



Dear Friends of Echo Hill Outdoor School,

2009 is shaping up to be an extraordinary year. The world is experiencing financial and environmental challenges like never before. The breadth of the work ahead for the world and our country is enormous.

At Echo Hill Outdoor School we continue to do the important work we have been doing since 1972. Regularly, thousands of school children attend our residential programs. Each day our teachers are leading students into the outdoor classrooms of Echo Hill Outdoor School. Our program is about being in nature; studying food chains, observing wildlife, investigating human history and challenging children to find out more about themselves and each other.

But it is not all business as usual here at the Outdoor School. There is a movement taking place across the country that says our children need to spend more time outside. Finally, getting students outside to learn about nature first hand has become a priority. It makes for a compelling story: the fact that in one of the biggest economic recessions of all time, we are experiencing unprecedented demand for our programs.

Demand for our programs is a good thing, but meeting that demand may be our greatest challenge to date. There are many worthy non-profits who are working hard to meet their challenges in this climate of recession. For all of us, support from donors like you is critically important. At Echo Hill Outdoor School, we believe our work to be most worthy and critical to the success of answering the call.

Now, more than ever, is the time to give your support to our program. Now is the time when our clients are seeking more of what we are so good at providing. Now is the time when each support dollar from you will have the highest impact. Your support gives us the best opportunity to provide all of our students with rich and genuine outdoor experiences. Not only do they deserve them—they need them.

Please give generously and help us meet the challenges of connecting our children to the world around them, the world outside.

Sincerely,

Peter P. Rice Jr.

Andrew R. McCown

Elizabeth Z. McCown

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United Way of Kent County Participating Agency

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