

Partnership Opportunities

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Electronic Funds Transfer

We accept credit cards and electronic fund transfers directly from your account to ours. The process is fast and secure. Visit our website and follow the instructions on our donation page to get started today.

Prayer Support

We believe that our ability to do what we do comes from the grace of God, providing our team with wisdom in making decisions and guiding our daily activities. Praying for us daily would be a great encouragement to our team.

Our Newest Board Member

We are happy to introduce to you Donell Bullock, one of our more recent Board Member additions. Donell is currently a Manager for International Field Relations Ronald McDonald House Charities. Donell and his family have been long time supporters of the Family Empowerment Centers and his family regularly helps out with our yearly Family Fest event. Most recently they have also been joining us on a weekly basis for a time of worship and Bible study on Sunday evenings (with an hour commute each way).

We continue to have a handful of board seats open. If you are interested serving the Center in this way and would like a more detailed job description please e-mail me at scottm@familyempower.org and I will send one to you. As part of this process we will ask for a resume, and an interview with the Executive Director and one other board member.



Volunteering

We have numerous opportunities to volunteer within the Center from tutoring within the after-school program, to playing an instrument or singing within our AWANA or worship service, to helping do repairs around the Center, to administrative help. If you think you might have time to serve the Center and those who participate in our programs on a regular or one-time basis give us a call and let us know your area of interest.



Your financial support helps us to operate the programs that impact the lives of at risk children and families facing difficult situations rooted in poverty. Please consider an end of the year gift to our organization and partner in making a difference.

1533 West Devon Ave.
Chicago, IL 60660
773-262-0760

www.familyempower.org

www.donateyourboat.org



The Official Newsletter
of the
Family Empowerment
Centers

Holiday Issue 2012

Thankful for the opportunity to love our neighbors...

*Group shot of some of our
AWANA workers.*

*Top row Left to right—
Will, Damaris,
Daniella, Hope.*

*Bottom row left to right—
Carrie and Elisabeth
(she's a Cubbie)*



There are many things that we are thankful for here at the Center as we have the opportunity to carry out the mission of glorifying God and loving our neighbors by strengthening young urban families in Christ as we create real opportunities of empowerment and care for the needs of those facing greater challenges in urban America.

We are also grateful for the stories of real people experiencing Christ as we live out his mission, such as Daniella's as she writes:

"I have personally enjoyed the 12 week Bible study that took place at Family Empowerment Center. Although I came in at week #4, I feel that it has done a lot for me. I felt comfortable with everyone who was a part of the group. Each week I learned something new and was able to ask questions when I felt uncertain. We also shared our personal stories with everyone. It was optional, and I must admit that at times I would hesitate to do so. But when I did open up, I felt relieved. Everyone's comments, advice, and support were greatly appreciated. I made strong connections with several people involved in this center over the last couple of months. Sadly we had our last Bible lesson this past week but I know that there's still so much for me to learn and plenty of people in this center who will gladly keep helping me out in this area. Discovering this place made a big difference in my life. I try to involve myself here as much as I can. I am just extremely happy to have walked in at a time when I felt completely lost."

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Staff Contacts

F. Scott Manke
Executive Director
scottm@familyempower.org

Rob DeLano
Missions Coordinator &
Community Liaison
rob@familyempower.org

Carrie Waterman
Children's Teacher
carrie@familyempower.org

Damaris Cami
Children's Christian Ed
Coordinator
damaris@familyempower.org

Susan DeLano
Development & Donor
Care
susan@familyempower.org

Schedule of Events

Sunday Service
Sunday 6:00-7:30pm

ESL
Tuesday & Thursday
6:30-8:30pm

**S.A.Y. Yes! Afterschool
Program**
Monday-Thursday
3:00-6:00pm
Friday 3:00-4:30pm

Holiday Pot Luck Dinner
Sunday December 9th
5:00-7:00pm

S.A.Y. Yes! Afterschool Program...Progress, Sweet Progress!

A few months ago we kicked off our afterschool program for the year. And since the very beginning, we have seen the hand of God working actively through both the kids and the staff. So, each month we try to focus in on a theme. Month #1 just so happened to be “choices.” We stressed the importance of relying on God to give us the guidance we need in order to make good choices. Currently we are hitting on the theme of “Thankfulness.” We are seeing the Lord already at work through our lessons and biblical teaching about giving thanks. But, I want to share an awesome experience I had with a kid about a week ago.

Roberto is a kid that the Lord has dropped into my life for a significant reason. It is moments like the one I am about to share that show me the Lord’s intent to work in Roberto’s heart during his time in the afterschool program. Last week Roberto walked into the Center with an extra spark in his step. I went over to give him a high five and asked him to give me the rundown from his day at school. He told me, “Will, my day was great! I prayed to God and he answered my prayer.” I smiled and asked him how so. He replied something like this, “Well, I asked God to give me wisdom today. During school a kid was bullying a smaller kid and the Lord told me what to say. I told the bully that he wasn’t being very loving and that God would not be happy with his actions. The bully walked away and I got to say nice things to make the little kid feel better. Remember when we talked about James 1:5? Well it worked!”

This simple, little story that Roberto shared encouraged me so much so that I almost dropped a few tears. God is at work in these kid’s hearts. Sometimes we may not see immediate fruit and this is evident from this experience. Roberto took lessons from a few months ago, internalized the truths from them, and applied them into his life. Praise be to God. He is faithful and He is working in the lives of those we serve at the Family Empowerment Centers.



These women are having a lot of fun taking part in the Center. Maybe a little bit too much fun :-)

“Remember when we talked about James 1:5? Well it worked!”

Roberto, Age 11

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Faces of the Center



But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Luke 18:16

ESL Thanksgiving Exercise

November 20, 2012

Dear Family Empowerment Center Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved with the Center. I really have great experiences and great time with the activities with all the staff. Thank you so much for everything you do for me and my children. Happy thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Sarai

