



November 21, 2011

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Dear Friends,

This summer really flew by with lots of excitement. While Craig was enjoying a banner year with the Milwaukee Brewers' success, the kids and I were taking it all in. When we weren't at the ballpark we were getting to know the Urban Ecology Center, one of our favorite places, a little better. Our two youngest attended the EcoKids Summer Camp in July and had a blast. Every day they came home with a new story about the turtles or what they learned in camp, and I learned something, too. The Center is a great asset to our community, and I see the important impact it has on our kids and in our community.

I find it can be challenging to describe to my friends what the Urban Ecology Center is and does. This is not for lack of an answer, but rather for too *much* of an answer. One thing is for sure, we know it's good! How do we know? Our kids love it! We love it! The park is safe, school kids learn about the environment, their programs raise awareness about sustainable living and healthy eating, and people are talking about it. In fact, they are talking about it all over the nation, even all over the world. I hope that you will not only talk about it, but join us in supporting the Center's great work.

The Urban Ecology Center has provided our community with the tools and resources by which we can make it a vibrant place to live. Other communities have seen the results of the Urban Ecology Center model and have expressed interest in replicating it. What is happening *here* is something truly amazing. And the Center needs our support now more than ever to continue its important work in neighborhoods across the city effecting community-wide change.

It is a proud feeling to be part of something successful, just like we are so proud of Craig and the Brewers' winning season. But we know it is even more rewarding to be part of something that has great success in continually making our community a better place to live – for us, for our kids, and for generations to come. The Urban Ecology Center is an investment for a better community here today, and for everywhere tomorrow. We hope you join us in supporting this remarkable organization by sending your financial contribution today.

Many thanks from our family,

Michelle and Craig Counsell

**URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER**

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