

"Sowing the seeds for tomorrow"

Matthew 13:3-8

ISSUE II 2019



Urban Youth Ministry

AN UPDATE FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY

Harvest New Beginnings Church is truly living out Jesus' command to send out laborers into his harvest; the fruit is multiplying at UYM, because of a church that is obedient to God's word!

Harvest New Beginnings Church in Oswego sponsored a trip for 11 of our UYM students and two of our staff members to attend Rock Ridge Christian Camp in Ely, Minnesota. The camp is located along the Boundary Waters area, located in some of the most beautiful areas God has created in the continental US.

HNBC not only prayed and paid for our students to attend the camp, but they also asked the church for donations to purchase required camping gear for our UYM kids. Some of the money to cover these expenses came from HNBC's café, but the necessary trip expenses still came in under budget. Once again, the church came together and donated the remaining trip expense money to the UYM general fund.



Our UYM kids came back excited! They established new relationships with youth group leaders and members from HNBC who attended the camp, and most of all, a closer relationship with Jesus Christ! One of our UYM kids proclaimed Jesus to be his Savior AND he and another one of our kids were baptized in Lake Superior.

When the buses came back on Saturday morning the families were waiting; with tears of joy and thankfulness, parents embraced their kids, happy they were safe and were given an opportunity to travel to a beautiful place, experience something they have never done before and grow closer to Jesus!

Thank you, "HARVEST" NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH for showing us what Jesus' words look like in Matthew 9:38 "therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the *harvest* to send out laborers into his *harvest*."



real stories...real hope

Summer Camp kids learn what it means to live by the fruit of the Spirit

During each of the eight weeks of Summer Camp we learned a fruit of the Spirit and used it to encourage, teach and discipline daily.

So thankful for the following testimonies from two of our parents.

"My 6-year-old daughter and I were picking up some friends at their home. They were taking a little longer than expected and my daughter said, 'Great job being patient daddy, that's one of the Holy Spirits!' " – David and his 6-year-old daughter, Piper

"Today, I taught Andrew's Sunday school class and we were talking about how to show the love of God. Somehow, the fruit of the Spirit came up and Andrew rattled them off like a champ. I asked him where he learned the fruit when we got home. He responds, 'The same place I received the award for JOY!' Great work and your seeds are still bearing fruit!" – Kim and her 6-year-old son, Andrew

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23 ESV



Summer Camp Spirit week was a blast!



UYM IS "HAMMERING" AWAY AT NEW OPPORTUNITIES SUMMER CAMP KIDS LEARN HOW TO HAMMER THROW.....



Jim Coxworth, owner and head coach at **HammermanUSA** on Aurora's East Side, has a passion for hammer throwing and underserved youth. Jim began his career as a "walk on" track member at the University of Illinois, where he became an All-American hammer thrower. He never did the hammer throw in high school, most high schools do not offer it, but all colleges do, and it is a competition sport. Because of this, college scholarships for this event are plentiful. This is where Jim gets his desire to teach and coach kids who are in great need of college funding.

Jim invited our Summer Camp middle and high school students to his field and introduced them to a sport they had



never heard of. Much to our surprise, they all gave it a try, even though it was pretty intimidating! Jim offered the kids a chance to walk on to his team, free of charge.

Four of our students joined, Nataly, Avidan, Diego and Eliana are pictured here wearing the gloves and shoes that Jim purchased for them. He shared some words of wisdom with the

kids: "You win and lose by your character, and your training."

We are grateful that, through this opportunity, God will grow these student's character and work ethic! We are also happy to report, Diego medaled at his first meet! Wow... God is so good!

Prayer Time is a daily occurrence at Summer Camp and the most important part of our day!



We are so grateful for the many blessings of time and gifts our UYM kids have received from many local churches and organizations this summer. And we are excited to report that our UYM kids have participated on the giving side, as well!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church donated new shoes. The kids were able to purchase the shoes with the play money they earned for good attendance and behavior.



Box of Balloons and The Gift Giving Program supplied birthday cakes, gifts and party favors for summer birthdays.



