

## Board of Directors

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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.

## New Envision Site Coordinators Land in Chicago



It was cold with blizzard like conditions the day we moved them into their new apartment, but Charles and Ruth were not scared away from Chicago. Coming from Minnesota, I kept encouraging them that being in Chicago was like moving to Florida for them. I am not sure that they thought so, but it was a slight improvement in weather for them.

Charles and Ruth have a passion for young people and discipleship and so we are excited by the impact they will have on the young adults at the Center and in our community. They are still working on raising 100% of their support to work with us as Envision Site Coordinators, but the Lord has been faithfully providing and they are hopeful to reach that goal soon. Please pray for them as they settle into their new roles, and if you think about it, drop them a note and let them know that you are praying for them.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Computer Network / Systems Support:** We are in need of someone who can help with Network questions, help manage e-mail platforms, and answer technical questions related to computer technology as needed. This would require limited on site help and support via the phone.

**Sunday Volunteers—Music & Sunday School:** We are looking for volunteers who would supplement our Sunday school program and/or participate in worship. We are looking for individuals who are spiritually mature and desiring to use their gifts to serve the body of Christ at Family Empowerment. Within our multi-lingual community, we have a need for Spanish speakers who can interpret as well.

Contact Scott directly with questions concerning these positions.

1533 West Devon Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660

Office: (773) 262-0760

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## Thoughts From Our Director

As I reflect on the past year, I am amazed by the ways God has provided for the ministry and mission at Family Empowerment. In the spring we were especially delighted by the opportunity to put forth a \$50,000 match grant, as one of our donors made this possible for us, and then many of you helped us achieve that goal.

We also began a partnership with the Chicago Public School's Safe Haven initiative, which provides a \$200 a day subsidy and a lunch/snack for every one of our students. This partnership also assisted in our ability to expand the number of participants in our program, as well as fund a summer and spring break camp.

Through funding opportunities like this and the dedication of staff, board members and volunteers we continue to have opportunities to reach into our community with the gospel which is something that continues to burden our hearts. Jesus gave an invitation when he said, "come to me all you who are weary and I will give you rest for your souls." In each one of our programs, whether, after school or ESL or men's or women's Bible study, at times we are engaging tired and weary individuals who have never heard this invitation. At other times, we find our-

*"Our heart's desire is to  
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proclaim this great news"*

selves in conversations with friends of other faith's who are asking thoughtful questions. All the way around as we take time to pray for and live life alongside our Rogers' Park community neighbors, we gain an opportunity to directly share the invitation Christ came to bring.

Our heart's desire is to continue to live into and proclaim this great news... your prayers and financial partnerships are a huge part of what makes that happen. If you or your small group would be interested in hosting myself, or a member of our team, please don't hesitate to contact me to set up a time to share. Also, be sure to mark your calendar for April 17th and join us for our banquet .



## Family Empowerment Centers

February 2015

## Staff Contacts

**Rev. F. Scott Manke**  
*Executive Director*  
[scottm@familyempower.org](mailto:scottm@familyempower.org)

**Brandie Hayes**  
*ESL Director*  
[brandie@familyempower.org](mailto:brandie@familyempower.org)

**Danielle Alvarado**  
*S.A.Y. Yes! / Safe Haven  
Afterschool Program Director:*  
[sayyes@familyempower.org](mailto:sayyes@familyempower.org)

**Charles & Ruth Amoh**  
*Envision Site Coordinators*  
[envisionchicagoil@gmail.com](mailto:envisionchicagoil@gmail.com)  
(Ruth is also a part time  
Admin. Assistant helping with  
communication)

## Schedule of Events

**English as a Second  
Language Classes**  
Tues. & Thurs. 6:30-8:30pm

**S.A.Y. Yes! / Safe Haven  
Afterschool Program**  
Mon.-Fri. 3:00-6:00pm

**Spring Break Camp**  
April 6-10 10:00-2:00pm

**Women's Bible Study**  
Wednesday 6:30-8:00pm

**Men's Bible Study**  
Wednesday 10:00-11:30am

**Worship Service**  
Sunday 10:30-12:00noon



## A Vision for Children & Families



Children and families are a very big part of the activities that we operate at the Center. A matter of fact, it is such a large part that the only program that does not include some sort of outreach to children is the Men's Bible study we host on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am.

