

LearnServe

A Vision for the Future of International Education

Annual Report: 2009-2010



About LearnServe International

VISION AND MISSION

LearnServe International sparks high school students' passion to make a difference and equips them with the knowledge, tools, and relationships to effectively drive local solutions to pressing global challenges.

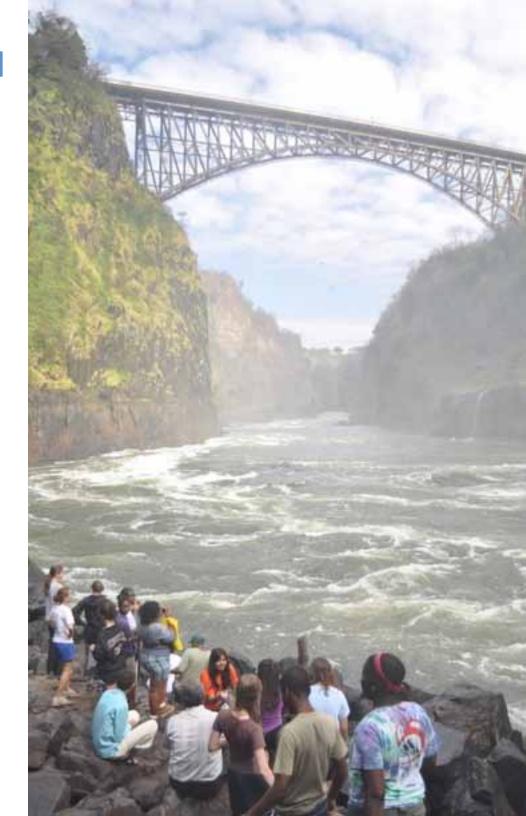
We are closing the gap between students and society by training high school students as entrepreneurial leaders and repositioning their schools as hubs for innovative problem-solving and community action. We prepare students with the skills of business planning and cross-cultural fluency – and challenge them to lead and join community-based change efforts in their schools, across the Washington, D.C. region and around the world.

We hope you'll join us!

GOALS

For the 2009-10 year our goals were to:

- Double the size of the Fellows class and formalize the Fellows program "curriculum"
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of our programs quantifiably
- Grow our Abroad program
- Formalize partnerships with school systems and individual schools



Letter from the Founder

Dear Friends of LearnServe International,

Seven years ago I left school leadership to seek new ways to make a difference in young people's lives and in their schools. In 2003, with an early vote of confidence from the Case Foundation and Share our Strength, I took seven teachers with me to Ethiopia to witness firsthand the problems of food scarcity and environmental degradation. Together we agreed that our students could make a difference in Ethiopia, and that Ethiopia would make a lasting difference to them. One year later we returned to Ethiopia with twenty-four students and teachers who represented the rich mix of public and private schools in the DC area. For all the participants this was their first experience working in the developing world. For many students this was their first time outside of the United States; for two of them, their first time on an airplane!

We set out to inspire the students and motivate the teachers to use what they had learned to change their schools and communities. Let me share three examples of what that change looks like seven years later. Sebastian was a high school junior in 2004. His experience in Ethiopia opened his eyes to the realities of food scarcity, and in college he started an organization to serve the people of Ethiopia. Carol was a history teacher when she traveled to Ethiopia in 2003. Now, while teaching part-time, she has joined an organization serving street kids in Addis Ababa with housing, food, and education. She travels to Ethiopia several times a year. And, inspired by LearnServe Ethiopia, Georgetown Day School decided to introduce its own service program which has now expanded from Ethiopia to Kenya, introducing a new generation of students and leaders to how to make a difference.

Under Scott Rechler's and Sabine Keinath's able leadership, we have refined our programs. Complementing our Abroad program, the sevenmonth Fellows program teaches high school students global leadership and social entrepreneurship. Over the course of their training year, each Fellow develops a social action "venture" to serve a community. Last year, Yasmine Arrington and Niacka Carty's venture ScholarCHIPS was featured on National Public Radio as they explained how their college access program would serve children of incarcerated parents.

Last June, as many of you know, I stepped down as the Executive Director of LearnServe International. The Board appointed Scott and Sabine as the new Directors of LearnServe – Scott as CEO and Sabine as COO. It is time for new leadership. The founding vision will only get better under their direction, and I am excited about our ability to serve growing numbers of aspiring young changemakers in the DC area. The future has even greater possibilities as we explore how LearnServe can expand its model to other regions of the country.

