

Alliance Life Magazine Article

We had an opportunity recently to submit an article to the Alliance Life Magazine and it is in the April edition. In the article we share some stories from the Center, talk about the activities of the Center, and point out some of the challenges that urban work encounters.

To read the whole article visit the Alliance Life website at the following link (www.alliancelife.org) and look for the Article written by Scott Manke titled "No Matter the Cost."



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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.

Changes in Family Fest 2011

This years Family Fest is going through some changes! Due to some construction at the local park where we have held Family Fest in the past, we are forced to move it into the neighborhood and we are excited to make this years Fest a Block Party.

It will take place on Bosworth Avenue which is perpendicular to our Center on Devon Ave. This location brings it closer to the Center and with give us great visibility in the community.

The date is also changing and rather than the 2nd Saturday in June, we will be hosting the event on June 25th. Along with the change in location and date we will be adding activities for kids and adults as we compensate for the loss of the playground where we had it in the past.

We can use your financial partnership in this event as it is sure to have increased costs. If you would like to contribute to this event please indicate that on your donation.

Post Close Spots for the 2011 Chicago Marathon Still Available

We have a limited number of post close marathon spots still available for this years Chicago Marathon. Help us raise funds for the Center by encouraging runners that you know to consider running this years marathon for our team. Visit our newly redesigned website for more information.



www.familyempower.org

Mailing Address

1533 West Devon Ave.
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www.donateyourboat.org



April 2011

New Websites Up and Running

We are excited to announce that both of our websites have been recently redesigned and updated with new information. Through a generous donation that was earmarked for the redesign of our www.familyempower.org and a grant we received to improve our organizational infrastructure, we have also redesigned and optimized our www.donateyourboat.org website.

We have added a number of new features to the FEC website such as a Directors Blog and we merged our Team Family Empowerment web page into our new FEC website. Our hope is that through this redesign we will be able to more efficiently bring you updates and news about what is happening at the Center.

Our redesign of the Donate Your Boat website has also been done in such a way that it is easier to update and remains one of the simplest and most appealing of donate your boat websites on the internet. We have also invested in optimizing the website and a Facebook page for Donate Your Boat so that our internet leads will increase creating greater potential revenue for FEC.

Take some time this week to visit our sites and let us know your thoughts on the updates.

Face of the Week — New on the Web

The work of Family Empowerment Centers is as diverse as the people we serve and one way we invite you into this diverse world through our "Face of the Week" found on our new website redesign. Each post will share a bit of information about the person and their touch with the Center. Here is a glimpse of one of our "Face of the week" posts.



Eric is a tutor and custodian at our Family Empowerment Centers (made possible through a youth advocacy partnership). Eric was born in Chicago and at the age of 17, Eric is a high school student at Prologue. Eric has 2 baby brothers and they live with their mother. As part of Eric's involvement at FEC as a tutor and custodian, he is also mentored and coached in life skills.

Eric is a young man who desires to do what is right. "Doing the right thing is hard but I want to be a good role model for my brothers and to graduate from high school. I need help to stay focused and close to God!" This is what Eric said! A genuine desire, may the Lord give us the grace to be good mentors to him as he reaches to achieve his dream to be an Automotive Engineer.

Staff Contacts

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"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

Amiga's Mom's Group
(English/Spanish Alternate Weeks) Wednesday's 9:15-11:45am

Family Fest Block Party
June 25th

Car Building
June 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23



Conversation Night in ESL

Another Service/Mission Season is Upon Us, by Rob Delano

The weather is finally warming up here in Chicago and that means that we are headed into another season of opportunities to engage members of the Rogers Park Community out in our neighborhood. We are thrilled to have seven teams lined up to serve with us over a period of six weeks this summer. Our teams will be engaged in a combination of outreach activities and service projects as they come to assist us in our efforts to see this corner of Chicago transformed and changed.



I am not going to even comment!

Preparing for this summer has not been the straight ahead process that we have had in past years. The local park began renovations on its playground equipment which will leave this area of the park closed until late July, so we have had to adjust the date and place of our annual Family Fest party. Also, the park has closed the field that we typically use for summer evening soccer camps until mid August so it can be re-seeded.

All of this certainly caught us by surprise, but God has already begun to guide us through these difficulties. With the help of our Alderman's office, Family Fest will be a block party at the end of June when our first team will be in town to work with us. It is amazing to see how God can accomplish His purposes through circumstances such as

these. Not only do we have lots of help for the week of Family Fest, but we also have renewed our relationship with the Alderman's office and now will have Family Fest staged in a location that will be much more visible to the community around us. We also trust that as we look to other venues to hold sports camps this summer, that God will guide us where He wills us to reach out to new people that may not have found a camp held in the park across the street from us.

Please pray that we will have clear discernment of where God would have us go with various activities this summer, and also that He will continue to bless our relationship with our Alderman's office and the park district as we try to find new ways to bless our community. Also pray that God will be preparing the teams that are coming to serve for the work that He has for them and also for the ways that they will encounter our Lord as they serve Him here in Chicago. Lastly, pray that we are prepared to host more teams in a summer than we have ever had in past years. We know that God is not bringing these teams here by mere coincidence, so we are excited to see what He has in store for us, and for Rogers Park, this summer.

“THE KIDS WERE SO MUCH FUN”...MY ONLY QUESTION IS WHICH ONE IS THE KID?”



Crown College Service Team—Spring Break

What a great joy it was to have a team of students come from Crown College during their spring break to serve the Center, the families of the community and God.

things.

The team also served in our S.A.Y. Yes after school program by tutoring children and doing organized activities with them. And on Tuesday evening we held a conversation night with our ESL students.

When we asked them about the highlights of the week it was not startling to hear them talk about “how much they loved the kids” which is common among all the teams that come here and serve. They also enjoyed the food and their overall experience with our staff and the Centers activities.

We had some internal projects that the team worked on in the mornings, including reorganizing our “dungeon.” Not really a dungeon but a wet basement that accumulates a lot of stuff, so much stuff that it was getting hard to find



ESL Student Profile

Isael Amador is from Mexico. He moved to Chicago in 2000 and came here for more opportunities. He loves Chicago. He is very outgoing, so he learned English by talking with his co-workers and people that he met.

Isael attends the Tuesday night ESL class and feels that the Family Empowerment Center is a really good place to come. His favorite part of the program is the relationships that he has with the teachers. He says that they are so nice and friendly and he enjoys the conversations he is able to have. In fact, he is even starting to bring a

couple friends and family members along with him because he enjoys the program so much.



Student Volunteer Highlight

Sarah Goldman is a Moody Bible Institute student and currently volunteering at our Family Empowerment Center.

Sarah grew up in Galesburg, Michigan and has 3 siblings. She has been serving the Center every Wednesday, since August 2010 as a tutor for the S.A.Y Yes and AWANA programs. It has been a blessing for us to be part of Sarah's journey as God leads her on.

easy to over look the everyday blesses our Lord pours on us.

With a smile on her face Sarah said “I have learned to minister to Children from a relational stand point. This has helped me to look pass all the stereotypes laid on the children. I am growing to love people where they are!”

May the Lord be blessed for we are being changed everyday to be more like Jesus.



“I AM GROWING TO LOVE PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE!”

Being part of what God is doing here at Family Empowerment Center, Sarah confesses that she has learned a lot. “A lot of the children do not have simple things I had when I was growing up. I had grown to take things for granted, for example some of the children come from broken homes where they are not well taken care of.” Sarah confessed. It is

