

Summer Envision Interns & Updates



Heidi (1 month internship) left Photo, Brooke (2 month internship below left in red), Janice (1 month internship above with GAP shirt) with us from Puerto Rico, and our Envision team from Wisconsin (above)



This summer we hosted 7 teams totaling over 100 youth and adults who came from across the U.S. to serve in the inner city. They provided us with over 3000 volunteer hours this summer and we were able to train them in urban cultural awareness, how to love people well who are different from us and how to depend on God in their daily life journey both in the city and back at home.

God at work in challenging situations

During my (Ruth Amoh) time serving along side the summer camp, I was able to spend some time with Eddy. Eddy is one of the toughest kids in our program. He's very bright but has such a great amount of energy that it seems to always get him into trouble. Eddy recently found out that I was pregnant and was very excited for me. As most of the children in our program did, he asked what the gender was and if I was married? I explained to him that the other leader, Mr. Charles is my husband and that I did not know the gender of the baby yet.

One day Eddy's behavior warranted that I had to put him in a time-out. He sat on the chair on the side of the room and while I stood about a foot away chaperoning the other students, he reached over to me and placed his hand on my shoulder and asked me if he could pray for me and my baby. I was so blessed by his little prayer.

I was reminded that even though a child is loud and rambunctious, God is still moving in their hearts. Through our VBS classes and the Holy Spirit, he was still able to somehow capture the gospel. What a blessing it was to work with him!



Young girl praying during soccer camp!

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Carol Nevin

Family Empowerment Centers Newsletter

September 1, 2016



Wow, have we been busy!! *By Scott Manke, Director*

If you are wondering why you have not received a newsletter since the Spring, it is simply because we have been running on all cylinders around here. As a matter of fact my mother asked me the other day "Scott, why haven't I seen a newsletter or update recently." You know when your mother starts asking, you'd better get busy!

One of my personal struggles is walking away from the action of what we are doing in the day to day, to sit down and craft communications for you, our supporters. Our staff are often pushing to the limits of their capacity as well. So I would like to ask for your grace as we catch up in our communication during this pause between our summer and fall programming.

Your support financially, in prayer, and in service is valuable to us. We work hard to maximize our ability to make sure your resources and our time is vested in real service, with real people, with real needs.

We moved quickly from our busy spring into a very busy summer. Throughout the remainder of this Newsletter you will be caught up on what has been going on here at the Center. In addition to the update, let me call your attention to 2 fund raising events we are hosting this October to connect with you and other supporters. We are hosting a breakfast on October 8th at 9:00am at the Lakeview Center located in Gilson Park, Wilmette & a dinner on October 28th at 6:30pm at the Wellspring Alliance Church in Wheaton. Our hope is to update you further and more personally on this past year's activities and to share with you our expectations for the future. We would love to have you attend one of these events so please let us know which one will fit for you by contacting Anna at 773-262-0760 to RSVP or send her an e-mail at anna@familyempower.org

A year of feeding the hungry

In addition to the regular programs we offer throughout the year, we also find ourselves in positions to feed the hungry. We served over 3600 meals this summer to children in our programs and more than 5000 meals during the after school program. We also passed out more than 4000lbs of frozen chicken this year and provided 200 households a holiday meal basket that included a ham.

If you are around on a regular basis you will also see that just about everyday we offer soup, sandwiches, or snacks to our local homeless and semi homeless neighbors as they know where to turn for help.



"Your support financially, in prayer, and in service is valuable to us, we work hard to maximize our ability to make sure as much of that resource and our time is vested in real service, with real people, with real needs."

Fall Fundraising Goal

As we move into the fall season we are looking to raise \$50,000 to fill in the gaps we experience throughout the year when income dips and our services are in jeopardy of being shortened or cut. We creatively fund our activities but need to raise \$160,000 a year through individual donors. Quite honestly we fall short of that number regularly. God always seems to meet those needs in some way or another, which keeps us humble and turning towards Him. Sometimes He provides through a boat that is donated or a supporter who is moved to give above and beyond what is normal support. We wonder how God will do it this year and wonder if you will be a part. *Would you consider helping us reach that goal through a one time or monthly contribution?*



We served 3600 meals to children this summer!