This annual report is a simple measure of last year's accomplishments and only begins to suggest the possibilities for tomorrow. I hope you read it and contact Scott and Sabine to lend your support! Together we, our students, and our teachers inspire and challenge school communities to action, building towards an even greater impact in the years ahead.

With appreciation,

Hugh C. Riddleberger

Founder, LearnServe International

Hud Kinneweiger

Letter from the Directors

Dear Friends of LearnServe International,

2010 has been a successful year! On October 23, 2010, LearnServe Fellows Yasmine and Niacka debuted ScholarCHIPS, a new organization designed to raise college scholarship funds for at-risk children of incarcerated parents living in the DC area. • Jessica has recruited teams from six Montgomery County high schools to lead hands-on science programs at 10 local elementary schools, reaching almost 300 students through her organization "Kids Are Scientists Too." • Melanie and her team have embarked on a multi-school campaign to support Haiti earthquake and Pakistan flood relief efforts. • Fifty five new bicycles will be built this year by World Bicycle Relief, thanks to the contributions of LearnServe Zambia participants and their supporters. • And through the devoted fundraising efforts of the LearnServe Paraguay community, the Centro Cultural Comunitario will be able to purchase a new community center facility.

All of this is thanks to the vision and leadership of Hugh Riddleberger, Founding Director of LearnServe International, and to each one of you who has helped to shape and sustain the organization since its inception in 2003. We are honored that our Board of Directors has chosen us to carry the baton, to work with you as we guide LearnServe International into its next chapter.

We dive into the new year and our new roles with ambitious goals:

- train 33% more LearnServe Fellows as leaders and social entrepreneurs
- scale up our alumni program to offer ongoing resources, venture support, and access to opportunities scholarships, volunteer outlets, and other abroad experiences to all LearnServe alumni

- revamp our online presence, with pro bono support from the design firm Fearless Future
- engage a network of local entrepreneurial businesses to support our students and their schools
- deepen our relationships with our partner schools so that the impact of our programs is felt well beyond the participants themselves

Stay tuned into our website and newsletter this year as we explore new destinations for LearnServe Abroad programs, sharpen our Fellows and Abroad program models, pilot school-based complements to the existing Fellows program, and forge dynamic partnerships with like-minded organizations.

We are excited about the growth potential and future of LearnServe International. Enjoy this report on our progress over the past year, and we look forward to working with you as together we continue to inspire students and teachers to spark change in their schools and communities.

Thank you for your ongoing insight, enthusiasm, and support, and may the 2010-11 school year be a successful one for each one of you, and for all our students and schools.

Sincerely,

Scott Rechler *Director and CEO*

Sabine Keinath
Director and COO

Sabrin Kensy

Fellows Program

ABOUT

The LearnServe Fellows Program guides students as they partner with peers and teachers to transform the issues they are passionate about into business plans and, ultimately, action. Over the course of an academic year, Fellows participate in an interactive training program that introduces them to the fundamental principles of business and entrepreneurship, engages them in discussions with successful social entrepreneurs, and mobilizes them to start their own social "ventures" – action projects designed to make a difference in the lives of others in their schools and communities.

"The Fellows program has helped me ... see that it's possible to do anything if you really believe in your self and your cause."

— LearnServe Fellow '09-10*



BY THE NUMBERS

15	Students graduated as LearnServe Fellows, 60% more than the LearnServe Class of 2008-9
43	60% more than the LearnServe Class of 2008-9

Schools, including 17 public and charter and7 independent schools from DC and Fairfax,Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties

45% African American, 33% Caucasian, 11% Asian, and 11% Hispanic, Caribbean, and N. African

34 Student-led Ventures pitched to expert panels

\$14,239 Awarded to launch 18 social ventures

60% Report that they see a different future for themselves because of the Fellows Program

20 Guest presenters representing local non-profits and socially responsible businesses

100% LearnServe Fellows plan to go to college

Students are nominated by their schools and selected as LearnServe Fellows through a competitive process. Each Fellow has a faculty advisor within his or her school who plays an instrumental role as liaison to LearnServe, the student, and the school leadership. Advisors act as allies during the venture planning process, helping to integrate the projects into the broader school community. At the end of the academic year, students pitch their venture proposals to an independent panel, convened jointly with LearnServe's partner Youth Venture. Viable proposals were awarded seed funds of up to \$1,000.

