

Caring for the Whole Family: God at Work

Some people ask are we a community center? And I say yes, but we are more than a community center. Then some ask are we a church? And I say yes, but we are more than a traditional church? Then some ask do you focus on children? And I say yes, but we focus on more than just children. And then some ask do you focus on adults? And I say yes, but we focus on more than just adults.

Truth is we are all those things and more. See we have a vision to be a *leading Christ centered agency in urban America having multiple locations that have the influence of a powerful organization and a parish focus whereby God is glorified by what we do, how we do it, and whom we do it for as we strengthen young urban families that are facing greater challenges.*

We are deeply passionate about *"Glorifying God by Holistically Loving Young Urban Families in Christ"* and all of our programs and non-programmatic movements flow from this. To give you a better idea of how this works let me share with you how we have seen one particular family impacted over the past 7 months.



Salvador, Manuel, Alondra.

Our first contact with Salvador (father) and Alejandra (mother) came during the summer when as a result of hosting mission teams we were able to run 3 weeks of soccer camp. They are a first generation Latino family and wanting to keep their kids busy they enrolled their children in our camp. Having a great experience there, when the school year began they enrolled their children (Manuel age 6, Alondra age 5, Alexander age 4, Mellissa age 1) in both our afterschool program and AWANA club. Susan Chan, a former MK from Spain, would speak with Alejandra in her native tongue and encouraged their participation in our ESL program. Alejandra came regularly to the ESL class and at Christmas we delivered to them a Holiday Meal basket with a book, *The Purpose of Christmas*, by Rick Warren in Spanish. Salvador was out of work over the Holiday, read the book and as a result Salvador and Alejandra asked to be taught more about God and the Christian faith. Susan has begun a basic level discipleship meeting with them on Wednesday nights during AWANA and the whole household seems to be experiencing newness in life and great holistic growth.

6 different programs intersected with the lives of Salvador and Alejandra creating 6 uniquely different touches coupled with numerous personal interactions by individual members of the church reaching out and loving them in between the programs with the outcome being a whole families growing encounter with the living God. So are we a community center, a church, and caring for adults and children? Absolutely yes!!!



Tom (staff) and Steve (Board Member) at a recent retreat



Ayo, Elisa, and Manuel are helping lead songs for our AWANA program. They are part of our Sparks group.



Adrianne considers the Center her second home.

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

- **AMIGA Moms Group**
Wednesdays 9:30-11:00
- **Worship Service**
Sunday at 6:00pm
- **SAY Yes After School Program - Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-6:00**
- **AWANA**
Wednesdays 6:00-7:30
- **English as a Second Language classes**
Tuesdays 6:30-8:30
- **Spring Banquet**
April 10th

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

Board of Directors

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Steve Pawela
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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. When you use our EFT process you can track and manage all your giving to our organization quickly. 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 well. Send us a note letting us know of your commitment to us in prayer.



Running For Family Empowerment in the 2010 Chicago Marathon

So how about it? Want to run a marathon with purpose in 2010?

40,000 people will descend on the streets of Chicago to run the 2010 Chicago Marathon and we are looking to enlist at least 100 of them to run for team family empower.

For many the marathon becomes a journey of self discipline and accomplishment. We are adding to the value of the marathon runners experience by asking that they run under our banner creating for us greater exposure and resources to truly care of those young urban families we serve with greater needs.

We have a website going up within the next few weeks that will be command central for our team of runners and will have further directions.

In a nutshell here is what we are asking; team members must raise a minimum of \$500 for our charity and in return we will cover their entrance fee. We will have incentives for those that raise more than the minimum. Furthermore, we will provide training plans, team events, and a post marathon celebration. From out of town,? Let us know and we will find a way to help you race for us.

Visit www.teamfamilyempower.org today to get more information and register

Now Accepting Intern Applications for 2010-2012

If you know someone who is looking to do something radically challenging for the Lord tell them to visit our web site and consider our Urban Immersion Internship. Janeen Scott had this to say about her internship:

"My time as an intern at Family Empowerment Centers of Chicago was extremely formative. I faced unexpected challenges which reinforced my need to trust God, and I succeeded in areas that I did not feel naturally strong in, giving me tangible examples of God's faithfulness. After living and being immersed in Chicago, I have a deeper understanding of the daily struggles and victories of urban life, and feel a strong desire to continue bringing God's light to the cities."



Janeen with Bella (5). Our application can be accessed on line.

Prayer and Seeking God is Critical for Us

Loving our neighbors often means living life with people with some very great burdens. The stories range from backgrounds of abuse, to addictions, to gang life, being imprisoned, to habitual sins, to homelessness, to sickness, and a host of other very deep burdens. These burdens often affect the whole household and we recognize that we can not begin to impact the lives of our friends and neighbors without the manifest presence of God being at work in their lives. We also recognize that recovery types of ministry will be a vital component of the transformative work of Christ in their lives. Continue to pray with us as we carry out the compassionate mission that God has called us to in Rogers Park.



Corey Chan is one of our board members and a member of our community.