

The Butterfly Hope Buzz

Butterfly Hope is committed to the development of children's lives by offering a program of Natural Science, Gardening and the Creative Arts. This enrichment program encourages children to respectfully explore their natural world and the creativity that grows within each of them.

Our Wonderful Summer



Andrea teaching Noah in the art room.



Sebastian preps students for watering the garden.



Marcus works in his garden plot.

Butterfly Hope was fortunate to have two incredible high school graduate interns working with us this summer thanks to the Goodwill Youth Services Earn 'n Learn program. Andrea Garcia, a West High Graduate, worked in the Mayan art classroom offering the children gentle & creative guidance. Andrea also wrote a great article about the Mayan Summer Program that was published in the North Denver Tribune. Sebastian Bandelis, a East High Graduate, worked in the Mayan garden classroom bringing smiles & activity to the children along with incredibly hard work in the garden. He even helped us gear towards this modern age with Facebook and blogging. With Andrea and Sebastian working alongside all

our volunteers we had a true inter-generational experience. In addition to our June Mayan Summer program, where students came 5 days a week for the whole month of June to learn about Mayan Culture through art and gardening classes, Butterfly Hope ran family programming in July. Tuesdays and Thursdays we worked with families in the garden teaching them how to care for a garden after everything is planted. We worked on staking the tomatoes, cultivating the soil, mulching for water retention and weed block, pruning, soil amending and of course harvesting! On Tuesday's we had a creative activity like making cement garden foot pavers and painting garden murals. On Thursday's we had a nutrition focus where we talked about growing food at home (we provided herbs for each

family to plant at their home gardens in addition to the tomatoes and squash plants we sent home in June), how to avoid sugary drinks, everyday foods vs. sometimes foods and we even BBQ'ed fresh veggies from the garden while families shared different vegetable recipes. On Wednesday's we worked with CHAC (Chicano Humanities Arts Center) leading a natural plant dyes and weaving workshop. Families worked together to dye yarns using raspberries, beets, bind weed, tomato leaves, turmeric, spinach and other plant matter and then did a community weaving project on our giant earth loom in the garden. Then each person got to work on their own weaving using either hand looms or back-strap looms. Thanks to SCFD for funding this program.

What's Ahead

Butterfly Hope is participating in Denver Public Schools and Slow Food Denver's program *Garden to Cafeteria* where Butterfly Hope student gardeners will harvest food they have grown and sell to the cafeteria to help feed their community healthy food. The money will go back into the garden program.

Fall Garden Club! Students will be harvesting, learning how to put the garden to bed for the winter



Families community weaving on the earth loom.

and the importance of eating 5-A-Day (fruits and vegetables) while also creating art from nature. The Fall Garden club runs Wednesday's 1:45 – 3:30 in August and September.

Our second session with CHAC will take place September 22, 29 & October 6 where Cheltenham families will learn about the ancient method of gardening with the 3 Sisters (corn, beans and squash) while doing plein air water color painting in the Butterfly Hope's 3 Sisters garden. Thanks to SCFD for funding this collaborative project!

Classroom Project Based Learning— we will be working with 5th graders in the classroom, supporting teachers with natural science learning projects. And come winter we have two art workshops to look forward to where we will be working with recycled materials. The first will be learning about sculpture and form and the 2nd is Junk to Funk—using recycled materials for fashion.



Daniel & Sergio Mayan back-strap weave.



Heriberto's squash and carrot harvest.

"I learned how to cultivate and amend my soil at home, which I wasn't doing before. I am also trying to cook more nutritionally at home. My family tried kale for the first time because of Butterfly Hope and they all liked it so I will use it again when I cook."