*Where names are absent, quotes are pulled from anonymous student surveys

Venture Spotlight

ScholarCHIPS

Yasmine Arrington, Benjamin Banneker Senior High School **Niacka Carty**, Central High School

The daughter of an incarcerated father, Yasmine Arrington realized that little support exists for children of incarcerated parents living in the DC area interested in attending a four-year college. Yasmine, along with her partner Niacka Carty whose uncle is in prison, created ScholarCHIPS to encourage and empower youth with incarcerated parents to continue their education in a four-year college and expand their horizons through scholarship and mentoring. The organization will raise funds to offer students financial assistance as they head off to college, and eventually peer advising as well. Yasmine and Niacka are confident that these teens will go on to college and break the cycle of incarceration.

Kids Are Scientists Too (KAST)

Jessica Yang, Richard Montgomery High School

Jessica Yang and her classmate Angela Zhang believe that **kids need more hands-on, outside-the-classroom exposure to science** to get them excited about the field. Kids Are Scientists Too unites high school students across Montgomery County to bring science programs to their local elementary schools. Jessica and Angela have already begun recruiting and training "branch leaders" as well as designing hour-long workshops involving light teaching, discussion, and interactive exercises. Branch leaders recruit students from their high schools to visit local elementary schools on a biweekly basis. Through KAST, kids experience the fun and excitement of science.

The Green Team

Jessie Garland, Sidwell Friends School Rachel Lyle, Hyde Leadership Public Charter School

Concerned about the widespread indifference and apathy – particularly among teenagers – towards the deteriorating environmental condition of the world, Jessie and Rachel have teamed up to create an environmental club at Hyde Charter School, timed to align with the debut of Hyde's new campus in 2011. The Green Team, modeled off of Sidwell's Eco Club, will introduce recycling bins, composters, a green garden, environmentally friendly light bulbs, and other environmental resources to the new campus, along with environmental experts to talk to the students.



Venture Spotlight

Students and Service
Max Zeitlin, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

Across Montgomery County low-income families must make the difficult choice between fixing safety hazards in their homes or making utility and mortgage payments. Often families choose the latter. Students and Service will create high school clubs to partner with Rebuilding Together Montgomery County in order to **repair the homes of low income families** – and in turn will inspire more students to commit to serve. **Creative Minds Amy Flores,** *Rockville High School*

Amy Flores has seen first-hand how students with high potential can fall into dangerous and self-destructive activities such as drug abuse, simply because they lack structured, **safe places to exercise their minds and bodies**. Creative Minds will collect art and school supplies, and host summer camps where at-risk kids can stay out of trouble while doing something they really love.



AIDC
Chinyere Ukaegbu, Benjamin Banneker Senior High School
Abi Varela, School Without Walls

As DC residents, Chinyere and Abi find the HIV/AIDS rate in Washington, DC – more than 3% of the total population – both shocking and disturbing. To fight the increase of HIV/AIDS in DC, AIDC will design and market informative t-shirts to **spread awareness about HIV/AIDS in DC**. Proceeds from t-shirt sales will be donated to local organizations working to fight the spread of the disease.

"I would recommend LSI to my friends because it introduces you to a whole new group of people that you didn't even know existed. It also really helps you develop as a person and realize what you really have a passion for."

— LearnServe Fellow '09-10

Abroad Program

ABOUT

LearnServe Abroad offers teams of high school students and teachers the opportunity to experience development and social change first-hand. Over two and a half weeks, LearnServe teams work along-side community-based organizations in Paraguay or Zambia, gaining insights into regions of the world struggling with and responding to challenges of poverty, HIV/AIDS, education inequalities, and environmental degradation. Participants experience the day-to-day realities of life in a developing country, engage in youth-to-youth exchanges, and develop action plans to share what they have learned with their schools to raise awareness, funds, and support for the communities they have visited. Led by experienced educators, the LearnServe Abroad programs transform the individuals and the schools they represent. Teachers learn as much as their students, and both discover what a school can do to create lasting, positive community change and raise awareness at home.



BY THE NUMBERS

45 Students and teachers, and 6 trip leaders traveled to Paraguay and Zambia

Public schools, 3 charter and 4 independent schools from DC, Maryland, and Virginia

47% African American, 42% Caucasian, 7% Hispanic, and 4% Asian

4 Months of training and preparation

\$73,000 In financial aid awarded to 60% of participants, with generous support of LearnServe partners

18 Days in the host country

\$11,285 Raised by participants for local projects in Zambia and Paraguay

87% Of participants described the trip as "unlike anything they had ever seen before"

The impact of LearnServe Abroad programs is two-fold. Students and teachers return inspired, transformed, and committed to service – and ready to share what they've learned. And they leave a lasting change in the lives of the communities they've touched – through their empathy, their lessons, the informal conversations among friends, and the funds raised to sustain LearnServe partners abroad.

