

Mission to Chicago: Serve, Learn, Grow!!!

Since the opening of our Center four years ago we have been growing our hosting of Short Term Mission Trips to Chicago. We believe that it is as important for us to have the help of teams to serve our community as it is important for the teams that come into Chicago to have a transformative experience.

Our trips are designed in such a way that students are challenged in their faith through times of training to live missionally. They are also exposed to various ethnic foods creating a diverse cultural experience and take part in an immersion into a predominately Muslim Indian and Pakistani community a mile from the Center. Various forms of evangelism are experienced along with service projects that help to improve our community, as well as, enhance our influence in the community. Teams also help us run soccer camps for kids in the community that resemble a VBS and as they serve the children we (the adult members of our community of faith) interact with the adults that come out to watch. We even host a barbecue for all the families in the middle of the week (during our last barbecue we cooked 120 hamburgers, 100 hot dogs and about 45 brats—and none of the kids got sick while playing soccer).

We are hosting 2 more teams this summer still so pray with us that our impact on them and the community brings glory to God!!



Team of students from West Lafayette finishing up their pancake breakfast. One of the ways we create an optimal mission experience for the students is by serving them well and providing them solid meals, including different ethnic meals. (Cuban, Ethiopian, Thai, Indian, and traditional American barbecue.)



(Top Photo) Some of the students loving on the children of our community during the Bible Study time of the soccer camp we run. (Middle Photo) Soccer Camp has become a staple event that most of the mission teams that join us run while they are with us. (Bottom Photo) Students helping with an Urban Community Garden during one of their service periods.



Some of the students of Eagle Alliance Church praying for one another as part of the training they received while serving Family Empowerment this past June for a week



Now that's a good hot dog!!



Family Fest was a great success again this year thanks to the many volunteers that came to serve with us including Mary and her daughter from Blanchard Alliance

Mission to Chicago: A Family Mission Experience

Keith and Jennifer Smith contacted me this past spring and asked if there might be any opportunity to come up and serve us in Chicago through a short term mission experience as a family. God had been speaking to them about the possibility of a call to missions, but they were not sure how their children would be able to handle that type of living on a long term basis and wanted to test the waters. As a “family” centered organization we were excited to serve them with a missions experience that would help them further discern God’s voice in their lives. They joined us for 12 days.

The Smiths helped us to serve more than 50 people who participated in short term mission trips to Chicago by helping to prepare meals, set up our facilities for different activities, running errands for supplies, handing out water bottles as a service to our neighbors in the community, and numerous other ways. Keith also was able to complete some much needed plumbing work for us (he is a licensed plumber in Indiana).

As we talked the morning they departed it was clear that God had answered their questions regarding how their children would handle a missional lifestyle. They served for 12 straight days, 13 hours a day and hardly showed any signs of becoming tired. They had such an awesome experience that they want to come for a month or two next summer to serve again. Praise God!! Thank You Keith, Jennifer and kids!!!



During our training sessions we talk about the diversity of urban communities, the command of God to love your neighbor, how to practically do that through acts of mercy and service, issues that are unique to urban communities, poverty, and in partnership with the South Asian Friendship Center, students have an immersion experience into the Muslim community and when possible visit a mosque (enhancing their ability to share their faith with Muslims).



Greg (One of the leaders from West Lafayette) was working on his strength and endurance while serving in the garden by giving Matthew (turning 3) rides throughout the garden as he delivered wood chips to the students who were spreading them

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We accept credit cards and electronic fund transfers directly from your account to ours. The process is fast and secure. When you use our EFT process you can track and manage all your giving to our organization quickly. 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 and a powerful tool in our goals of glorifying God and loving our neighbors well. Send us a note letting us know of your commitment to us in prayer.

Saturday, August 21

Gametime: 6:00 pm

Gates Open: 4:00 pm



vs.



- Dave The Horn Guy
- FIREWORKS
- Autograph Session pre-game presented by Edy's Ice Cream
- Run The Bases post-game

SAVE THE DATE

Third Annual Friend Raising Event
Barbecue at 4:00
Game at 6:00

Individual Tickets \$30.00
Sponsor a Table \$300.00
(Deadline to purchase tickets or tables is July 30)

Call today or check on-line for other
important details

Financial Partnerships Needed!

The Family Empowerment Center operates on a faith basis. That is no less true when it comes to our financial situation. We generally operate on a 3 to 4 week cash basis with a monthly budget of just over \$20,000. Of that monthly budget only about 1/2 can be counted on through regular individual giving. In more than 4 years of operations God has faithfully met our needs and we anticipate that God will continue to do so. As we wait upon the Lord for the provision of daily bread we also believe our stewardship is essential and we are continually addressing standards that improve our stewardship. One such way is by adjusting our accounting from a calendar year to a July 1 fiscal year. Another way is through our telling the story of what God is doing with friends and neighbors, asking them to pray about being involved and making a regular financial commitment to FECC. If you believe in what God is doing here then please give me (Scott) a call and lets talk about what a regular financial commitment would look like for your household.

