



WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES

Commitment ♦ Compassion ♦ Collaboration ♦ Community ♦ Christ-likeness

An Ounce Of Prevention Is Better Than A Pound Of Cure!!!

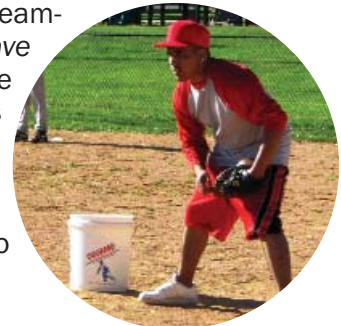
Dear Friends,

Allow me to introduce you to Julio. Julio is a young man who grew up on Aurora's East side, playing in Wayside's Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League (ANBL). Julio played for the ANBL's Oakland Athletics for the years of 2002 and 2003. Julio later played for Wayside's Pony League team during the years of 2004 and 2005. Julio credits his love for athletics and the sport of baseball to his two coaches "Ray and Charles."



Julio excelled in the ANBL and soon after was accepted into UYM's competitive Pony League. Amidst growing up a teen in the gang infested neighborhoods of Aurora's East side, Julio admits mistakes but endeavored to move forward athletically, academically, and professionally (by working part time). It was a severe automobile accident in Julio's sophomore year of High School that slowed him down. Spending a week in coma, Julio awoke with severe brain damage.

Now at nineteen, Julio has a zest to not only reclaim his life but to also sow seeds of truth and love into the lives of what would have ten years ago been his teammates. Julio states: "I want to give back to the kids some of what I have gotten" while playing in the ANBL. Julio is focusing on "pre-teens" because as Julio explains, gang recruitment begins in Middle School. Julio admits falling prey to gang intimidation and eventually membership. Yet he is determined to never turn back in that direction and to work with kids from his neighborhood, teaching them the same lessons he was taught. Julio is now studying for completion of his High School degree and intends to continue coaching, while pursuing a career in sports therapy.



Proverbs 22:6 teaches us that if we "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." That is our motto in the ANBL. We believe





that sowing seeds of truth into the lives of our children will equip them with the tools necessary to ultimately succeed in life. Like Julio, many may encounter set backs during their journey to adulthood. However, also like Julio, we pray that they remember and utilize the lessons taught by the coaches and others that work alongside us in UYM's very valuable baseball league.

Julio remembers the lessons that he learned in the ANBL and especially those taught by his coaches. Julio is now curious and optimistic about his future, particularly the role that God intends to play in his future. And that is why the ANBL exists. It exists to reach out to children.

In the 10th chapter of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus Himself said: *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* Jesus taught us that children hold the essence of what it takes to enter into the Kingdom of God. At Wayside, we follow those teachings. It is for that reason that Wayside Cross' Urban Youth Ministry continues to sow seeds of truth into the lives of our young.



UYM provides free neighborhood baseball; summer sports camps, athletic mentoring programs, etc. during the summer for more than four hundred children in the Aurora Community. We need your help to continue to provide these services for players like Julio. It is our desire that players and coaches, like Julio, continue to reach back into the lives of our community's young people, sowing seeds of truth and love.

UYM's greatest strength is its volunteers. It is coaches and adult Christian role models who sow good seed into the life of players like Julio. Our greatest reward is when players like Julio return with a desire to give back what they received and invest in the lives of the next generation. It is only with your help that we are able to continue along the path of raising children for Christ.

A gift of \$95.00 will give a young boy or girl the opportunity to learn the game of baseball, while being mentored by caring coaches like Julio. Your gift will also provide Christian mentoring for other young boys and girls via the Urban Youth Ministry's other free summer programs.

Just \$95.00 will offer a child all of this and more! I hope that you will partner with us and give a gift for our children. Please send your gift with the enclosed coupon and envelope. **Join us in applauding Julio and the many other players and volunteer coaches who travel along life's journey while responding positively to the lessons that God asks us to teach.** We cannot do this without you!

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Thank you for your consideration and generous support of these requests.

Wayne

Wayne Greenawalt
Executive Director

