



“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

November 2010

Dear Mr. Smith,

Ralph Waldo Emerson knew a little something about big potential.

Taking something as small and common as an acorn, the great writer and thinker saw the exponential influence that one seed of an oak tree could have on the future of the forest. And although Emerson was a proud lover of nature, his words have transcended far beyond their literal meaning.

Here at Riverbend Environmental Education Center, we have the daily privilege of planting tiny seeds in the mind of each child who comes through our big red barn. We plant seeds of compassion--that the natural world should be handled with care. We plant seeds of awareness--that one should always be conscious of her impact on the environment. We plant seeds of respect--that the forest is the home of animals, plants, and insects...and to treat it as if it were our own home. We plant seeds of responsibility--that when one visits natural habitats of other creatures, the only thing he should leave behind are his footprints. The seeds we plant today grow into strong attitudes, beliefs, and values that children carry with them into adulthood. And we believe if we plant enough seeds, we can shape the future with citizens who care about and protect the natural world around them.

As a supporter of Riverbend, you can play a vital role in helping us to Grow Greener Children. Donations made to Riverbend enable us to continue our school programs, nature clubs, camps, and our outreach programs into urban school settings. Your gift--no matter the size--greatly impacts the education, experience, and growth of young minds that are eager to explore and are filled with awe and wonder.

The holiday season is almost upon us, and as you reflect on all that you are thankful for, we encourage you to remember your own childhood experiences with nature--resting in the bough of a tree limb on a summer day, walking a wooded path under a starry sky, watching a colony of ants dutifully march up and down their hill. Whatever your memories entail, they likely influenced your attitudes toward the environment today.

If you would like to help create a strong environmental foundation--rooted in compassion, awareness, respect, and responsibility--for young people of Southeastern Pennsylvania, please consider a gift to Riverbend Environmental Education Center.

A thousand forests of potential await.

Warm regards,

Laurie Bachman, Executive Director

Beverly Galloway, Board Chair



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