Employment Opportunities

Children’s Director

The Children’s Director will be responsible for the oversight and implementation of the SAY Yes after school program, AWANA, and Sunday school during the school year and then participate in summer programming for the Center and in areas that have a focus on elementary age children. It will include working with a team to determine curriculum, handling the administration of the programs, monitoring program effectiveness and child progress, recruiting and monitoring volunteers, and fund raising and development. This position is 26 hours a week part-time for the first year. Expansion and funding of the programs could create an opportunity for this position to become full-time after the first year.

Missionaries

We are looking for individuals or couples who want to join our team as missionaries to Urban America. Job Descriptions will vary but they will be in line with the strategic growth we believe God is calling us to as an organization. For more information on this program you can contact Scott Manke at scottm@familyempower.org.

Administrative Assistant

The Administrative Assistant will report directly to the Executive Director and be responsible for three very specific areas within Family Empowerment Centers. First, managing our Donor Software and making sure that it is utilized to its greatest potential and making sure that staff and interns are capable of utilizing it effectively. Second, he/she will be responsible for communications within our organization as well as with donors. This will include newsletters, web page updates, correspondence with donors, program flyer development, and keeping a calendar of events. He/she will work with the Executive Director and other team members to make sure that communication between team members, programs, community members and donors is prompt, clear, and accurate. Third, he/she will be responsible for information management making sure that forms, photos, and other materials are well organized and easily accessible. The Administrative Assistant will answer phones, greet clients, and perform other tasks as assigned. This position is 25 hours a week part-time for the first year and will expand in the future to be a full-time position.



The Official Newsletter of Family Empowerment Centers of Chicago

Summer 2010

Seasons of Change

Although it would be nice if some things were to last forever it is the seasons of life that grow and change us. For those in Christ that is a great thing as we draw closer to living the life that God desires of us in our creation. Organizations also go through seasons of change and we are in the middle of one now as we begin to make a transitional leap in our growth to our next level of effectiveness.

Tom and Karin are also in the midst of a change as they have learned much over their tenure with us about their strengths and have made a decision this spring that they too need to make a change and pursue areas of strength in their lives that God has been bringing forth. Although their transition brings with it loss, it also brings with it the great opportunity within the story of God to expand the kingdom as we as Christians and Christian organizations draw closer to that perfect plan for our lives which only happens over time. We are thankful for all they have brought to our organization and now ask that you support them in prayer, with us, over the next few months.

In addition to the new hire of a Children’s Director and Administrative Assistant in the next few months, we will be adding a third day to our after school program by merging our AWANA program with it. We have hired Bruce Jackson, an urban professional for more than 30 years in urban churches and non-profits, on a part time basis to help with our transitional leap. Rob will be transitioning to regular status as a missionary with us who will now have a primary role of community liaison and mission team coordinator. We believe these and other changes will help us bring greater glory to God in the year to come so stayed tuned to updates and pray with us.!



Karin spending time with a former teacher of Samuel’s (who lives in the Rogers Park neighborhood) during Family Fest.

“We are deeply passionate about glorifying God by holistically loving young urban families in Christ”



Tom has been the voice of our pinewood derby for four years now

Family Fest Wrap Up



Donald (volunteer from our neighborhood who has benefitted from our efforts) was enjoying a hot dog break as kids line up for the inflatable obstacle course. A 112 children also made pinewood derby cars and raced them during the day!!!

Glory to God!! That sums up this years Family Fest. As the rain fell in the morning we all wondered if God would once again allow the sky to clear for our 7th annual Family Fest and we were all amazed as the rain stopped at 1:00 our scheduled start time, the sun came out, and it remained clear until the end of the event when it began to rain again. We had a record 112 kids make cars, gave away over 1000 hot dogs, a full park despite the early rain and an afternoon full of great conversations and opportunities to love our neighbors with the love of Christ. Peace was present as our diverse community gathered for the days events. We had many of our faithful supporters serve with us that day - Thank You!!

Staff Contacts

F. Scott Manke
Executive Director
scottm@familyempower.org

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

“Living life with our neighbors in ways no one else does so that Christ is glorified, they feel valued and accepted, and their lives take on new meaning and purpose”

Schedule of Events

- **Worship Service**
Sunday at 6:00pm
- **Summer Camps**
First 2 Weeks of August
- **Mission Service Teams**
First 2 Weeks of August
- **Kane County Cougars Friend Raising Event**
August 21st 4:00pm
- **Back to School Backpack Giveaway**
Date To Be Announced
- **SAY Yes After School Program**
Tuesday—Thursdays Beginning in September