.00 annually. Volunteers contribute close to 100 hours per week assisting them (Bless her heart, Ruth alone volunteers 30 hours every week!)

In order to meet our expenses, we have several income streams. We depend heavily on the income from every **Membership** and your good will to spread the word about the benefits of joining the Recycle Center. We thank you for your membership support, and for pulling in your church, your youth group, your grandmother's senior citizen's center. We need all those memberships in order to keep things flowing. Our **Distribution** income relies on you taking home LOTS of stuff. *<We are deeply grateful when you leave us that generous tip - it recognizes our work on your behalf, and helps defray some of the real costs ("is 20 cents per pound for real"? states many a new member.)>* Our one-third reliance on **Grant income** holds some particular hazards. Most grantors will not even entertain support of operations, so we must depend on our memberships and distribution to entirely support operations. We have had programs supported by grants, but these are without dependability for planning purposes, with concerns for sustainability.

This brings me to the pitch of my letter. We are at a critical juncture in our development. The cost of utilities, the proposed RI minimum wage increase, and the overall economy are forcing us to look closely at our sustainability. We must add income, or be threatened out of existence. Like National Public Radio, we may not enjoy it every day, but where will we tune our dials when it's gone?.....and here's the kicker:

The Recycle Center needs to not just maintain itself, but also to grow. We need your help. Here's what you can do as a member:

1. Take the long view. Renew your membership *at the next higher level as soon as you can.*
2. Tell your friends about the Recycle Center. Bring them on a field trip and buy them a one-day pass to shop. Promise them coffee afterward if you need to bribe them the first time. They'll end up treating you to the coffee!
3. Keep those regular 'tips' coming at the Check-out. Leaving your change, with a little extra added, helps a lot.
4. Attend a workshop. Donate your time to teach a workshop for us.
5. Ask for a cartridge recycling bucket to take back to your school. Return it to us full of empty printer cartridges. We get a cash consideration for each one we bring to the recycler.
6. Make a personal cash pledge donation. See this box on the Sponsorship Information page on our website. Tell others about it.
7. Make us your United Way designated agency. Ask your family and friends to do the same. Our RI # is: 7731, our MA # is U338556. It's on our website and newsletter.
8. Tell us about companies of which you are aware that might have interesting stuff we can take off their hands, and give us contact names and numbers. We'll follow-up and spend more time actually bringing stuff into the warehouse for you.
9. Give us a lead on a Corporate Giving program. Sometimes companies will support a non-profit if it is of interest to employees. Perhaps your spouse works for one of these organizations.
10. Connect us with interested grant-funders. Half the battle of writing a grant request is asking the right source...
11. Volunteer in the Distribution Center. It's therapeutic! A process we call "*Snip & Rip*" has particular stress relief value!
12. Offer to serve on the Board of Directors, or a Board Committee. Ask for Board job descriptions.
13. Tell us what you want, for materials and for service. There is a silver suggestion box near the check-in. We need to know what makes you happy, and we need to know what we need to fix if it's broken.
14. Watch for our announcement of a large fundraiser in 2006. We'll need lots of help!

We have been extremely fortunate to have the rare resource of the Recycle Center here in Rhode Island. We have kept hundreds of tons of cool 'stuff' out of the landfill, and supplied it to you to support your programs. Thank you for your membership! Let's keep on truckin'!

Kathleen and Priscilla

Recycling for Rhode Island Education

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RI United Way #7731
MA United Way #U338556

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Non-profit
organization
U.S. postage
PAID
Providence, RI
Permit No. 570

With Help of Artist/Dad, Boris Bally, the Gordon School Goes to Outerspace by Susanne Toothaker

We have a unique set up in our Kindergarten at Gordon. We have 4 kindergarten classrooms with a common shared space that all classes can access for play at certain times during the day. The children then have small group & large group play experiences. A very generous parent also donated a house/puppet theater type of structure that we try to change in a variety of ways to help create different "play". Sometimes it's a house, restaurant, animal care center, post office, marketplace, etc. The children were interested in outerspace, so we utilized Boris' creativity & wonderful way of working with children. He came in & covered the structure to look like a rocketship with lots of help from the kids. It was challenging because he couldn't use nails or anything permanent! We made planets to hang from the ceiling & hung up posters & pictures of outerspace, astronants, etc. We really like to change the feel of the space every once in awhile because it keeps the children from getting in "a rut" with their play there. It's also nice because children from different classrooms get to play with each other!



R is for Rhode Island Red: A Rhode Island Alphabet Written by Mark R. Allio, Illustrated by Mary Jane Begin

RI may be the smallest state but its presence is unmistakable. With every page readers will be treated to Mary Jane Begin's beautiful illustrations depicting RI's incredible scenery and learn even more about the 13th state from Mark Allio's text & poems. A teacher's guide is available for this book and the rest in the series by visiting www.sleepingbearpress.com. While this book is geared towards children ages 4-8, it will be a treat for anyone interested in finding more about "Little Rhody"! *Rhode Island Red* is Mark R. Allio's first children's book. He lives in RI with his award-winning illustrator spouse, Mary Jane Begin. Mary Jane is a RISD alum where she teaches on the faculty of the Illustration Dept. The illustrator of many children's books including *A Mouse Told His Mother*, *The Wind in the Willows*, & *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Mary Jane has also won many awards, exhibited widely, & created artwork for well-known companies such as Hasbro & Celestial Seasonings. During the first 2 weeks of May 2006, her artwork from *R is for Rhode Island Red* will be on exhibit at the Bell Room in the RI State House. School tours can be arranged by contacting the RI Secretary of State's Office at 401-222-2357.

