



# WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES

*Commitment ! Compassion ! Collaboration ! Community ! Christ-likeness*

Summer 2008

Dear Friends,

Did you know that participating in our summer sports program is just the beginning of a relationship that can continue through middle school, high school, or beyond?

The influence of our girls' softball program reaches far beyond the diamond. Spend a few minutes with Ladesha Nelson and that is obvious. Ladesha, a thirteen-year-old, spent three years playing on our girls softball team and is now a confident, involved eighth grader with a bright future ahead of her.

As a Jefferson Middle School student, Ladesha participates in band, basketball, volleyball, track and softball. She is also part of Jefferson's *Rowdie Squad*. With the time commitment for these activities taking up at least a few hours on most days, Ladesha juggles her schedule to keep up with being a student and an active teen. She is currently on the honor roll at Jefferson Middle School. Some things she learned while playing softball and from the strong influence of her coach have helped her. "Now I can deal with being under pressure and that you never need to quit your dream," said Ladesha.



Ladesha definitely has dreams for her future, including college and a career. She would like to be a pediatrician because, as she says: "I love kids and I think that they are very important." Ladesha is also planning to build on her softball experience and continue playing. In her first year playing, she hit a home run and recalls that as one of her best memories.

She credits her time playing on the Urban Youth Ministry team with helping her build confidence; and points out that coach Amanda helped the girls get better and never give up. Ladesha said: "I think the team helped me get where I'm at now, which is playing for a traveling team and me having confidence."

Ladesha is just one of the many girls who have come through the program in the last six years and formed a lasting bond with her coach. She has been able to learn and grow from her experience while preparing for her future.

God does amazing things in the lives of kids when we connect them with caring counselors and coaches for a few days...or weeks...in our summer camp and sports programs.

We need your continued support to assist us in reaching out to and touching the lives of at-risk youth this summer. Today I'm asking you to help in three ways:

1. Pray for God's transforming work in young lives.
2. Consider serving as a volunteer in our summer day camp or sports program.
3. Send a gift of \$95 to sponsor a youth for a week at camp.

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

Gratefully,

Wayne Greenawalt  
Executive Director