



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

**2018 SPRING**



# Urban Youth Ministry

**AN UPDATE FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY**

## UYM BEGINS JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS

**"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people" – Ephesians 6:7 (NIV)**

Keeping kids involved in Christ centered programming until they graduate from high school is UYM's goal. Jesus Martinez is a perfect example of fulfilling this goal. He started with UYM as a student at Brady Elementary. After elementary school, he went on to participate in the pilot program for middle and high school students. Last year, as a sophomore in high school, he started volunteering for the Brady after school program, returning to the place where he began with UYM. Jesus is currently a participant in the middle/high school program on Thursdays. On Fridays, he serves as a recently-hired UYM staff member where he mentors and leads games for UYM kids at Brady. Luis Cruz, who also grew up participating in UYM programs, is now working with Jesus on Fridays. Not only are we providing Jesus and Luis with employment, we are also teaching them to work with integrity according to the will of God. Pictured here are Luis and Jesus receiving their first official paychecks!



## GRATITUDE

Our kids are always willing to write a note of thanks to churches, organizations and individuals that help make a difference in their lives by giving them hope in their futures through Jesus Christ!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, AURORA PARAMOUNT THEATRE



Once again, Paramount Theatre in Aurora donated tickets to this year's production of "ELF" so our kids could experience live theater and see what future opportunities may await them in theater and music.

**real stories...real hope**

## 4th ANNUAL UYM WINTER CAMP WARMS THE HEARTS AND SOULS OF KIDS EVEN IN THE BITTER COLD

Once again, **Child Evangelism Fellowship** provided our kids with Christ centered curriculum that encouraged them to open their Bibles and learn that God created every snowflake, unique in its design. But even more importantly, our kids learned that they, too, were created by God, each child unique according to His plan. Thank you, **Jodi Ward of Child Evangelism Fellowship**, for your continued excellence in teaching UYM kids God's word.



### UYM KIDS LEARN TO BE GENEROUS GIVERS *Psalms 37:21*

UYM uses play money called CHAMPS (Christian Homework and Mentoring Programs) dollars to reward kids for good behavior. The kids, in turn, get to spend the money at the CHAMPS store that offers candy, toys, clothing, school supplies, etc., for purchase. The kids are required to save one dollar in order to create a saving habit; they also learn to save up money for larger purchases. **The middle/high school program on Thursdays takes it one step further, they receive CHAMPS dollars for good grades as well as good behavior and, at Christmas time, instead of using the dollars to purchase items for themselves, they use the money to purchase Christmas gifts for their families.** The kids are able to wrap the gifts they purchased, to take home and put under their family's Christmas tree!



One of the highlights of Winter Camp this year was taking the older kids to **Jennings Terrace Nursing Facility** to deliver snowflakes made by the younger kids. The older kids were able to share how God created each snowflake and every person, unique in His design, according to His will!





**PASTOR NICO TICONA FROM VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH CAMPUS EL CAMINO, SHARED THE GOSPEL, IN SPANISH, WITH UYM KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES AT BRADY ELEMENTARY.**



**UYM KIDS AND STAFF VOLUNTEER AT AURORA FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**



**Myron Frye is a great example of a generous giver! For 25+ years, he has been providing McDonald's meals and a Christmas party for the kids at Brady Elementary!**



## AURORA NEIGHBORHOOD BASEBALL LEAGUE'S SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING

The 2018 Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League (ANBL) is in full swing, preparing for the upcoming season. This year, the league has eight ANBL teams and four T-Ball teams. This season's sponsors are: All The Way Live Midwest, Headliners Barbershop, Geneva Construction, Woodman's Food Market, Your House Real Estate Academy, Taco Heaven, Main Baptist Church, New Hope Baptist Church, Advance Lifts, R.C. Wegman Construction, Fairview Dental, Artlip & Sons, Easter Seals DuPage, and Lundstrom Insurance.

We are expecting nearly 170 kids to play ball this year and are so grateful to the over 20 volunteers who have already signed up to be coaches and assistant coaches, but we are still in need of more coaches and umpires. Please contact **Steve Madawick** at [smadawick@waysidecross.org](mailto:smadawick@waysidecross.org) for more information.

Another thank you goes out to the Fox Valley Park District for its support for our fields!

Opening day is June 2nd at Martin Luther King Park with a 9:00am start time. Come cheer for your favorite team! See you at the ballpark!



---

### Your Official Invitation to the Urban Youth Ministry Annual Banquet

The UYM Banquet is being held at Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road in Aurora, on Thursday evening, April 12, 2018. Doors open at 6:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Collette House, Superintendent of Aurora Christian School. Collette earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Secondary Education from Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She completed a Master's degree in Educational Leadership at Aurora University in 2001, and is currently working on a doctorate in Organizational Leadership through North Central University. She consistently collaborates with other Christian school administrators and seeks to promote excellence in Christian education. Collette leads a small group at Highpoint Church and is active in serving in the community.

Our staff, volunteers and kids are excited to share with you what God has been doing in their lives this past year while participating in the numerous programs UYM offers. We will also be celebrating the many individuals, churches and organizations that have made it possible for us to continue offering free programs to at-risk youth in Aurora.

There is no charge for the event, but a "free will" offering will be taken. **Reservations are required.** Please attend and help us meet our financial needs. We encourage you to invite guests and be a table host. There will be eight to a table.

The funds that we raise will allow us to continue to provide tutoring, meals, mentoring, Bible lessons, a baseball league, and a safe place for kids after school and during the summer months. Would you please consider sponsoring a table at \$200, or becoming a banquet sponsor for \$500? You can still be a sponsor, even if you are unable to join us.

To make reservations, please call **Robin Sterkel**, UYM Program Coordinator at 630.723.3418, or email [rsterkel@waysidecross.org](mailto:rsterkel@waysidecross.org)



---

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