

Partnership Opportunities

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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.

Growing In Faith Through Wednesday Night Bible Study

Each Wednesday evening for the past 12 weeks, roughly 15 adults and teens joined together to participate in our latest Bible Study series, "Reading the Bible for Life" by George Guthrie.

A combination of workbook curriculum and video-based sessions, the "Reading the Bible for Life" study provides a sound overview of the many types of books found in the Bible, reviews the major themes present throughout the scriptures, and establishes a firm foundation for understanding scripture in context. The "Reading the Bible for Life" study also offers many helpful tips for how to become a life-long student of the Bible and apply God's truth to everyday life. This study left a meaningful impact on each person in attendance; measured by the steady number of participants growing in their understanding of the Bible on a weekly basis.

One of the participants kindly allowed us to share her response to the way the "Reading the Bible for Life" study made the Bible, and God, come alive in a new way:

"This year I started reading the Bible by following a year-plan and attending Bible study. It has been an amazing journey. It has opened my eyes to so many wonderful things I didn't know. The more I read and learn about the Bible and the life of Jesus and his unconditional love for all of us, I want to learn more every day. I am also surprised at the different emotions I have experienced while taking this journey. Excitement. Wonder. Surprise. Love and yes, even sadness. I know this learning process is ongoing, a lifetime of learning and growing in God's love. And I am excited to see what he has in store for me the rest of my life."

Praise God for the ways He reveals himself through regular reading of the Bible.

Looking Ahead to Upcoming Events

- FEC Rummage Sale, (May 2013, TBD), all funds benefit the S.A.Y. Yes! Afterschool program. Follow our Facebook page for more details.
- Annual Banquet Benefit, (May 31, 2013), featuring keynote speaker Justice Robert R. Thomas. Tickets \$35 per person.
- FEC Spaghetti Dinner, (June 2013, TBD), all funds benefit the S.A.Y. Yes! Afterschool program. Follow our Facebook page for more details.
- Family Fest Block Party, (June 22, 2013), featuring Pine Wood Derby races, bounce houses, dunk tank, and much more. Volunteers and sponsors welcome. For more details, please call the Office.

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Follow us: www.facebook.com/familyempower

www.familyempower.org

www.donateyourboat.org



The Official Newsletter
of the
Family Empowerment
Centers

April 2013

\$50,000 Match Grant Update

A few weeks ago we excitedly announced a \$50,000 match grant opportunity, which if met will enable Family Empowerment Centers to raise \$100,000 this year. It is with great anticipation that we await the fulfillment of this match grant, resting in the confidence that God will provide for the Center's financial needs, positioning the Center with the capacity to expand programs and services this year through the blessing of this \$50,000 match grant.

We are so grateful to those who have responded already. Your show of support is heartwarming ... but we still have a long way to go.

To qualify for the match, contributions must meet one of the following criteria: a one-time gift of \$600 (or more) or a twelve-month consecutive gift of \$50 (or more).

This year, our Annual Banquet Benefit will serve to help launch this wonderful opportunity. We invite you to be a part of this important evening to learn about the many people impacted by the Center's programs and services.



**Annual Banquet Benefit featuring
Illinois Supreme Court Justice
(and former Chicago Bears Kicker)
Judge Robert R. Thomas**

Friday, May 31, 2013

Time: 6:00pm registration, 6:30pm banquet

Tickets: \$35 per person

Location: Blanchard Alliance Church, Wheaton

Join us in welcoming *Keynote speaker, Judge Robert R. Thomas, Illinois Supreme Court Justice*, who will share on the importance of living a life of personal and professional integrity.

Judge Thomas received his B.A. degree in Government from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D. degree from Loyola University School of Law. Judge Thomas served on the Circuit Court of DuPage County and Appellate Court, prior to election to the Illinois Supreme Court Justice for the Second District in 2000. Judge Thomas is a 12-year veteran of the NFL, kicking for such teams as the New York Giants and Chicago Bears.

All proceeds benefit the operation and expansion of Family Empowerment Centers programs and services.

We are currently accepting reservations for Table Hosts. If interested in hosting a table or purchasing tickets, please call Susan, (773) 262-0760.

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Schedule of Events

**S.A.Y. Yes! Afterschool
Program**
*Monday-Thursday
3:00-6:00pm*

AWANA Program
Wednesday 4:30-6:00pm

E.S.L. Class
*Tuesday & Thursday
6:30-8:30pm*

Worship Service
Sunday 10:30am

Bible Study
Wednesday 6:30-8:00pm



*"It was an awesome week!
The kids learned about Jesus
and more importantly,
recognized HIM as the real
SUPER HERO in their lives!"*



Reflections On Super Hero Day Camp

Spring Break 2013 brought a lot of joy into our midst at the Family Empowerment Centers. The week before the launch of our Super Hero theme day camp, our staff was filled with anticipation as we waited eagerly for the arrival of an Envision Volunteer team from Simpson University looking to serve with us for the entire week. We knew God would indeed work through this group of 13 college students, but we had no idea that He would show up as big as He did!

The week began with 40 kids screaming and hollering worship songs as the leaders danced and really set the pace for an energetic week. I had such an awesome opportunity to sit back and take it all in as I watched kids being showered with God's love and compassion from the adult leaders. Deep bonds were being forged with the kids from the very first day of camp.

I'll never forget one precious moment I had with an adorable little first grader named "Brian." As we were singing a song titled, *"Jesus is My Super Hero,"* we were shouting out that Jesus is better than "Super Man! Better than Batman! Better than Spiderman!" Brian came up to me and reminded me that Jesus is the true hero. "He is better than all the super heroes combined," said Brian with the biggest smile on his face. That moment affirmed the fact that the entire week was about Jesus being known as the ultimate and only true hero in this world. Yes, we had fun playing games, watching movies, and playing at the park, but Brian and many other kids proved to us that God cares deeply for these children and wants them to know him as their hero.



*"Every day during Super Hero
Day Camp the children would
walk through the doors of the
Center with a big smile on
their faces."*