From day one we have had a vision to see young urban families who are facing great challenges given opportunities to overcome some of those challenges through a variety of empowering programs and relationships. That is most evident on Tuesday's and Thursday's between the hours of 3:00 and 8:30 when our after school and ESL programs run back to back. Come around this summer and we will have teens and young adults from around the country interacting with children all summer long through summer camp programming.

## ESL Update 2015 Winter/Spring Session

The start of the new year brought a new beginning for the ESL program. After spending a lot of time in prayer about the program over Christmas break, God answered our prayers and has brought a new energy and excitement to the program! So far this year, we have registered 30 students in the program (17 new students and 13 returning students). We have 4 classes that have an average of 7 students in each class. We are very excited that God is allowing us to reach people in our community through the ESL program. Please pray for us as we meet practical needs for these students, and as we share God's truth and love with them as well!



Our partnership with Moody Bible Institute's PCM and ESL Department helps us staff the ESL program and saves us more than \$2000 a semester in teacher costs. Children are also a high priority for us and no matter what the program you will find that we involve them.



## 2015 Banquet, \$50,000 Matching Grant, Guest Speaker Pete Brokopp

It is that time of year again as we begin planning and preparing for our annual banquet. Last year's banquet helped us raise more than \$100,000 through a match grant, and because of last year's success, that donor has again raised the bar for us and will match dollar for dollar the first \$50,000 raised in new donations!

**"\$50,000 Match Grant Opportunity"**



We are also excited to announce our guest speaker Pete Brokopp. Pete grew up on the mission field in Africa, and after a nine year stint in the National Guard, while finishing his education, he returned to Burkina Faso. During that time he was involved in utilizing social and community development as a platform for proclaiming the gospel as well as seeing villages transformed. He is currently doing development work with *ENVISION*, an arm of the Christian and Missionary Alliance that is creating pathways for the next generation to find their call and affect kingdom change. We have been a part of *ENVISION* since its beginning and have seen more than 500 people come through the Center as participants of that program.

We encourage you to come out and hear Pete's heart for missions, individual testimonies from participants of the Center, ways that we have seen doors open for our programs to be strengthened, as well as enjoy food from around the world that is directly from the Rogers Park community.

The banquet is open to anyone who would want to learn more about the Center. All you have to do is **RSVP to [scottm@familyempower.org](mailto:scottm@familyempower.org)** and let us know you will be attending and who you will be bringing with you. (If you would like to host a table and invite other couples, please let us know.) The banquet takes place April 17th at 6:30 pm at Blanchard Alliance Church, 1766 S. Blanchard Street, Wheaton IL 60189. We are asking for adults only to attend as seating capacity is limited to just under 200 people.

## Say Yes & Safe Haven Update

Things are always shifting for the better in our after school program. This current semester we are taking time to invest more in the development of language arts, in addition to the math tutoring received during the homework help.

We realized that most of our children do not know how to write a proper sentence using the correct punctuation. We will be focusing on this area for the next 12 weeks and testing every month to take note of improvements and see how to best help our students grow in this area. What is even more exciting is that most of our students seem enthusiastic about learning and advancing in their writing skills. They are especially enjoying Kaixro, an urban rendition of the classic Pilgrims Progress, written by Judah Ben.

We have also been able to maintain our strong performance with Safe Haven. In January we were recognized as the best Northside location in regards to administration and attendance within our program. This year we have 50 children registered within the program and have maintained an average daily attendance of close to 40 (internal after school programs such as volleyball make attending our program 100% of the time difficult).

Please continue to pray for our children. If you choose to attend our annual banquet you will be invited to pray for a specific child or family throughout the year, a simple way to make a kingdom difference!

