

NewsLetter

April 2026



Huntington Collaboration

UYM is blessed to collaborate with Huntington Learning Center this year to provide tutoring for all of our students!

Working alongside UYM staff, Huntington's teachers are helping our students strengthen their reading skills and comprehension. Each day, students practice using context clues and identifying main ideas to build confidence in their reading abilities. We are so grateful for this collaboration and for the meaningful impact it is having on our students' academic growth!





Christmas Merit Store

Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered for UYM's Christmas Merit Store! Because of your generosity, our students had an abundance of gifts to choose from and enjoyed shopping for their families. Afterward, volunteers helped the children wrap their presents, making the experience even more special. With your support, we were able not only to provide gifts but also to teach our students the joy and importance of putting others first, because of Christ's love for us!



Bible Time and David

During Bible time, our students have been learning about the life of David — from his anointing as a humble shepherd to his crowning as king. We have been watching the animated film David, and the students are loving how the music and storytelling bring the biblical account to life. Our prayer is that they walk away understanding that God is always with them and that, like David, we should have hearts that love and trust Him.



Join us for our Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League opening day celebration on May 23, at Martin Luther King Park on Farnsworth Avenue in Aurora at 9:30am!

This summer, we are on track to have 360 players participating in the ANBL, including girls' softball!

We are still in need of coaches and sponsors. If you are interested, please call 630.723.3418 or email sgonzalez@waysidecross.org



Volunteer With Us!

Interested in giving your time to kids in need? There's a place for everyone at UYM! We are looking for positive role models to tutor and mentor our kids during the After-School Program! If you are interested, email rsterkel@waysidecross.org

Sponsor a Child!

If you want the chance to impact a child, you can provide UYM's After-School Program for a child for just \$50 per month! When you sponsor a UYM child, you cover the cost of their entire UYM experience for the month. All sponsors will receive an email or text with pictures of their child periodically throughout the month. Sponsorships can carry into the next semester and even summer 2026, allowing you to follow your child's journey year-round.

Thank you all so much for your astounding generosity and faithfulness to our ministry. To learn more about Urban Youth Ministry and Wayside Cross, you can visit our website or our Facebook page!

Love, UYM



Meet Our New Staff Member

I'm excited to be joining Wayside Cross Ministries as the Assistant Director of UYM and becoming part of the UYM community. For over 23 years, I've worked in youth development, community development, coaching, and teaching, which has shaped my passion for investing in the next generation. My faith in Christ has been a steady foundation in my life, guiding me through challenges and calling me into ministry. Through this assignment, I'm grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside students as they deepen their relationship with God.

I'm also looking forward to adding value and working alongside other leaders at Wayside Cross Ministries, as well as collaborating with neighboring churches, like-minded organizations, and members of the community. I'm especially grateful to be serving alongside Robin Sterkel in Programs—her leadership, experience, and heart for this ministry continue to be a strong foundation, and I'm excited to work together as we build on that momentum. I look forward to seeing how God will move in and through these relationships in the seasons ahead.



Devell Porter

We're grateful for your ongoing support and commitment to the work of this ministry. To explore more about Urban Youth Ministry and Wayside Cross Ministries, please use the link below.

Thank you for being part of what God is doing through UYM.

www.waysidecross.org/kids

