

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



2017 SUMMER WRAP UP

Urban Youth Ministry

AN UPDATE FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY



UYM Kids and Staff Say Thank You to All of You Who Volunteered, Donated and Prayed for Us This Summer!

God's grace overwhelmed us this summer through all He did at summer camp and the Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League. There were many daily challenges, but God changed those challenges into blessings.



UYM Couldn't Meet All the Needs of Our Ministry Without the Wonderful Churches that Support Us!

Thank you, VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH, for the bus transportation, bowling field trip, fun crafts, pancake breakfast, working for our phone-a-thon fundraiser, loving on our kids, and teaching them about Jesus!

real stories...real HOPE

The God of Second Chances is Proclaimed at UYM Summer Camp!

Meet Dantae, a 15-year-old freshman at East Aurora High School. This summer marks Dantae's third summer as a participant in UYM Summer Camp. Dantae's first summer had a rough start. He really did not want to participate and spent most of his time isolating himself from the other campers; understandable, because Dantae is in foster care and is living away from his broken family.

Trust and consistency are lacking in so many of our UYM kids' lives, and Dantae is one of those kids. We have an amazing staff at UYM, and just after a few weeks of interacting with them, Dantae was playing basketball, volunteering at a nursing home, cooking with the other teens, and showing off his beautiful smile. Dantae was named most popular camper that summer. The next summer, he came back and was a great mentor to the younger kids and leader to his peers.

This past summer started off differently, though.



Dantae's attitude was out of character. He was negative and had little respect for our staff as well as his fellow campers. A couple weeks into the program, Dantae was caught taking home a basketball that did not belong to him. It was so hard to see this young man, who we all love, fall to this type of behavior. He was given a consequence just before the four-day Fourth of July weekend.

After the long weekend, we resumed camp by starting out with a proclamation that all bad behavior that happened before the break was forgotten, just like Jesus forgets our sins because of His blood that was shed on the cross. Dantae had a look of disbelief on his face; this day brought the change he needed.

From that day forward, the old Dantae showed up and he was awarded the Best Male Leader for the summer. The God of second chances...We are so grateful for His love and grace at UYM!

When You are Obedient to Let God's Plans Trump Your Plans, Great Things Happen!

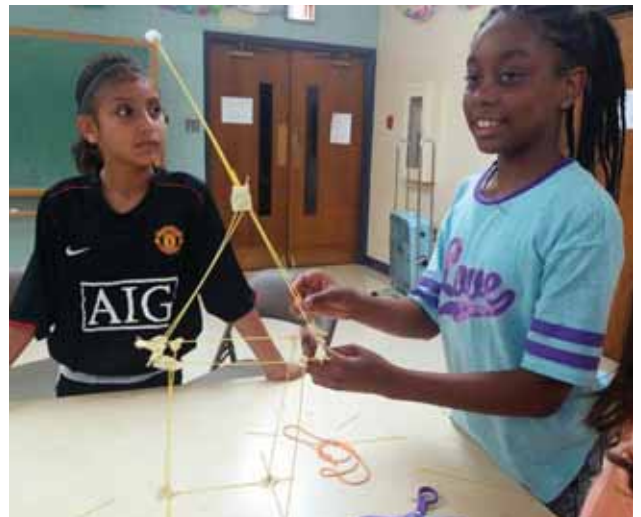
Three UYM summer campers proclaimed their faith in Jesus Christ this year at our annual end of summer family luncheon! Ms. Audrey taught Bible study this summer to our 1st through 6th grade campers. She always had her lesson plans ready to go a week in advance, but this time, her plans were trumped by God's plans. In Audrey's words, "God opened my mouth to present the Gospel on a day where that wasn't in my lesson plan; because I was obedient to God's plan, several students came to know Christ and were so passionate about their decision that they had a strong desire to share the Gospel and lead their families in prayer, which happened two weeks later."



Science at a Bible Camp? You Betcha, and Jesus was Proclaimed Through It Every Time!

"I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE" – PSALMS 139:14 WAS OUR BIBLE VERSE FOR THIS SUMMER, AND UYM KIDS ENGAGED IN SCIENCE ACTIVITIES THAT ALWAYS LED BACK TO THEIR CREATOR, GOD.

A field trip to SciTech, creating things out of toilet paper rolls, building the tallest tower out of marshmallows and spaghetti, planting flowers, and making Slime, were all part of weekly lessons that reflected on all that God created.



Wayside Cross Ministries' Mission of Transformation is Evident Through UYM'S Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League

The 2017 season of the ANBL served over 160 kids who participated in its 9 to 12 year old league and the t-ball league. The coaches poured into their kids all summer, transforming at-risk youth into a band of players that know and respect each other, their coaches, the umpires and the game of baseball through the love of Jesus Christ.



Winning a championship is more than just celebrating a game: it's celebrating life in the ANBL. Andre, a player on the Cardinals' team, lost his mother in a car accident in late June; Andre was injured in that car accident, as well. As the Cardinals team, led by Coach David, played for the trophy (which they won), the team showed Andre and his family that it wasn't all about winning the championship, it was about celebrating life together in the ANBL.



Thanks to the Fox Valley Park District, Dr. Martin Luther King Field is transformed into a beautiful park that all can enjoy. FVPD installed new fencing around the backstop and dugouts, added a homerun fence, new dugout benches, new bleachers, and installed a splash pad at the playground. The ANBL could not run without the generosity of the FVPD. They donate the use of two fields for the ANBL teams to play on every summer!



UYM Needs You for the 2017/2018 School/Year

Opportunities to Serve

■ Tutoring 6th through 11th grade students –

Every Thursday from 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church in Aurora.

■ Be a guest speaker –

Business professionals, public servants, crafters, musicians, athletes, etc., are welcome to play a part in introducing our students to the world around them, empowering them to be all God intends them to be.



“EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD’S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.”

1 PETER 4:10

“FEED THE HUNGRY, AND HELP THOSE IN TROUBLE. THEN YOUR LIGHT WILL SHINE OUT FROM THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS AROUND YOU WILL BE AS BRIGHT AS NOON.”

ISAIAH 58:10

WALK
with the
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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

St. Olaf Church
Village Bible Church
Jesse Torres Boxing Club
Aurora Township
Fox Valley Park District
Fox Valley Christian Action
City of Aurora Police Department
City of Aurora Community Neighborhood Group
Crossway Church – North Aurora

SciTech
Pregnancy Information Center
Radius Camps
Jennings Terrace
Aurora Public Library
Parkside Bowling Lane
Christian Evangelism Fellowship
Crossroads Church – Oswego

For further information, please contact UYM Program Coordinator, Robin Sterkel at:
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UYM is a division of Wayside Cross Ministries