



“Sowing the seeds for tomorrow”
Matthew 13:3-8

2019



Urban Youth Ministry

AN UPDATE FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY

God Reminds Us That He is in Control!

This past April, Harvest New Beginnings Church gifted us with twelve tickets to **Ignite Youth Leadership Conference**. We had originally picked out eight kids that we truly felt were ready to take that next step of faith, but two of them dropped out just hours before our trip. At the very last second, two of our boys, Santi and Gael, who have “grown up” in our programs, were able to join our group. We were all anticipating how God would use this change in plans for His glory, and He certainly delivered!

After a night of beautiful worship and a compelling message by Dare to Share founder Greg Stier, everyone was asked to bow their heads and commit to a life with Jesus Christ once and for all. They were asked to raise their hands if this was something they wanted to do, and as one of our leaders, Abby, watched, two hands raised up...those hands belonged to Santiago and Gael! We spent the rest of the night celebrating their “second birthdays” at Dairy Queen, and both boys received a certificate marked April 5th, the day they accepted Christ.

What started as a disappointing absence of two of our students turned into the day Santi and Gael’s lives were changed forever. We are forever being reminded of the fact that God has a perfect plan, and that *“for those who love God, all things work together for good.”*

(Romans 8:28)



real stories...real HOPE

Local Partners from the Dorcas Women's Circle Made Our Easter Special!



Antje and Suszenna Brandon from the Bethany of Fox Valley United Methodist Church, joined with their women's group to put together Easter Baskets and teen-prize bags for our kids!



UYM Kids Debut on CNN

UYM provides countless opportunities to our kids, but being on TV certainly wasn't one we planned or expected! Sonika Menon is the founder of The Birthday Giving Program, an organization that puts together birthday parties for those who may not be able to have one otherwise. She has provided our kids with so much happiness through her generosity this past year, and we couldn't be more grateful. Sonika was chosen as a CNN Young Hero and was featured in a segment on TV. As part of the segment, CNN filmed a birthday party in progress, given to one of our UYM students. A few weeks later our kids were able to watch themselves on TV. What a wonderful experience!



WHAT DOES A FEAST IN HEAVEN LOOK LIKE?

Every six weeks during our Thursday after school program for middle and high school students, our kids partake in a meal from another country while also learning what it's like to go to school in that part of the world. For the last meal of the year, the kids picked all their favorites from all over the world. They were curious and wondered if our meal that night would look anything like a meal in Heaven. We used our Bibles to research the question and were grateful to share the truth of God's word with our UYM kids!



Our Heartfelt Thanks to the Paramount Theatre for the Continued Support for UYM!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Paramount Theatre, 51 kids and 8 staff members were able to enjoy a stunning performance of The Wizard of Oz! The live production showcased that opportunities await those who work hard at what they like to do!

UYM KIDS LEARN THAT YOU CAN NEVER INTERRUPT GOD WHEN YOU PRAY

Entering into God's presence through prayer isn't always easy, but our kids learned that using the acronym, P.R.A.Y. - Praising, Repenting, Asking and Yielding, helped them ease into prayer and they found praying was something they wanted to do more of.



The UYM Annual Spring Banquet, An Evening of Hope, was held at Gaslite Manor on April 11, 2019

Bob Muzikowski, founder of Chicago Hope Academy, spoke about the radical change that occurs in a child's life when God is at the center. **This event highlighted UYM's mission to give children hope in their future through Jesus Christ.** It was also a reflection of UYM's key verse from Romans 15:13 - *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

We also want to thank our UYM kids for working hard at the banquet. Our middle and high school kids seated guests at their assigned tables, and walked table to table selling raffle tickets. **OUR KIDS GIVE THEIR ALL TO SUPPORT OUR UYM PROGRAMS!** Additionally, our Friday after school program kids created the placemats for the evening. **We are so blessed to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic group of kids at UYM!**



Thank you to the following organizations for supporting UYM in 2018 and 2019

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| Abstinence & Marriage Education Resources (Illinois State Board of Education) | First Presbyterian Church |
| Aurora Dental Group | Fox Valley Dog Therapy |
| Aurora Islanders Baseball | Fox Valley Park District |
| Aurora Public Library | FVPD Foundation |
| Aurora Township | Harvest New Beginnings Church |
| Bounce Town | Jennings Terrace |
| Box of Balloons | Leads 222 |
| Brady Elementary School | Lifespring |
| Child Evangelism Fellowship | Myron Frye |
| Christ Community Church | Paramount Theater |
| Christian Evangelism Fellowship | Parkside Bowling Lanes |
| City of Aurora Community Neighborhood Group | Parkview Christian Church |
| City of Aurora Mayor's Office | Pivotal Home Solutions (Northern Illinois Gas) |
| City of Aurora Police Department | Radius Camps |
| Come to Life Ministries | South Star Energy |
| Crossroads Church | Splash Country |
| Crossway Chapel | St. Olaf Church |
| EAA Young Eagles Flight Program | The Birthday Giving Program |
| East Aurora District 131 | Village Bible Church-Aurora |
| Ed Huss Farm | Village Bible Church-Sugar Grove |
| | Westminster Presbyterian Church |

George Barna, a noted Christian researcher, puts our children as the most important mission of the church. He says children ages 3 to 14 are the most impressionable, since their worldviews are still being formed. He says that lifelong moral views are largely in place by adolescence.

UYM is a division of Wayside Cross Ministries