LearnServe has commissioned its first external evaluation of the Abroad program. The researcher joined one of the Zambia trips, sent surveys to all Abroad participants, and conducted individual interviews before, during and after the trips. The report will be available in early 2011.

LearnServe Zambia '10

During 18 busy days in Zambia, LearnServe Zambia participants learned about the country and the challenges Zambians face in their daily lives. Our students shadowed and befriended Zambian peers at David Kaunda High School in Lusaka and collaborated with multiple NGOs addressing pressing development issues. At PlayPumps International, an organization that provides clean water to rural communities, students helped plant trees and gardens. Students and teachers worked together at Chikumbuso, a school for widows and orphans, and Malambo School, in rural Monze, to demonstrate and model educational techniques and impart better health practices. At World Bicycle Relief they built and delivered 31 bicycles to communities with



"I still am astonished at the fact that a simple bicycle can address so many serious problems such as AIDS and lack of education. By working with WBR I have realized just how effective a small and simple idea can be if one is able to be patient and persistent."

— LSZ10 Participant



"In my community I can try to help out more like the people in Chikumbuso. They help each other, but back in my community, we don't, and I think we should do that more."

— LSZ10 Participant

LearnServe Zambia 2010 participants raised \$8,990 to support their partner organizations in Zambia. This amount, combined with funds raised by the LSZ09 group, totaled \$13,767 disbursed as follows:

\$6,879	World Bicycle Relief can build 55 new bicycles , with support from LSZ09 and LSZ10.
\$2,040	Malambo School in Monze used LearnServe contributions to renovate their 5th grade classroom
\$1,008	David Kuanda High School purchased new lab stools
\$3,840	Chikumbuso, Malambo, and Monze procured educational materials and garden supplies

educational materials and garden supplies.

LearnServe Paraguay '10

In Paraguay, students and teachers experience the contrasting realities of the country's rural and urban life. The group first visited Isla Puku, a rural community where students shadowed peers at the local high school, prepared food in two soup kitchens, planted trees, painted murals in two elementary schools, and taught children the basic skills of hand-washing and tooth-brushing. Students stayed with host families, experiencing Paraguayan life up-close.

In Santa Ana, a poor community at the outskirts of the capital, Asuncion, the group worked with LearnServe partner the Centro Cultural Comunitario de Santa Ana (CCC). The group distributed clothing to needy families, built a new playground at a local elementary school, and led arts workshops. The CCC offers leadership training to community youth; all projects were designed and led by CCC youth teams. Work in Santa Ana culminated in a health day, where participants washed hair, cut finger nails, provided snacks, and offered hygiene training to local children. In Asuncion the LearnServe students were hosted by and worked alongside students from the Colegio San Jose, a private school in Asuncion.

"The best way to learn is through experience, and being here I've experienced so much."

— DiAnte, Cesar Chavez Charter School and LSP10 Participant

"Giving the students a new playground is not just giving them a place to be kids. It gives them motivation and hope to see that a group from as far away as the US cares enough about them and thinks that they are important enough to come down and work this hard for them. The LSI students, along with our counterparts from Paraguay, really made a difference in the lives of those school children."

— Talia Shnider, Teacher, Wheaton High School and LSP10 Participant



LearnServe Paraguay 2010 raised \$2,295 to support community efforts in Paraguay. To date \$945 has been spent on projects in Isla Puku an Santa Ana. The remainder, which combined with funds raised by previous LSP teams and the Schwartz Carratero family now totals \$10,844, is held in a reserve fund by LearnServe International. These funds will be help the CCC purchase a new community center building in 2011.

Participating Schools 2009-2010

District of Columbia Public Schools

Bell Multicultural High School
Benjamin Banneker Academic Senior High School
Luke C. Moore Academy
School Without Walls
Theodore Roosevelt Senior High School
Woodrow Wilson High School

Fairfax County Public Schools

Annandale High School Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology W.T. Woodson High School

Montgomery County Public Schools

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Montgomery Blair High School Richard Montgomery High School Rockville High School Wheaton High School

Prince George's County Public Schools

Central High School Northwestern High School Parkdale High School

District of Columbia Charter Schools

César Chávez Public Charter School for Public Policy Hyde Leadership Public Charter School Seed Public Charter School Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School



Independent Schools

Bullis School
Holton-Arms School
The Landon School
Potomac School
Sandy Springs Friends School
Sidwell Friends School
Washington International School

Students and teachers from the schools listed above participated in the 2009-10 LearnServe Fellows and Abroad programs.