Once again, the **Fox Valley Park Foundation** sponsored free swimming lessons for our UYM Summer Camp and Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League kids. Part of the Park Foundation's mission is to provide access to recreational activities for people in the community who can't afford it. More than 60 kids received five, one-hour sessions of free swim lessons in early June at Splash Country. **The Rotary Club of Aurora**, which allocated grant funding to compensate aquatics staff and instructors, and **Aurora Youth Township Services**, which provided transportation, also played key roles in the "Learn to Swim" program's second year. This summer, attendance nearly doubled from 37 in 2018.



And here are the ways that UYM kids gave back this summer:

Our middle and high school group volunteered at **Jennings Terrace**, **Village Bible Church Aurora**, **The Ed and Judie Huss Farm**, **Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry** and **The Jesse Torres Boxing Gym**.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God – Hebrews 13:16 ESV



As challenging as it is, programming for our middle and high school students is a blessing in so many ways!

It's a blessing to watch them learn the joy of giving, while volunteering and engaging in leadership and teamwork skills. They learn healthy habits while cooking. UYM teens discover their faith while studying God's word and attending education field trips, like the one they took to **Waterleaf Pregnancy Center** in Aurora.



Thank you Waterleaf and Michelle Gerken for educating our teens on the importance of knowledge and truth when it comes to pregnancy. Our students learned the sanctity of life and God's plan for every unborn child.



Much of Academic time was spent building and playing educational games.



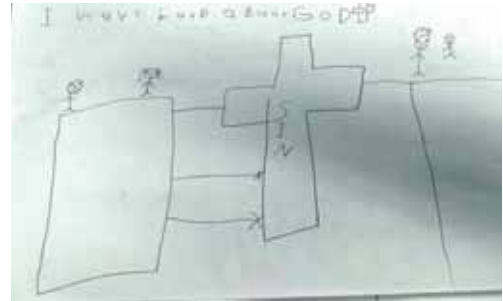
Science day was on Tuesdays and the kids learned about God's creation through fun experiments!



Bible Time this summer was spent going through the Old Testament stories and learning that Jesus is the reason we can have a relationship with God!



God created the heavens and the earth!



The only way to God is Jesus!



Dressing up as Bible characters.



Moses parts the Red Sea!

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Special speakers, organizations and volunteers share their passions with our kids all through the summer.

Three of our staff members took mission trips during the summer and shared their experiences. Lukas went to France, Mikayla to Peru and Kardia to Missouri. We also had a refugee from Liberia, a school principal, a story teller, a music teacher, an artist, and a police officer spend the day with us. One of the favorite days of the summer is when **Fox Valley Therapy Dog Club** brings their dogs to camp!



Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League (ANBL)

We had a great 2019 Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League (ANBL) season. We enjoyed playing at Martin Luther King (MLK) and Copley 2 fields provided by **Fox Valley Park District** and **River Park** provided by the City of Aurora. Much thanks to them for providing our baseball fields. This year we had 15 Team Sponsors and they provided each player with a MLB jersey, hat, grey pants, socks, and a mitt if needed. All the players and coaches received a team picture and individual pictures thanks to your donations. We couldn't have played without your generous support.

We had 9 teams in the ANBL (9-12 year olds) this season. Thanks to our volunteer coaches we help over 140 children learn how to play baseball, learn what team means, and know that God LOVES them. The National league won this years All Star game, **Westminster Presbyterian Church** provided over 200 hot dog bag lunches for all the players, coaches, and parents. Our Championship game was won by the Dodgers, great job Coach Tim!! **Community Christian**



2019 All Stars, the National League

Church provided over 200 hot dog bag lunches for our Championship game.

We had 4 T-Ball teams (6-8 year old) this season, with over 60 kids involved. The kids learned a lot about baseball, had fun, and got a MLB t-shirt and cap. Thanks T-Ball coaches and Delilah (our coordinator) for a great season.



2019 Championship Team, the Dodgers



Westminster Presbyterian Church sponsored and served lunch at the All Star game.



2019 Opening Day