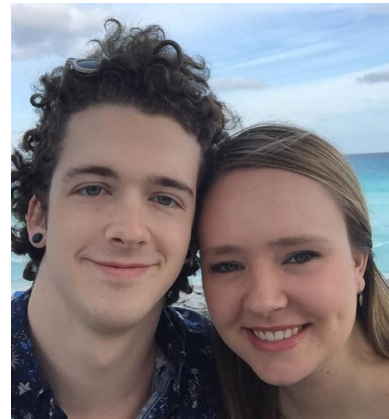
Comings and Goings

Brandie has headed home.

For the past three years Brandie has been serving with us as our ESL Director and fulfilling her requirements to be a missionary with the Christian & Missionary Alliance. As she completed her requirements she and Alex, whom she met and married while with us, felt like it would be good to spend time with their family as they determine the next steps in God's call for them to go overseas. Brandie really established our ESL program during her tenure here, cared well for the families of the neighborhood and had brought tremendous joy to many in the community. Please Continue to pray for them as they come to your mind and discern next steps.



Welcome Anna Everheart



Anna is our new ESL Director and Financial Assistant. Anna has worked with our ESL program under Brandie's leadership for the past 2 years as a Moody Bible Institute student and has already been dreaming of some new initiatives for the program to increase attendance and improve on where Brandie has left off (not easy to do). Anna is also taking on the role of Financial Assistant. With that role she has the responsibility of keeping our financial records up to date and is responsible to make sure our donor records are well kept, receipts are sent out quickly and that we maintain better communication with you.

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Dylan Adams, Envision Intern

Dylan has been on a 3 year journey to get here. As a matter of fact, when he first came on a week long mission trip he came as a young man, just beginning to get his feet wet in life. Since then he has been here 2 other times and now he has raised enough personal support to be an Envision intern for a year. It is a joy to watch him interact with the children of the Center and see the children love him in return. He has matured exponentially into a man who has a passion for children and a skill set to go with it. We are greatly encouraged to have Dylan on our team. He, like most of the staff, is raising personal support, so please pray for his ability to reach his fundraising goals.



Carol Nevin, A Senior Who Will Not Slow Down, Counselor & Social Work

So what do you do when life is accelerating and you find that God still has a plan for your life? Carol decided to leave a more comfortable and normal lifestyle behind and join our ranks as a counselor & social worker who is significantly underpaid (actually even raising part of her support) to care for community members in a more strategic and holistic way. She's helping David who is originally from Ghana and has become a joyful part of the fabric of our community. He is also semi-homeless, sleeps in a garage at night, and has been unable to work because he had some problems with his work authorization papers. Carol has been working with David to help him move towards a more permanent living situation and an opportunity to work.



Soccer Camp & Summer Day Camp



Children, Children, and More Children!!

For 10 weeks this Summer we had the privilege of serving an average of 46 students each weekday of our day camp with more than 60 registered. We had 40 plus children for our 4 week soccer camp that preceded our summer camp. One of the exciting things is that the parents chose to sign their children up for an additional hour of camp in which they also received teaching about Christ and His Kingdom for an hour a day. That's right, if you do the math that is 50 hours of instruction in the Christian faith.

These students were exposed to the Gospel of Jesus by teaching and by seeing it expressed through our staff. It was so amazing to see the students show their appreciation of their leaders by the words they expressed in their thank you cards. One of these cards stated, "thank you for listening to me" and "thank you for playing with me at the park". We are thankful that God continues to use Family Empowerment Centers and their staff to accomplish the demonstration of who Jesus is and what He is about, Love for all peoples!



Amy, from the Detroit area, is on her 3rd trip working with us. Here she is teaching the children gymnastics. We are grateful that her employer gave her a 3 month leave of absence to serve with us.

Taking a stand against violence

It's not an average day when you see 50+ kids standing outside a community center & church promoting Peace for the community of Rogers Park.



My (Dylan) favorite part about that day was as we went around the neighborhood as a group. One child named Isaac started shouting by himself "God wants Peace!" Praise God when he uses little kids like Isaac. Ivan kept shouting with all of his might and the others started to chant with him.