

## Chicago Marathon—October 9, 2011

Running a marathon takes great determination and discipline. Running a non-profit organization in times like these requires more resources to meet the escalating needs that are facing today's families especially in poorer urban contexts like ours.

We are bringing these two things together with our own Marathon Team believing that when you run with the purpose of supporting a charity you are more determined to succeed in your preparation for running. While at the same time the non-profit, in this case Family Empowerment Centers, can more effectively care for the needs of those we service. Please pray for our team, their training and for fund-raising efforts.



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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.

## Computer Lab Expansion



Our computer lab experienced its own growth this summer. We replaced our old desktops with 9 newer desktops, which will allow us to facilitate a more productive computer lab time for our students. The kids will be excited to see the changes that have been made for them when they return for this upcoming fall after school programs. Our neighbors too, will be able to enjoy the changes, as many don't have the luxury of a personal computer in their homes.

The Center thanks those who helped to remodel the lab to get it ready for our programs. This was all made possible through a donors designated gift and an employee match by Kraft Foods. We are in the final phase of a software upgrade of Office 2010 and purchasing educational software that will better track student progress. Please contact us if you would like to partner with this phase of development



[www.familyempower.org](http://www.familyempower.org)



[www.donateyourboat.org](http://www.donateyourboat.org)

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The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Family Empowerment  
Centers

August 2011

## S.A.Y Yes After School Program Going 5 Days a Week!

Over the past 5 years we have been modifying and expanding our after school program with a goal of operating 5 days a week. We started out with a 2 day a week program and ran that way for the first 3 years of operations. Last year we expanded the program to a 3 day a week program and hired a new Director for the program, Malvin Pambuka. This summer we have been working at expanding our computer lab and developing a better system of measuring success, and a more wholistic program that includes service projects.

This fall we are moving to a 5 day a week program that will bring all this preparation together into what we believe will be an exceptional after school program that will give the children a great opportunity to grow as whole people. In order to make this happen it will require identifying 3 part-time staff and raising an additional \$2,500 per month. We are researching options to raise money through grant writing and programs for low-income families to have their tuition cost subsidized through various governmental programs, but, we know that it will take time for these options to become fruitful.



## Letter From Our S.A.Y. Yes Director—Malvin Pambuka

We are excited about the new avenues this S.A.Y. Yes season will bring. If I were to summarize the upcoming school year in one word, that word would be **GROWTH**. As the After School Program's director, I realize that I too will have to apply myself to the season of growth.

This years theme — **Growth**, refers to an increase in some quantity over time. The quantity can be physical (i.e., growth in height, growth in an amount of money), abstract (i.e., a system becoming more complex, an organism becoming more mature), or the mode of growth, i.e. numeric models for describing how much a particular quantity grows over time.

Our expansion, new measurement tools and educational software, and our modernized computer lab will surely encourage growth.

*You will be hearing more about how to partner financially with this growth in the weeks to come, but for now we are asking people who believe in the education of children, creating growth opportunities for underprivileged children, and the greater work of the Family Empowerment Center to pray for this expansion.*

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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

**Worship Service**  
*Sunday at 6:00pm*

**Back Pack Give Away**  
*August 30, 2011*

**ESL**  
*Dates to be Announces*

**Back to School**  
*September 6, 2011*



Family Fest 2011



This year's "Family Fest" was a huge success, with 4 inflatable bounce houses including a water slide bounce house, dunk tank, raffles, music group, face painting, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Mounted Police, hot dog eating contest, Grand Prix and all the hot dogs, Italian sausages and drinks anyone can handle. And it was all free to our children, their parents, neighbors or to anyone just walking by.



**Chicago Fire Department** - The Chicago Fire Department was able to make an appearance and children were able to ring bells and sirens as they took a tour of the fire truck.



**Chicago Mounted Police** - With the weather being in the upper 80's, the Chicago Mounted Police was nice enough to show up to our "Family Fest" Block Party.

Summer 2011 ENvision Teams Wrap Up



This summer we were blessed to have people from Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, and New Jersey come to serve alongside Family Empowerment Centers here in Rogers Park. These groups helped us with numerous projects and outreach efforts. We were able to provide two different weeks of summer camp and Vacation Bible School as well as two other weeks of basketball and soccer camps, which were all held here in our immediate community despite initial difficulties with using our local park. Other projects that the groups tackled were various upkeep projects in and around our building including giving our computer lab a much needed makeover.



We were blessed to witness God working through several of our summer team members to reach out to people in unique ways. One team member experienced a vision of a person that he came across on the street later the same day. This Chicagoan was desperate for encouragement and received it in the form of kind words from a stranger from half way across the country whom God had placed in his path. During a different week, a group ran into an Iraqi man on multiple occasions. This man had brought his family to the US to seek a peaceful place to raise his children. He could not believe that anyone would go out into a community and hand out free water simply to demonstrate love for other people, and has since shown a serious interest in befriending us here at Family Empowerment Centers.



It is always a blessing to have teams come from around the country to be part of our work with Family Empowerment Centers here in Chicago. We are already receiving calls from groups that are looking to come next summer. Please continue praying for us and also for groups that God is bringing here in the future. Pray that we all will yield to His desires for our service here in Rogers Park.

Family Fest Photo Gallery:



**Hot Dog Eating Contest** - We had our very 1st Hot Dog eating contest and one of our locals took home the trophy, eating the most hot dogs in a 2 minute period.



Race Crowd



Live Music



Information Booth



**Volunteers** - We were able to serve over 1,700 hot-dogs & 200 Italian sausages to an estimated 1000 or so children and parents. There were 50+ volunteers, who worked countless hours to make "Family Fest" the success it was. Family Empowerment thanks all of you who volunteered and we look forward to having you again next summer.



Bounce House



Free Balloons

Family Fest 2011



**Face Painting** - Kids lined up to get their faces painted with animal characters, super-hero's and even crosses on their face and bodies.



**Winners** - Winners received trophy's in their class.



**Grand Prix Car Race** - Rob leading the races.