

Stories from our Staff!

“Growing up as the youngest of 4, I always wanted to experience the joys of being an older sibling. Being able to have the same impact on someone the way my older siblings had on me (especially my older brother). I never really thought I would until I met a girl named Kylin. Kylin has me follow her everywhere, makes me play all sorts of crazy games, has become my coach on how to run faster for tag and be better at jump rope, and takes my phone all the time to make vlogs of our summer camp. Getting to know and play with her has been an absolute joy! Our friendship reached its pinnacle moment when she was trying to style my hair and said “you’re like my big brother to me”. **It was a great reminder of the way God has been using our staff to build up families around these kids; families founded on the love of Christ and the safe, fun environment our summer camp creates.**” -Albert



“Covid-19 has brought with it many challenges this summer, especially for children. It has shut down camps. It has cancelled field trips. It has even closed the pools. It is difficult to find any good; yet God is good. I am reminded of His goodness when I think of one particular student who came to camp for the first time this summer. We first met him when we went to his house to drop off a lunch and activity kit to his younger sister, and he answered the door. He had never attended one of our camps before-we didn’t even know his sister had an older brother! We asked him how old he was and if he would be interested in coming to our “camp”, or back-yard bible club. We left an extra permission slip with him and went on our way. I was thrilled to see him come on the first day! In the second week we offered anyone who didn’t have a Bible at home to take one at the end of the day.

As soon as I finished teaching, he quickly went over to where the Bibles were stored and picked one out to take home with him. Covid-19 has taken away many things from us. One thing it has not taken away is the ability to make known God’s mighty deeds to His children (Psalm 145:12). **Because of Covid-19, a 12 year old boy attended a bible camp this summer. Because of Covid-19, a 12 year old boy took home a Bible that can change his life forever. God is good. “The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.” (Psalm 145:9)**” -Heather

“Sarai is a girl who has been in the program for about four years and comes from a turbulent home life. She would daily isolate herself from the group, never eat lunch, and would avoid pictures. However, little by little, she would begin to open up. We would ask her questions about her home life and things she liked to do. During the activity/craft time, we noticed how creative she is. Eventually, she gave us some of her art projects as gifts.

Over time, she would begin the conversation with us. She would ask questions like, “how was Jesus on the cross and still fully God?” that even challenged Marissa and I as staff to answer. Near the end of camp, she was way more talkative, would smile regularly, and would eagerly participate during Bible time.

All in all, the smaller groups allowed for more intentional time spent with each girl. Sarai may have never opened up if camp was the way it normally was. Ultimately, Sarai is just one of the many examples of how God worked through the homesite groups this summer during COVID-19.” -Hanna



“Sowing the seeds for tomorrow”
Matthew 13:3-8
UYM VIRTUALBANQUET INVITE 2020



Urban Youth Ministry

AN UPDATE FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY

Let’s try this one more time...

You are invited to our AUGUST 20, 2020 UYM BANQUET, but this time for your safety and ours, it will be Virtual!

Our UYM staff, volunteers and kids are excited to announce our first EVER virtual banquet. What is a Virtual Banquet? While in the comfort of your home, you will enjoy a meal, your special placemat made by our very own UYM kids, a short virtual program filled with testimonies, pictures, UYM plans for the future and a brief message from Bob Spence, who is currently running for Kane County State’s Attorney. Bob was a Circuit Judge and presided over many civil and family cases. This experience has given Bob a heart for safe families and safe communities. He is excited to share what we can do together to give hope to our UYM kids through Jesus Christ!



Just because our banquet is online doesn’t mean you can’t host a table. We encourage you to invite a group of friends and family to your home with meals and placemats in hand to view our UYM program!

Please pick up your 5B’s pork chop and chicken meal from Westminster Presbyterian Church at 10 N Edgelawn Dr. in Aurora, between 4:30 pm and 6:00 pm. Then get home in time to watch our 6:30 pm program on any of these links:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WaysideCrossMinistry/videos>

Wayside Cross Website: waysidecross.org/UYMvirtualbanquet

Urban Youth Ministry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/waysideUYM/>

The program will promptly end at 7:30 pm. If you miss the premier, the video will be available at all 3 links anytime after 7:30.

You can reserve your meal on our Facebook page, or call Robin Sterkel at 630-723-3418. Meals are \$13 each and can be paid for when you come to pick them up.



UYM Starts a Band!

Santiago, Diego, Gael, and Sebastian are all cousins and in band at both Simmons Middle School and East Aurora High school. They have been practicing with staff member, Emily, for weeks so that they can play for you in our virtual banquet!

Join us on August 20th for a special performance by our very own **"Emily y Los Primos"**!

