

Envision Culture Update By Scott Manke

What an exciting opportunity I had a few weeks ago to take part in strategic conversations with the Christian & Missionary Alliance regarding their desire to “father” this emerging generation (18-30 year olds) into their life call or vocation and the continued formation of a shared network to accomplish this called Envision Culture. If you would like to hear more about our partnership with that visit my blog post on our website titled “Fathering the Emerging Generation.”

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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.

Family Fest is on the Horizon By Scott Manke

Believe it or not Family Fest is on the horizon even if that horizon is June 23rd. Last year we changed our format by taking the Fest to the street and had a block party, more activities and a lot more people come through during the event. Planning is beginning for this years event and we can use volunteers, various gift in kind donations, and financial partners who will help underwrite the costs of this event. For more information on how you can be involved contact me at scottm@familyempower.org.



Who is My Neighbor? By Scott Manke

Who is my neighbor? That question was asked of Jesus 2000 years ago by a man who wanted to be selective in who his neighbor was. Jesus responded as he often did with what we know now as the parable of the Good Samaritan. Our neighbor is not a person we choose because a neighbor is one that is based on proximity to us. Therefore, when I am in the store the clerk becomes my neighbor, when walking down the street the person I pass becomes my neighbor. When on my job, my co-worker becomes my neighbor. **We take seriously God’s command to “Love our Neighbors” and that is one of our core values.** Who is my neighbor that I am to love? It is the single mom that does not have enough money for food who remains in an abusive situation because they don’t believe they have any options. It is the 22 year old who just dropped out of college because they have no direction. It is Carl one of the homeless men that we encourage. It is the child whose father is dying of leukemia in Mexico. It is the addict who battles to overcome. It is my wife and children. It is my co-workers. It is the person in my path at any given moment on any given day. My role is to love them. Who is your neighbor? Who are you to love?

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The Official Newsletter
of the
Family Empowerment
Centers

February 2012

Summer Schedule is Filling Fast by Rob DeLano

Our summer schedule is beginning to look quite exciting as we currently have eight churches committed to bring teams to serve with us in June and July, with a few possibilities still working on details. In addition to the summer, we will also have a team from Simpson University serving with us at the end of March to help out with our S.A.Y. Yes-after school and ESL programs, and will even have four members of this team running the Shamrock Shuffle with us to promote our running team, Team Family Empowerment. We are thankful that our short-term missions program is continuing to expand, especially as we have been included into the developing Envision Culture within the Christian and Missionary Alliance.



Envision Culture is promoting Family Empowerment Centers as their only domestic site that is currently accepting teams to serve with more cities soon to follow in the coming years. This means that Family Empowerment Centers has been entrusted with the privilege and responsibility of being on the cutting edge of this new initiative that will help to train up leadership and mobilize the next generation for Kingdom change. For more information on Envision Culture you can visit www.envision-culture.com.

With more teams coming to serve with us each year our summer events, programs, and outreach will continue to morph as we consider looking to future possibilities of running long term summer camps, where in the past we have run individual, week-long programs for the children in our community. We also anticipate continuing to grow in our capacity to make meaningful and lasting impact on our community with the help of these teams. Please continue to keep us lifted up in prayer as we seek God’s continual guidance in our work with those who come to work with us here in Rogers Park.

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Schedule of Events

Sunday Service
Sunday 6:00-7:30pm

ESL
Tuesday & Thursday’s
6:30-8:30pm

Afterschool
Monday-Thursday’s
2:30-5:30pm
Friday’s
2:30-4:30pm

Swimming
Monday’s
4:00-5:00pm

AWANA Update



On Wednesday's we meet with children, ages 3 to 12 in our AWANA program. AWANA stands for *Approved Workmen are Not Ashamed* and our goal is to make known the good news of faith in Christ to every child we have been entrusted with.

Our goal this season is to build deep and long lasting relationships with the children and through them build relationships with their parents as well. We desire to use every opportunity to build into them life skills that will instruct them in the way of life.

I am certain of this; God desires to be truly known by our children. It is our role to introduce this young generation to God and father the next generation into future leadership as adults.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue in this journey of making disciples of this young generation. Thank you for your support.

S.A.Y. Yes! Academics By Carrie Waterman



We have seen a great improvement among our children this year academically! Out of the 16 children we have had since the fall we have seen improvement or grades maintained in 12 students' report cards!! It is so exciting to see such great improvement.

Currently we have 23 students. Of those students, 8 are A, B students and 14 are A, B, and C students. We still have challenges ahead as we have 9 students with D's. 8 of those 9 students have challenging situations at home, as I'm sure you can imagine. These consist of anything from lack of parental support due to a language barrier, fatherlessness, financial restraints that affect the home, and other challenging circumstances.



We have 6 new students as of February and all but one will be a challenge to see their grades improve. Due to the progress we have made this fall, I'm convinced that as we work with parents and school teachers and continue to be actively involved in homework help and tutoring, we will see improvement in these students as well.

We have a recent advocate in the public school system, in a bilingual teacher, who recently stopped by the center. We have a mutual concern about two of his very low students. It was evident that he has a very close relationship with parents and students. It was great to get more information from him on where the kids are academically, behaviorally, in their English learning, and their life situations, as language is a barrier for some. This is the beginning of what we hope to be solid relationships built between us and the schools.

We also held a parent meeting with volunteer translators recently and it was a significant time to connect with parents, their concerns about their children, and rough situations going on at home. We have also had an increase in the number of volunteers from 3 to 10 this new year.

Please pray for continued academic progress in students and deeper relationships formed between teachers, parents, students, and volunteers, that they may see the love of Christ through us and in all He is doing with these young people.

Chicago Marathon Team Update By: Carrie Waterman

The Chicago Marathon closed in just 5 days this year and it greatly hindered our recruitment activities this year. However, we are grateful to have 8 registrants for the Chicago Marathon and we hope to get some people who are already registered to run to choose to run with us over the next few months.

We have learned that challenges are often nothing more than new opportunities to grow and this year we are opening up our marathon team to people who want to run other marathons or races on our behalf and raise funds the same way our Chicago Marathon runners do. Valerie Garrison has run the Chicago Marathon for us in the past. This year she has chosen to run the Milwaukee Marathon under our name.



Val Garrison
3 Time Runner

Want to join Valerie? Let us know. Not ready for a marathon? Meet us half-way by running a half-marathon. Not ready for a half-marathon? See if friends and family would support you for a 5k or 10k. Want to travel with friends or on your own to run in a new location, like Florida, California, Tennessee, or New York? Find

a race, sign up, email us, and go for it! We'll support you with fundraising strategies, training, and registration.

“Do you want to run a race for us?”



What else can you do? Let your friends know who are running in the Chicago Marathon know that they can still run for Team Family Empowerment!!

You can also give financially to our individual runners or our team as a whole. You have an amazing opportunity to change the lives of at-risk, urban families who are living in poverty and in many cases just getting by in life. You can also volunteer the day of the race and be a voice in the crowd cheering our team on.

Interested? Email info@familyempower.org or go to www.teamfamilyempower.org to find out more about giving.

Marathon Photos



Chris Kuehnlenz ran for our first team and was a great example of perseverance.



John Lewis will be running his second marathon with us this year and was a top fund raiser last year.