-Butterfly Hope parent who participated in the July program.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all the incredibly dedicated volunteers who helped out all summer teaching students about art and gardening. There is no way we would have the success we do without you!! And thanks to South West Gardens, Ingrid's Garden Seedlings and Elliott Gardens who donated vegetables, herbs and flowers to keep our gardens full. We also thank our funders & partners: Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, The Denver Foundation, Sheila Fortune Foundation, Denver Health, Jared Polis Foundation, Colorado State Bank & Trust, Front Range Organic Gardener's, Tamarac Optimist Club, Cheltenham Elementary School, CSU Denver Cooperative Extension Office Master Gardeners Program, Denver Urban Gardens, Chicano Humanities & Arts Council, Denver Botanic Gardens, Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design and all our individual donors.. And your continued financial support is always appreciated! Please send donations to our office, 1580 Julian St., Denver

Wish List

- garden bench
- Ggrbage can
- grow-lights
- water pumps for hydroponics
- paint (acrylic & fabric)
- large planting barrels
- polymer clay (sculpey)
- Camera
- Yarn
- volunteers!!



G'Tazah and volunteer Kathy plant.

Find us on facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ButterflyHope/177855582280438>



Butterfly Hope

A Creative Arts, Science and Gardening Program

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The following article was printed in the North Denver Tribune, follow the link to see:
<http://www.northdenvertribune.com/2011/08/west-denver-students-succeed-with-butterfly-hope/>

West Denver Students Succeed with Butterfly Hope

By Andrea Garcia



Alex's clay Mayan Nawal crab.

This summer, students from Cheltenham Elementary School signed up for a summer full of fun activities with Butterfly Hope. This year's program gave the students the opportunity to learn all about the Mayan Culture. The Garden class gave them knowledge about Mayan foods, agriculture, and tips on how to eat healthier and how to grow their own food. The Art class gave them the opportunity to express themselves through painting, weaving, ceramics and other Mayan arts and crafts. Ms. Patsy, the art teacher, taught the students all about the Mayans through stories and books she shared with them. She taught them how to weave clothing using the Back Strap Loom, bead making, Mayan designs for belts and kite making. Ms. Deb, the garden teacher, taught about eating healthier while learning about the Mayan agriculture & food and how important corn was and is to the Mayans. Seeing the kids eyes lit up every time the teachers showed them something new was its own reward.

The Nawal art activity, Nawals are Mayan animal spirit guides, gave the children the chance to open up through sculpting. They were given some Magic Clay and their task was to mold the clay into an animal they felt represented them. They had a list of animals to choose from but some of the students chose animals of their own. Alex, a 2nd grader, was one of the young boys who chose a different animal; he chose to mold a crab. His art was beautiful; he put a lot of detail into it which showed his involvement and interest in the activity. Nadia, a 5th grader, molded her clay into a wolf; she explained that she chose the wolf because it represented bravery. Giving the students the chance to take on a task that involved how they see themselves gave the staff a better idea on how the students think. It also allowed them to have a closer connection with them.

The garden class allowed the students to develop their decision making, problem solving and leadership skills by teaching them how to plan, design, plant and care for their own garden plots. The students amended the soil with compost, measured their garden plots, drew them up and planned out what to plant using the square foot gardening techniques. They read seed packets to learn about spacing and how to transplant seedlings into their gardens. They learned how to cultivate the soil, what bugs they found were beneficial and which ones to remove and about companion planting using marigolds and herbs like basil and mint. Heriberto, a 5th grade gardener, displays his garden full of pride, convinced his vegetables are the best in Denver.

Butterfly hope has been providing quality programming for West Denver for 18 years. Some of the students at Butterfly Hope have been involved all throughout their elementary school experience. Daniel was one of them, has been involved in Butterfly Hope since second grade, and this year was his last year for he is ready to move on to middle school. Hearing him tell the staff about how much he really enjoyed participating every year lets them know they are doing their job right. This program really impacted Daniel in a positive way, allowing him to express it in writing on his admissions essay to the Denver Center for International Studies. He emphasized how much he loved the program and how he never missed a day. Butterfly Hope has helped Daniel open up to the world around him and has allowed him to be more involved whether it's taking on a leadership role or simply expressing himself.

Thanks to the Sheila Fortune Foundation, Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, The Denver Foundation, Cheltenham Elementary School, Front Range Organic Gardeners, CSU Master Gardeners, Denver Urban Gardens, Tamarac Optimist Club, South West Gardens, Ingrid's Garden Seedlings, Elliott Gardens and the many volunteers who make the Butterfly Hope program possible.