Real Stories...Real Hope

Summary of UYM Summer of 2020

Covid-19 restrictions led to the cancellation of the Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League and outdoor only remote mini summer camps. A delayed start to camp, because of protests. The 4th hottest summer in 150 years. City of Aurora sewage cleaning right in front of one of our campsites. Our UYM van broke down 3 times. Gang violence affected some of our families. Daily threat of storms and rain threatened cancelling camp. However, our theme for the summer soon became... **NOTHING CAN STOP GOD FROM SHARING JESUS WITH OUR UYM KIDS!**

St. Olaf Lutheran Church, we could not have a summer camp without your support and generosity every summer. You are a blessing that never ends!



Covid-19 hits especially hard for our at-risk youth...

The Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League was set to begin indoor try-outs the day after schools shut down back in March. By the time things opened up enough for other little-leagues in the area to begin bringing their teams together, it became obvious that the necessary guidelines to keep our kids safe would be too expensive. Over the years, the ANBL has survived on generous donations of uniforms and gloves, but bats and helmets have always been shared. There was simply no way to provide each child with their own set of equipment. The decision to cancel our baseball program is just another example of how some communities are effected by the pandemic more than others. On the bright side, scholarships allowed 4 of our boys to take part in the Boys Baseball of Aurora program!



Thank you Village Bible Church of Sugar Grove for loving UYM as your neighbor and being obedient to God's word!

We are so grateful for your monthly donation, use of van and bus when needed, amazing youth group who serves so selflessly and for raising up Godly young men and women to serve on staff at UYM.



This year Village Bible Church chose Urban Youth Ministry for their donation from Vacation Bible School. Kids and families spent three days collecting change and learning about our mission. In the end they raised almost \$3,000 to support our kids and summer programs!



We were blessed with a new church youth group serving at camp this summer from St. Paul Lutheran Church of Gifford, Illinois!

Thank you Pastor Scott Guhl, former pastor of St. Olaf Church of Aurora, and Pastor Scott Jeakins for leading your youth in sharing their love for Jesus with our UYM kids!

Hammer Throw Update

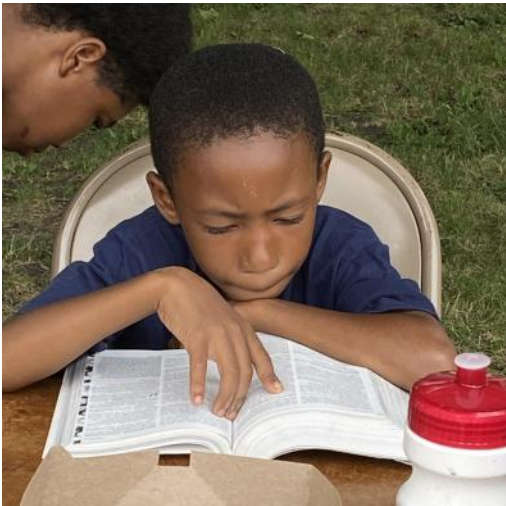
This is the second year of hammer throwing for our UYM kids Diego and Eliana. With the help of Jim Coxworth of Hammerman, USA, they have grown in both the sport and their confidence! Diego, who first started throwing at 80', now throws at 110'. Eliana first started throwing at 89' and now has a personal record of 94' 8". Thank you Coach Jim, we are so grateful for the time you have given these kids in training and disciplining them for their futures!



"Hammer throwing has impacted my life in many ways. It has helped me get stronger both physically and mentally. In the meets you have to get your head right so you can throw well. It has also impacted how I eat because you need to be healthy to get strong." -**Diego**

"Hammer throwing has brought so much out of me. It keeps me motivated in my health and education. When seeing other competitors aggressive with the hammer, it has inspired me to be the same on the field. I love the confidence that it has given me." -**Eliana**

Our UYM kids know that you should always make time for Jesus!



Our Very Own Up and Coming Missionary!

"This summer we spent a week learning a story about a missionary in India, and as we finished the story, one of our campers, Nevaeh, prayed that the Lord would allow her to be a missionary. When her prayer was over, my coworker and I were able to sit with her and ask her questions. My coworker told her she doesn't need to live on the other side of the world to be a missionary. She can tell anyone about Jesus! Nevaeh walked us through the whole Gospel – she didn't miss a detail!

Nevaeh had a rough morning that day – carrying with her the weight of so much disorder in her home. Our boss, Robin, was with us that morning and then again as Nevaeh was telling the Gospel. She told us later that she could visualize how Nevaeh – how all the kids – were able to decompress during our 2 hours at camp. They came to us with pent up anger and sadness and frustration, but they left having reminded us of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and of the power of His presence with us." -**Mikayla**

