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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 web-site 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.

Organizational & Financial Updates By Scott Manke

What an exciting time of year as we get back into a fall schedule, children are back in school, and the seasons begin to change once again. As you know by now we have been busily expanding some of our programs and activities at the Center and had a very active summer of sports camps, community events, and hosting of Envision teams. While all that was happening, we have been active internally as well, putting into place better procedures and practices, further solidifying our organizational structure so that we can better serve the community.

We just completed the requirements of a Grant we received through YSCEP (Youth Services Capacity Enhancement Program) and in our final interview we were told that we had done a fabulous job in managing the activity funds received from the grant. We were also told that we would be considered in the future for further grants should they become available and that we can count on a solid referral from them in the future.

We have also been looking at our financial practices. At our May Board of Directors meeting, we made the decision to become ECFA accredited. ECFA stands for Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. They provide accreditation to leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, fundraising and board governance. This process required a review of our current practices, which were needed to be in alignment with their criteria. Thank God we were already in line with most of the criteria. It also required a review of our financial activity by an independent accountant or accounting firm. We are about 90% of the way through the process and hope to announce our accreditation with them by year's end.



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www.familyempower.org

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The Official Newsletter
of the
Family Empowerment
Centers

October 2011

S.A.Y Yes After School Program By Malvin Pambuka

It is with great joy that we present our SAY Yes family for 2011—2012. This year we have 25 beautiful SAY Yes students. We are excited about our vision for this semester of the SAY Yes and AWANA program. Our vision is to see our students grow emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually. We desire to nurture this young generation as a community. We desire to join hands with the parent, as together we can effectively raise a future generation of adults who will pass down a pure, integrity-filled and self-less lifestyle to other future children.

We added two more hands to the SAY Yes staff team, Carrie Waterman and Jonathan Morgan. Our doors opened on the 20th of September. On the 3rd of October we progressed to a 5 day per week program. 2011-2012 will be filled with adventure. We are ready to love and teach.



AWANA 2011—2012 By Malvin Pambuka

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your hearts. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

This is the command our Lord gave us concerning our children. AWANA is a tool we use to effectively reach the standard set for us by our King. Every Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:45pm we have a fun-filled, heart to heart time of worship and bible study. The ages of the children range from 3 to 12.

It has been a blessing to be a part of what God is doing in AWANA. Please join us in prayer as we share the good news to our children without adding or removing anything, but relevantly ministering to them according to their capacity. It has been two weeks since SAY Yes re-opened. Our hearts are full of great expectations of a generation that will not be ashamed to be known as a passionate Christ follower.



Staff Contacts

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Schedule of Events

ESL

*Tuesday & Thursday's
6:30-8:30pm*

Afterschool

*Monday-Friday's
2:30-5:45pm*

Marathon Photo Gallery



The Smith's came up from Indiana to help support the Center and cheer on its runners.



Future Runner's—Kids and youth from Indiana, the Center and Blanchard Alliance Church.



Ben McKeivitt, runner #39999, ran for Team Family Empower for the 1st time this year. Check out his awesome testimony at <http://www.familyempower.org/face-of-the-week>

2011 Marathon Moments By Carrie Waterman

We had a great time at the Chicago Marathon 2011. 16 of our runners got out there to run their hearts out in 80 degree heat! Our runners came from WI, MI, CO, WA, and of course IL to run for us!! They ran times between 3:31 and 5:58, although just finishing is an accomplishment in itself. But most importantly, they ran for a cause that they believed in enough to spend hours not only training for their run, but also in fundraising to get others behind their cause. Our runners were supported by 40 volunteers, consisting those from Family Empowerment's church, FEC staff members, friends of FEC, and youth from Blanchard Road Alliance of Wheaton, IL.

Thanks to all of you for the giving of your time and for those that prayed for this event and our runners along the way. I've already heard back from a number of the runners saying: "It was a lot of fun. Sign me up for next year!" "I think the marathon went well! I'm very happy I was able to run for Family Empowerment." "I will always run through you guys if I run in the future. I just decided I wanted to do this and it has been good to me so far." It's great to have such committed donors, supporters, and runners willing to run 26.2 miles to raise funds for our cause. Time to start planning for next year! Would you consider participating in this exhilarating experience with us? Check out our website for up and coming details: <http://www.familyempower.org/marathon>.



Fall: ESL Classes are Underway By Rob DeLano

Here at Family Empowerment Centers we are thrilled that another year of English as a second language (ESL) classes has begun. We have been blessed with enough teachers from Moody Bible Institute's TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program to expand our ESL program from one night per week to two nights per week. This partnership with Moody has been mutually beneficial as the teachers are getting much needed hands-on teaching practice while our students are being taught by professionally trained teachers.

We truly value our ESL program here at Family Empowerment Centers because it has allowed us to provide a much needed service to our multi-ethnic community here in Rogers Park. One reason that we are excited to be able to provide this opportunity is that we are in a time when work is very difficult to find. It is more and more essential that people exhibit the ability to speak English clearly to compete for employment opportunities and to hold on to jobs that they have. So far this year, we have students that range the globe from the Eastern European countries of Georgia and Moldova, to the African nation of Somalia, and all the way to the Central and South American countries of Guatemala and Peru. Please continue to pray for this program as we hope to continue to see our class sizes grow.

We are all smiles at S.A.Y. Yes



ESL Photo Gallery



In Sung works with the advanced class on a Thursday evening.



Tia teaching the second hour of the beginners class.



Hi...Hola....Salut...Bueno... Kon'nichiwa...sai tahay