"The best part of this program was meeting wonderful and different individuals and gaining the skills to become an active social changemaker."

— LearnServe Fellow '09-10

Financials

ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET

Revenue

Grants	\$162,500
Abroad Tuition	\$100,075
Individual Contributions	\$15,638
Reserve Fund Contributions	\$11,784*

Total Revenue \$289,997

Expense

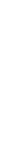
Abroad Program	\$180,898
Fellows Program	\$64,402
Reserve Funds	\$14,725*
Other Expense	\$11,963

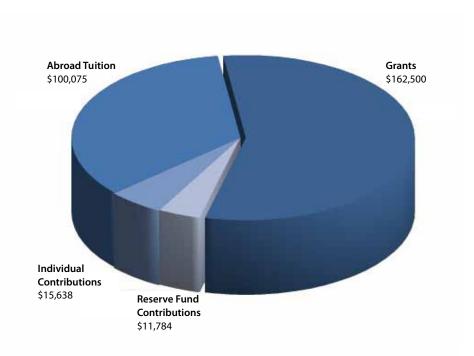
Total Expense \$271,988

Net: \$18,009

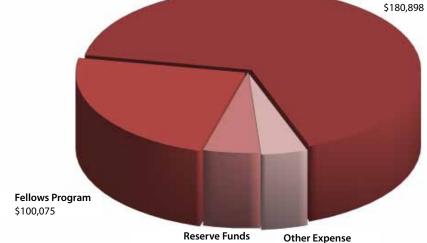
(applies to first quarter of FY11)

REVENUE





Abroad Program



\$14,725

\$11,963

^{*}Reserve Fund Contributions are restricted funds raised for LearnServe partners and projects in Zambia and Paraguay

Grants

FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

LearnServe International thanks the following foundations and organizations for their financial support of our mission and programs:

Allianz Foundation for North America for providing support for the expansion of the LearnServe Fellows Program.

Family Foundation for support of the LearnServe Fellows Program.

Henry Foundation for support of the LearnServe Fellows Program.

Institute for Education for support of the LearnServe Fellows Program.

Joe Higdon and Ellen Sudow Fund / Community Foundation for the National Capital Region for sponsoring travel of students from DC Charter schools to Paraguay or Zambia in 2010.

Kimsey Foundation for sponsoring the travel of District of Columbia teachers and students to Zambia and Paraguay in 2010.

Linowes Leadership Award of the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region for recognizing LearnServe International and offering operating support.

Jean T. and Heyward G. Pelham Foundation for sponsoring the travel of students from Prince George's County public schools to Paraguay and Zambia in 2010.

Hattie M. Strong Foundation for general support of LearnServe.

Virginia Partners for sponsoring the travel of teacher-student teams from Virginia and Maryland to Zambia and Paraguay in 2010.

"This experience has been emotional, personal, inspiring, and at times heart-wrenching. For me, the revelation of the purpose of the trip came on our last day in Santa Ana, a poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Asuncion. After days of collecting, organizing, and sorting clothes, it was finally time to distribute them. I will never forget the look on the first child's face after he received the bag of donations. The way his face lit up as he peeked in the bag and the gratitude emanating from his mother was the reason this trip was so meaningful to me. I wanted to show how grateful I am that I was here; that together with LearnServe and their supporters, I could make a difference in the lives of families that live in Paraguay. Thank you for moments like these."

— Zena, Bethesda Chevy Chase and LSP10 Participant



"I think every school should have a program like this in their school to make the kids motivated and full of positive spirit."

— LearnServe Fellow '09-10

Donors (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010*)

In support of our mission and programs:

Anonymous

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Cynthia Alexander Ambria Archibald

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Stacy Yule



"In the back of the store a large group of widows was singing and dancing loudly and cheerfully; I couldn't help but smile. They weren't begging, they were putting in their hard work and used the money to better their lives and their entire community.

Looking at how overwhelmingly happy these women are, one would think that they live perfect lives. In reality they have suffered so much more than I could even imagine. Their optimism and ability to continue through suffering is inspiring to me and I wish I could share what they have shown me with the rest of the world."

