

College Ministry

This past year Charles and I have been able to build relationships and trust with the college students who serve at the Center. Our Loyola students come and do work-study at our center, while our Moody Institute and North Park students come and volunteer. During the week Charles and I travel onto campus and meet with students for coffee or lunch. This allows us to build relationships with them off site during their free time and in a more casual setting. Our main focus is to work with these college students and counsel them in their after-college plans and life struggles. We have been able to pray with and for many of these students since our time here. Our desire is to be available and to care for students, but also build them up to be strong men and women.

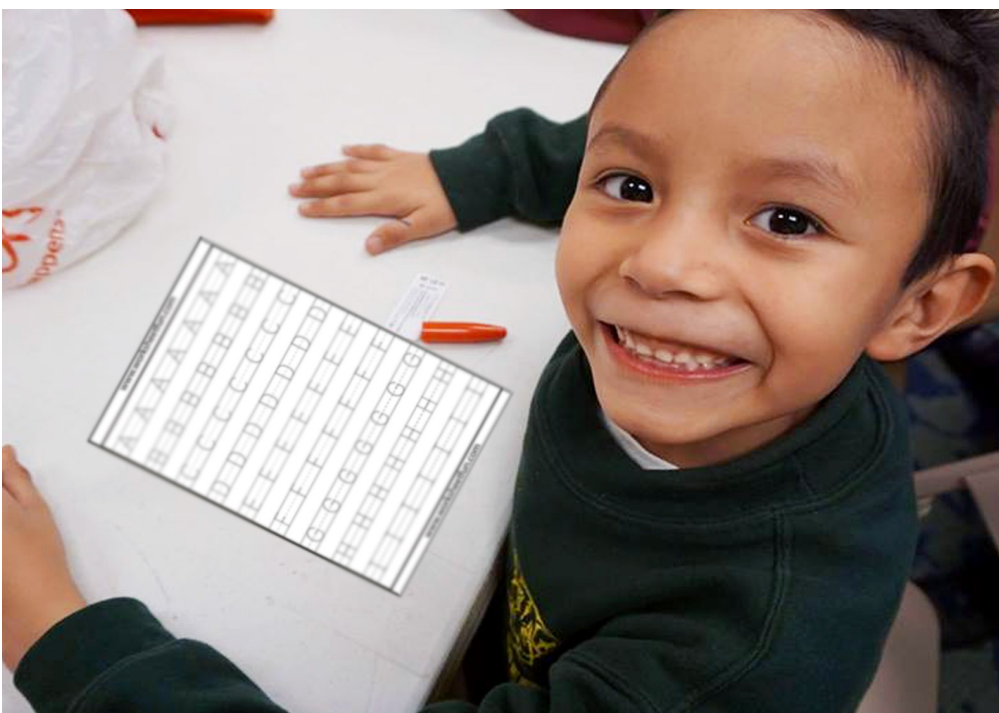
Intentional Gatherings

Recently the college students were invited for pizza and games in our home. We also connected with some who previously worked at the center. God has allowed our relationships to go beyond the doors of the center. We are still getting to know many of these students, but we realize more and more how much they need Christ.

Discipleship

While meeting with one of our interns who attends North Park, I was able to help her better understand the Bible. Although she attends a Christian school and has a Catholic background, while learning about the Bible in class, she had questions about the scriptures she learned and wanted me to help her clarify. The Lord provided this opportunity to help her seek out the truth of His word. I continue to pray that the Holy Spirit would work and continue to provide more opportunities like this.

While walking the streets of Chicago, Freddy and his mom encountered an unhealthy man who treated them poorly. Freddy explained to his mom, "Mom, that man is like that because he doesn't have God in his heart." That day Freddy's mom learned something about Freddy. God needs to be in our hearts for us to become better people.



Freddy working on His Homework.

Support a Child

It costs us about \$15 per day for a child to be in our after school program. We have been very creative over the years in funding the program and we have been able to keep our costs down by receiving a grant from CPS through SAFE HAVEN, utilizing work study students from Loyola University (they reimburse 75% of that cost) and having 13 PCM student volunteers from Moody Bible Institute (more than 1100 hours over the year). Despite that, we still need to raise \$1500 a month to help cover the costs of this program. ***Would you consider supporting a child by helping us reach that financial goal?***

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Bible Campaign

Following a recent life skills class at the *Family Empowerment Center*, **Victoria (12), Angela (11), and Marie (8), asked their teacher if we had any additional Bibles** so they could continue reading the stories at home. This is a common need. On a weekly basis we tangibly share the love of Christ with many children and adults, giving them multiple opportunities to hear and experience Biblical truths and values. **For most this is the first time they are hearing truth grounded in scripture** and understood in a personal relationship with Christ. But what happens when they go home leaving the Bibles and teachers behind?

The need

We already have the attention of the children within our programs, but we long to see reinforcement of Godly teaching at home, through parents, grandparents, siblings, and extended family members. **Our goal through this TeamSend Campaign is to raise enough money to purchase age & language appropriate Bibles for all the children we serve this year** (a number that will be well over 150). We also want to raise enough to purchase study Bibles for the teens and adults connected to our ministry. We are already launching initiatives to help people understand how important the word of God is, and we want to reinforce that by making sure they have direct access to that truth. **Your gift, in any amount, will directly support the purchase of Bibles and our biblical literacy program.**