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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 and a powerful tool in our goals of glorifying God and loving our neighbors as well. Send us a note letting us know of your commitment to us, in prayer.

90% of ESL Students Improve Standardized Test Scores

It is exciting to know that the work we put into creating effective programs and services pays off with clear results. At the beginning of each semester new students in our English as a Second Language Classes are given an entry exam to determine skill level and placement in one of the four levels of ESL we offer. At the end of the semester they are tested again to determine their progress. This past fall 90% of our students increased their test scores which shows that the majority of the students have improved their English language abilities. The remainder of the students scored positively but did not show improvement. Praise God for a great team of teachers from Moody Bible Institute and the leadership of Tanya Hirschy.

Holiday Outreaches are a Great Success

We were able to brighten the holidays of more than 100 individuals and families through our outreach activities during the holidays. We distributed more than 120 gift bags to neighbors in the community, hosted more than 30 families to receive Angel Tree holiday gifts, provided more than 35 families food baskets, and distributed numerous other gifts in non-programmatic interactions throughout the month of December. Thank you Blanchard Alliance, Bloomingdale Alliance, North Suburban Church and Children's Hunger Fund.



Scott speaks to more than 25 people from Bloomingdale Alliance church who came to serve our neighbors

\$30,000 Match Grant Update—Your Help is Needed!!

In late November we announced a \$30,000 Matching Grant opportunity. We have received just over \$13,000 in giving since then and have until January 31st to reach our \$30,000 goal. One time gifts of \$300 or more or a yearly pledge of \$25 or more a month will meet the grant requirements. We can only care for the needs of those facing greater challenges in our urban neighborhood if we stay on budget. So please prayerfully consider your part in this God work.



Sharing Christmas gifts with our neighbors. "Oh the Joy it brings"

A Place Where People Find Acceptance and Hope

Throughout the year we have many opportunities to care for and encourage those who live primarily in the street. During the winter months those opportunities increase as we allow for these friends and neighbors to warm up and clean up at the Center often sharing some hot soup with them. They talk often of their parents or children reminding me that despite their situation they have a longing for family. We talk about spiritual things, pray together, and offer encouragement when we can. Pray if you will for Carl, Tina, Jeff, Rick, and Alex.



Jeff having some tea to warm up.

Reaching Forward to What Lies Ahead



The Smith family served last year in response to a possible call from God to missions. They are coming to serve for 2 full months this year. Six weeks longer than last!!

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:13b-14

When Natalie and I began this venture 9 years ago we had published in one of our newsletters two quotes that I recently found and reread.

"I am equally convinced that we can make a big difference. Whether our efforts will feed all the hungry or heal all the sick is not the issue. It is always better to do something than to do nothing...God calls us to act; the rest is in His hands." (Billy Graham, Storm Warning)

"We need more troops who are willing to give up their personal ambitions and maybe even risk their lives by going into our inner cities—the frontlines. We need more troops on the supply lines offering their love and volunteering their time and skills to those at the front. And we need more support from the home front—concerned Christians providing prayer support and making sure that the emotional

and physical needs of those in the trenches are being met." (John Perkins, Restoring at risk Communities)

The goal is before us and we are expecting this next year to be a year in which we experience greater growth and effectiveness. We can not experience this growth unless as John Perkins suggest we have more people "risk their lives" by joining us in the city and "supporting" from the home front through prayer and financial giving. We are revamping our website www.familyempower.org and we will have a lot of new and up to date information on the site. Please take the time to visit the site in the next few weeks, pray for us and consider "doing something" to partner with us and see how God moves through your faith this next year. Remember, "God calls us to act; the rest is in His hands."

Chicago Marathon - Registration Opening February 1

"Yes there may be snow on the ground still, and the actual race date is not until October, but registration opens February 1st and will close in mid-March."

We had an incredible journey last year in putting together "Team Family Empowerment." We had more than 30 people join the team and we raised more than \$13,000 towards the regular programs we run at the Center. Well, in the blink of an eye the 2011 Marathon season is upon us. Yes there may be snow on the ground still, and the actual race date is not until October, but registration opens February 1st and will close in mid-March.

In preparation to gather our 2011 team we have been revamping our website, developing new brochures, and distributing posters to local organizations and churches. Our goal this year is to double our team and the money raised last year. That will take a lot of promotion from friends like you speaking to people you know that enjoy running, and promoting our team in your circles of influence.

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
- **SAY Yes After School Program**
Tuesday—Thursdays
3:00-5:45pm
- **AWANA**
Wednesday 4:00-5:45pm
- **Amiga's Mom's Group**
(English/Spanish Alternate Weeks)
Wednesday's 9:15-11:45am
- **ESL Group**
Tuesdays 6:30-8:30

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