



*"Sowing the seeds for tomorrow"*  
Matthew 13:3-8

2015



# Urban Youth Ministry

AN UPDATE FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY

## Fox Valley Orchestra partners with C.H.A.M.P.s after school program to bring a symphony of smiles and music.



There are very few things more enjoyable than to see a child's bright smile while they play a musical instrument. This is exactly what F.V.O. "El Sistema" program is bringing to the after school program at Brady Elementary. Because

of the generosity of both the donors and members of the F.V.O. every Tuesday and Thursday, one can catch a glimpse of smiles and music from our students at Brady. Our students are not only learning how to play and read music, but are being supplied with the use of violas, violins, and cellos they can take home and practice with for free! There

is no question that a child engaged in music will increase their aptitude for learning and, in turn, learn to set successful goals in life.



Our first El Sistema concert was a success! Nissa Sampson, one of our string instructors, summarized it so well in her comment, "The biggest thing I am taking away from this concert is the impact of performance on the kids. Our squad of rambunctious kiddos were transformed into little confident professionals when the concert started. It's sometimes hard to see in class when we are clapping Mississippi hot dog for the 47,000th time how that is going to empower a bunch of kids, but then seeing the confidence and pride in their faces when they get to perform that together makes the impact of this program really obvious. I can't wait to see how their attitude and behaviors change as we progress and hopefully, how that will extend into other facets of their lives."

## AURORA NEIGHBORHOOD BASEBALL LEAGUE Rain, Rain Go Away - We Want to Play!

Rainouts forced last season to continue for an additional week, but players, coaches and umpires, along with their families, were up for the challenge. The positive attitudes amidst all the changes in the season's schedule were a great example of the people who play and serve in the ANBL. UYM is so grateful to all who were and are involved in the ANBL.

ANBL provides an opportunity for youth from the Aurora area, who are between the ages of 6 and 12, to play on a team at no cost to them. This opportunity is a great alternative to the negative influences that are so prevalent during the spring and summer months in urban communities.

Mike Rhodes, this season's head coach for the Dodgers, shared at the year-end ANBL coach's meeting, how surprised he was at



the complete joy he received serving the children of Aurora. This joy is truly felt only by those who are blessed by the grace of our Savior when we serve Him and his children, sowing the seeds for tomorrow, as referenced in Matthew 13:3-8.

Coaches, team moms, and team sponsors are needed for the upcoming season. For more information contact Robin Sterkel, UYM Program Coordinator at 630.892.4239 x 218. Players may sign up at [www.waysidecross.org/baseball](http://www.waysidecross.org/baseball)

**real stories...real HOPE**



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Whenever I get around kids today, they always seem so much smarter than I was at their age. I am regularly conversing with youth about subjects that I was clueless about as a child.

Of course, the down-side is they are being exposed to so much more at a younger age than any previous generation. A whole lot is coming at them fast. Urban Youth Ministry attempts to help protect the innocence of childhood. With afterschool programs that shield youth from the dangers of the streets or the temptations of an unsupervised home, and summers filled with baseball and fieldtrips, we want to help kids be kids.

Healthy kids become healthy adults and we want to give youth a chance to be whole spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Thank you for your partnership in this important mission.

Blessings,

*Phil*

Phil Wood

## UYM Summer Camp

**“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” Matthew 5:14**

The body of Christ at St. Olaf Lutheran church in Montgomery is a wonderful example of the commission God has given us all: to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16



For the third year in a row, St. Olaf’s was the home of UYM’s summer camp. Every weekday for the months of June and July, children from the Brady Elementary neighborhood and the St. Olaf neighborhood were seen playing in the churchyard, learning about the Bible in Sunday School classrooms, eating, reading and making crafts in the cafeteria, and cooking in the kitchen. Urban Youth Ministry and the Aurora community is blessed because of the grace that is given by St. Olaf Church and their example of God’s love.

## UYM After School Program



**UYM’s READ program has a new name: C.H.A.M.P.S, which represents Christ’s Homework and Mentoring Programs**

C.H.A.M.P.S meets Monday through Thursday at Brady Elementary in Aurora. The daily schedule consists of a cold meal supplied by Northern Illinois Food Bank, fifteen minutes of physical activity, one hour of homework tutoring, and finishing off each day with a half hour of a Jesus focused activity.

C.H.A.M.P.S is in great need of volunteers to meet with a few children once a week, helping them with homework and reading. We also welcome business professionals, public servants, crafters, musicians, athletes, etc., to play a part in introducing our students to the world around them, empowering them to be all God intends them to be.



# TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Back to school supplies donated by Quality Chiropractic of Aurora

Quality Chiropractic of Aurora generously donated school supplies for 25 UYM kids for the 2014-15 school year. School supplies are essential for students to get the most out of their education, but for many kids from the communities in which UYM works, the cost of all the necessary supplies is often times too much for the families to afford. The 25 students that did receive all the necessary supplies were excited to start the new school year without having to worry about their school supplies, enabling them to have a higher quality learning experience.



## Parent group runs concessions to help with costs of league

This year, under the direction of Dennis Rady, a parent group formed to begin making the ANBL more of a community effort. The parents not only began meeting with Dennis, they started a much needed concession stand that netted enough profit to pay for participation medals for the players. The concession was a welcome addition for hungry players and fans during the games on Saturdays at Martin Luther King Field. Next year, there is talk about adding a concession stand at Copley II Field, along with running concessions during the weeknight games at both fields.



## Warmth is spread again this year for children of UYM programs, thanks to Pivotal Home Solutions and Nicor Advanced Energy

Children from Brady Elementary, Wayside Cross Ministries' Lifespring Center, Southwind Housing, and Harbor Village of Aurora are a little warmer this year because of Nicor's 10th annual "Coats for Kids" drive.

The employees shop for a brand new coat for each child according to the name, age and gender tag they choose from the business' giving tree. Nicor has used Urban Youth Ministries as their connection to children in need on Aurora's Eastside for 8 of the 10 years the "Coats for Kids" drive has taken place.





## Individual donor's like Myron Frye make Christmas a little brighter for our UYM children

Our students at Brady, once again this year, were given a Christmas party by Myron Frye, a very giving man, who has been hosting children's Christmas parties for the last 26 years. At the end of the party, the children were asked if they would like to say something to Myron and his volunteers; many of the children individually thanked them for the gifts, food and fun. It was very encouraging to hear the children show their gratitude with such sincerity. However, the greatest blessing of the evening was when one of our second grade girls said, "Thank you God for making this all happen". Praise God for the opportunity to share who He is to the children of CHAMPS and showing them kindness through people like Myron.



## Walk a Mile

The Walk a Mile in My Shoes winter walk event took place on Valentine's Day this year and although hearts were warm, the temperatures were not. Approximately 200 people came out to brave the below zero temperatures. Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner served as Grand Marshal. On the route, walkers enjoyed hot beverages served by The Warehouse Church and upon their return, participated in additional festivities that included prize drawings, top fundraising awards, photographs with a special visitor, (the Chick-fil-A cow), and breakfast provided by Chick-fil-A, Jakes Bagels & Deli, Panera Bread and Reuland's Catering.



**UYM is grateful to the churches, businesses, and individuals who help connect people with resources to those genuinely in need!**

**We are committed to providing a safe and structured environment for children to learn and grow, while at the same time making disciples for Jesus Christ - Matthew 28:18-20. It is the intent of Urban Youth Ministry to go out into the Aurora community and accomplish this goal with children and with all whom God directs in our path.**

**UYM is a division of Wayside Cross Ministries**