

Specific Ways YOU Can Help

Service

EMPOWERING VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE IN AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE A PASSION TO LEAD.

GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Health Clinic: Serve breakfast on a Saturday morning

Fall Festival: Help with set-up, crafts, games, face painting, greeting, clean up, or decorated your vehicle for "Trunk or Treat"

Development: Help staff stuff, seal, stamp, and address mailings

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES (some may require orientation)

Mentoring: One-on-one mentoring with a student, minimum of one hour per week

After-School: Tutor students in 1st through 12th grade

After-School: Lead a club that shares your hobby, experience, and/or skills with grades 1st through 12th

Fall Festival: Help with set-up, crafts, games, face painting, greeting, clean up, or decorate your vehicle for "Trunk or Treat"

Academy: Volunteer as a teacher's assistant

IN ADDITION TO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, THERE ARE MANY ITEMS NEEDED TO HELP OUR FAMILIES:

OFFICE SUPPLIES: Satin photo paper, AA batteries, dry-erase markers, hand sanitizer, copy paper

Shepherd believes in empowering its volunteers to serve in areas where they have a passion to lead. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in one of these areas or any other area at Shepherd, please **contact Phil Merki at 317-375-0203 or philm@shepherdcommunity.org**.



COMMUNITY.

A publication of Shepherd Community Center



Shepherd is a faith-based, non-profit organization established in 1985 with a simple but staggering goal: to break the cycle of poverty on the near Eastside of Indianapolis. Located centrally within the community it serves, Shepherd offers programs for children, teens, adults, and families. Our primary tools? Education and love.

4107 E Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46201 p. 317.375.0203 www.shepherdcommunity.org



Whiz Kids: Tutoring and Mentoring Combine for a Bright Future



Literacy is a major issue facing this country today and hits especially hard on the families and children we serve on the near Eastside. According to the National Reading Panel, 25% of Indiana students fail the 3rd grade English/Language Arts I-STEP, and 32% of 4th grade students score "Below Basic" in reading on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP).

In 2011 Shepherd connected with City Gospel Mission in Cincinnati, Ohio to learn about their Whiz Kids Literacy Program. This program was designed to fill the need for literacy improvement and change the current NAEP outcomes. After seeing their positive results, Shepherd knew it would be beneficial to adopt the program on their site. A longtime partner, Grace Community Church caught word of the program and enthusiastically began to implement the program at Shepherd.

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Leadership Feature

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Message from Jay

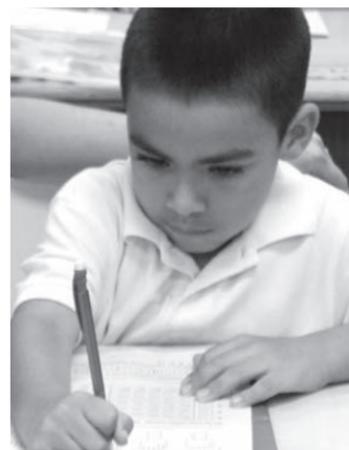
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YOU Can Help





Whiz Kids: Tutoring and Mentoring Combine for a Bright Future *(continued)*



Kathleen Bloxsome, Grace Community's Director of Partner Development said, "The kids were already at Shepherd, and there were plenty of people who wanted to volunteer, so it made sense to start the program."

Whiz Kids has a set curriculum, with a system ranked from A-Z, to help students with their literacy. If a student starts at level A and ends at level G, they have advanced seven levels. "Whiz Kids brings volunteers out of their comfort zones and makes building relationships easier," said Kathleen. "Volunteers have to commit to coming every week. It's a way to build a one-on-one

relationship and shows stability."

Grace, like Shepherd, has a passion to break the cycle of poverty. "Poverty is one system of injustice; the lack of education is part of that," Kathleen said.

Whiz Kids has seen tremendous success at Shepherd. "God's doing some amazing stuff through Whiz Kids," Kathleen said. Of the 32 students currently enrolled in Whiz Kids, 21 students moved up 1 or more levels during the 2012-13 School Year. Due to the improvement Grace has seen in the kids at Shepherd, they have offered their resources to other churches that are looking to get involved Shepherd's Whiz Kids Program.

Any churches, small groups, or individuals who are interested in helping students improve their literacy skills through Whiz Kids are encouraged to contact Ryan Brown at 317-375-0203 or ryanb@shepherdcommunity.org. For more information about Whiz Kids Programming, how it began, and the successes it has had, visit whizkidstutoring.com. ■

LEADERSHIP FEATURE

Mo Wildly

Nearly a year ago, Shepherd created a new position that would better connect churches with the work at Shepherd. When Shepherd sought out whom to hire as this Director of Church Partnerships, it was a natural fit to ask long-time advocate Mo Wildly.

Before joining Shepherd's staff, Mo worked as a newspaper editor, journalist, and had co-owned a public relations and advertising agency in Indianapolis. Consequently, when God gave Mo the opportunity to use his communication skills in full-time Christian ministry at Shepherd, he gladly accepted.

Mo has a great passion for his role as the Director of Church Partnerships. "It's my desire to facilitate relationships with both churches and individuals so they will be able to really engage in the amazing things God is doing here at Shepherd to spread the Gospel and serve the poor," said Mo. "These church partners will play a critical role in Shepherd's services to young people and adults to live healthy, Christ-centered lives outside the grip of poverty."

Mo is also helping Shepherd launch an external ministry outreach, the Yeshua Society. This ministry's goal is to impact near Eastside neighborhoods by establishing 10 house churches and partnering them with existing congregations, establishing and operating an online Christian school, creating a Christ-centered employment agency, and developing a resident-managed food and furniture co-op. Currently, Mo and his wife of 34 years, Susan, are involved with a house church ministry at the Orleans Apartments on the near Eastside.

"God is transforming lives on the near Eastside, and He has invited me to be part of His work at Shepherd."

Did You Know?

Summer EXCEL and YLIFe Outcomes

100% of our elementary students increased their knowledge of basic gardening techniques and healthy living concepts

70% of our elementary students increased or maintained their listening comprehension

100% of our elementary students developed their skills and knowledge in basic remedial or advanced writing, science, and math lessons and activities

*Based on 87% average daily attendance

80% of our high school and 61% of our middle school students increased or maintained their knowledge of college readiness, including application procedures and statistics relating to furthering their education

80% of our high school students increased their knowledge of interview skills

77% of our middle school and 73% of our high school students increased their understanding of money management and budgeting

*Based on 83% average daily attendance

Other Ways to Give

Did you know that there are more ways to give to Shepherd than simply a cash donation? One of those ways is through a stock or bond. If you are interested in giving to Shepherd via stock, bond, or in any other ways, please contact Rex Fisher at rexf@shepherdcommunity.org or call (317) 375-0203.



NO TIME TO REST.



What a summer!

We were blessed with so many students and so much to do. Our high school students took a weeklong trip to Atlanta, while our middle school students went to a special camp in Missouri, and our elementary students spent the summer swimming, studying, going on field trips, and having fun. Check out the "Did You Know?" section of this newsletter to see just how much our students learned this summer.

Unfortunately, the summer had to come to an end and all of our kids are back to school. But we did not send them to school empty-handed. Each student started the school year with a new backpack, notebooks, pencils, and other necessary supplies. We also prepared every student to have a strong academic start!

The power of Shepherd is not simply in our summer programming, but rather our year-round relationship with our students. This school year we will continue to invest in the lives of our students, families, staff, and neighbors on the near Eastside.

Thanks for your year-round partnership to make this possible.

Jay Height
Executive Director