

LEAPING FROM TRAINED TO TRAINER



As a young scholar in the Marvell schools years ago, Eddie Taylor got an early inspiration in the Freedom School, which the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center started years ago with the Children's Defense Fund to develop learning skills and determination for children during idle summer vacations.

Later, he was an intern for the summer program, teaching reading and learning skills to the next generation.

Today, Eddie Taylor is back in the Marvell-Elaine schools, this time as an Ella Baker Trainer, one of a cadre of experts who coordinate the summer programs and train interns on delivering the components of the freedom schools. Ella Baker Trainers are chosen for their commitment and passion for children and their expertise in the educational programs, like the Grade-Level Learning program that is the chief emphasis of the Marvell-Elaine Freedom Schools. Ella Baker was a leader of the civil rights movement who organized educational programs for Dr. Martin Luther King that advanced civil rights.

When BGACDC started the summer schools in 1986 the single requirement was that every participant had to read at least 30 minutes a day. Today's Freedom School incorporates intense grade-level reading exercises in a daily comprehensive learning and health program. BGACDC partners with the Children's Defense Fund, the Marvell-Elaine schools and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.



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