

# NO SUMMER OFF FROM READING AND LEARNING

**Edlun Marshall, a Freedom School intern,  
reads to two of his young scholars.**



Learning to read is only half the goal. The rest is holding onto the ability and developing it into true literacy and a lifetime passion.

That has been the focus of Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center for 28 years, and this year BGACDC is expanding its reach.

In partnership with the Marvell-Elaine School District, BGACDC runs two summer programs that keep children engaged and excited about learning and reading. Studies have shown that over the course of summer children can lose two or three full months of reading abilities they gained during the previous school year. Only 17 percent of Arkansas students have summer learning programs.

BGACDC became part of the Freedom School program of the Children's Defense Fund in 1998. It strives to help youngsters not only retain their reading skills over the break but to love reading and generate self-esteem. In 2013, BGACDC expanded the activity by joining with the school district in implementing the Arkansas Campaign for Grade-level Reading.

"We've watched pretty proudly as the children in the summer programs become avid readers," said Mrs. Beatrice Shelby, executive director of BGACDC. "With the support of many individuals and organizations, we've been able to achieve incredible success and make an immense impact in the lives of our children."



To help BGACDC continue serving the community, please visit our website at [www.bgacdc.com](http://www.bgacdc.com), and click on "Donate."

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