— Rachel, Thomas Jefferson High School and LSZ10 Participant

*We have made every effort to list all 2009-10 LearnServe donors. Please let us know if we have omitted your name in error.

Donors (continued)

In support of projects in Paraguay (P) or Zambia (Z)

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Rushika and Harivadan Athia (Z) Michael and Zachariah Baker (Z) Ateya Ball and Jerome Lacy (Z)

Marion Ballard (Z)

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Bethesda Chevy Chase High School (P)

Rebecca Black and Gregory Polk (Z)

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Katherine and George Woodwell (Z)

In Memory of Charles Schwartz for projects in Paraguay

Pamela and Larry Glines Gwendolyn and Robert Mitchell Roberta Ricci Rock Creek Catering Benjamin Williams

"Mother Theresa was once asked how she determined where to begin in helping others when there was so much need and injustice in the world. Her response was, 'Do the thing in front of you.' Through LSI, MCPS students are encouraged to do just that – work with what is important for them to change. LSI provides young men and women with the tools to make change happin in a lasting way."

— Jerry D. Weast, Ed. D. Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools



Partners and In-Kind Contributions

The following organizations donated time, materials, and/or space:

George Washington University School of Business Giant Foods

Honest Tea

Kozusko Harris Vetter Wareh LLP

One World Education

Potomac School, VA

Red Velvet Bakery

School without Walls, DCPS

Sidwell Friends School

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Whole Foods

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LearnServe Zambia Partners

World Bicycle Relief Playpumps International Chikumbuso Malambo School, Monze David Kaunda High School, Lusaka

LearnServe Advisors (2009-10)*

Aletcia Whren, Ambria Archibald, Amy Wopat, Anne Love, Beth Groeneman, Bill Crittenberger, Catherine Sobieszczyk, Cynthia Alexander, Cynthia Montgomery, Deborah Wilchek, Gaby Grebski, Ginea Briggs, Heather Carias, Isabel Vazquez- Gil, James Cunningham, Jennifer Hoover, Joseph Presley, Julie Caccamise, Kathleen St. Villier, Kate Conrad, Kevin Moose, Lindsey Anderson, Paul Cammer, Rebecca Jones, Robert Cullen, Samantha Spinney, Stacy Yule, Takisha Reece, Tina Thuermer

*Faculty or staff at LearnServe partner schools.

LearnServe Alumni Leaders (2009-10)

Zora Barclay, Kristina Brant, Ayinde Cunningham, Salma Mohammed, Nevasha Noble, Mia Salans, Andrew Stephenson, Sam Taussig, Josh Weiner



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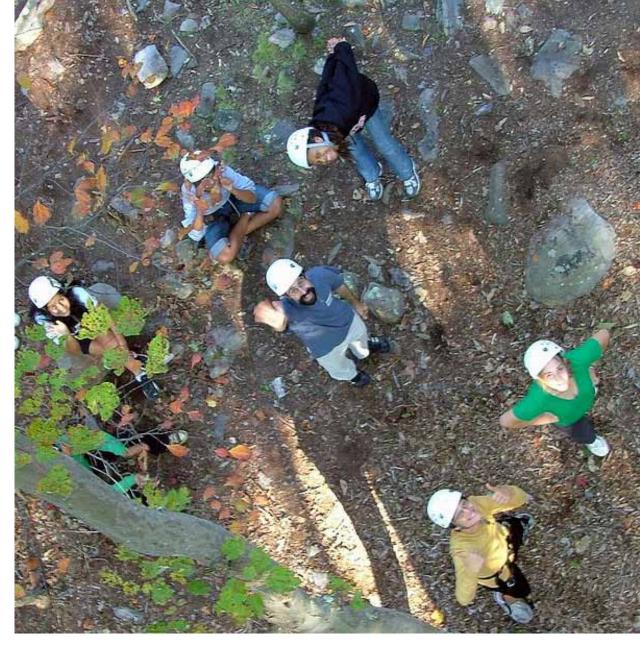
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Shayla Ball, Fellows Program Assistant Leader
Jeremy Young, Fellows Assistant Leader & LSZ Co-Leader
Kalpana Simhan, Fellows Assit Leader & Development Mgr.
Elizabeth Drew, LSZ Leader
Gaby Grebski, LSZ Leader
Alan Hunt, LSZ Co-Leader
Domingo Alonso, LSP Co-Leader

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P.O. Box 6203, Washington, DC 20015 or donate online at:

www.learn-serve.org/donate



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