

SUMMER SPONSORSHIPS

We are looking forward to another amazing summer, but we need your help to make it happen! This year we are offering two different sponsorship opportunities! If you want the chance to change a child's life, read below to see how you can give directly to a UYM kid's summer experience!

SPONSOR A CHILD FOR SUMMER CAMP

There's nothing our kids love more than UYM Summer Camp, and YOU can be a part of it! For \$150, you can cover the cost of one month of summer camp for one child! This includes transportation, food, Bible lessons, craft/physical activity supplies, a camp T-shirt, cooking lessons, merit store items, and so much more!

Once you choose to sponsor, we will assign you a child and update you on their Summer with pictures sent directly to your phone or email! Don't miss out on this opportunity to give a UYM kid a safe and Christ-filled summer!

My **UYM** Sponsor Child

and read the bible

UYM:

Thank You for letting
camp am really
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Name: Junior

Grade: 2

Favorite thing to do: soccer

Favorite part about UYM: Bible

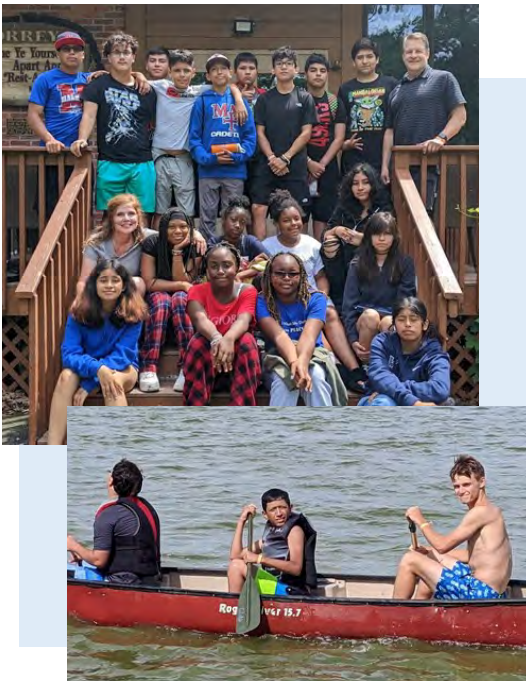
A note from me!

You are the
best in being kind

FAMILY YOUTH AND BIBLE CAMP

This year we are once again taking our middle and high school aged kids to Family Youth and Bible Camp for the 8th week of Summer Camp! We are looking to get 20 family camp sponsorships in order to make this happen. For \$340, you can send one child on a five-day, four-night trip to Indiana for canoeing, volleyball, swimming, team activities, and, most importantly, Jesus!

This sponsorship is for more than just a fun time. We spend the summer making sure our kids earn their trip through volunteer work, academics, and writing a full 3-paragraph essay. Our kids had a great time at family camp last year, and they can't wait to go back!



Interested? Call or email Robin Sterkel at 630.723.3418 or rsterkel@waysidecross.org! You can also give online at www.waysidecross.org/kids/

URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY'S PURPOSE IS TO GIVE CHILDREN HOPE IN THEIR FUTURES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST



UYM

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

The contents of this newsletter would not be possible without the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ working through YOU, our faithful supporters!

THIS YEAR'S BANQUET WAS A HUGE SUCCESS AT ALL LEVELS



On April 20th we held our 5th annual “An Evening of Hope” Fundraising Dinner. Our theme was “The God Who Sees,” and He certainly saw us through the entire event! **With the love and support of almost 200 friends of UYM, we raised over \$30,000 for our kids!** We also received more calls to volunteer and get involved in UYM programs after this year's banquet than ever before!



Those who attended the event got to see what UYM has been up to over the last year, as well as get updated on our upcoming needs. They were also treated to a beautiful musical performance by Cassia Denner, Mary Ann Free, and Nathan Stade. Most memorably, **a former UYM student, Alex Aguirre**, read a special letter he wrote to honor his time in UYM programs.



We are excited to announce that after being so moved by the outcome of our UYM banquet, **Alex has decided to join our UYM staff this summer!** We could not be more grateful to see that he has taken what he learned at UYM to heart and has chosen to give his time back to God.

Thank you to all who attended our event this year! If you missed it, you can watch the entire banquet online **at this link:**

waysidecross.org/2023-uym-fundraising-dinner

AURORA NEIGHBORHOOD BASEBALL

Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League's Opening Day was on May 20th. We had over 500 people at this incredible event! Each player was given a free uniform provided by UYM, which they wore for their professional photos taken courtesy of **MVP Sports Photos**. The opening prayer and sharing of the Gospel was given by **Robin Sterkel, UYM Program Manager**. The first ceremonial pitch was done by **The Fox Valley Park District Commissioner Matt Hicks and Jon Michael**. We had a free hotdog lunch for our players and families sponsored by **Village Bible Church, Aurora Campus**. A special thank you to our **Baseball Commissioner Mike Michalek and his Administrative Assistant Hanna Wentzlaff!**



DIEGO'S STORY

Diego's story is an amazing example of the opportunities children receive when they participate in UYM programs and how they can give them hope in their futures. And we have YOU, our collaborators, to thank!

Diego arrived at Urban Youth Ministry's after-school program in 2015. He was a Brady elementary 3rd-grade student and an only child of a single mom. Diego was a very quiet boy, even though he attended our program with four of his cousins. Diego not only participated in UYM's after-school program, but he also attended summer camp and winter camp through his sophomore year. During this time, he received numerous opportunities through UYM.

The first was his involvement in **The Fox Valley Orchestra El Sistema youth program**. Diego received a free violin and free lessons in 4th grade where he learned his love for music. Today as a junior, Diego plays the saxophone in the East Aurora High School Band where he is the first chair. Numerous times he received free winter coats and birthday boxes and gifts from organizations like **Northern Illinois Gas Company, The Birthday Giving Program, and Boxes of Balloons**. In 2018, Diego was part of a **CNN special news story** featuring The Birthday Giving Program.

Diego attended several musicals provided by the **Paramount Theatre**. **The Fox Valley Park District Foundation** sponsored free swimming lessons, where he learned to swim! He has volunteered at **Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry, Jennings Terrace, Ed Huss Farm** and helped at **UYM's Walk-A-Mile and “An Evening of Hope” fundraising events**.

In 2019, Diego went on a **Boundary Waters** trip in upper Minnesota with the **Harvest New Beginning Church** youth group, where he learned to live outside and travel in a canoe with no modern world amenities. The goal was to grow closer to God and to understand the importance of teamwork.



Through UYM Diego received information on **The Young Eagles Flight Program**, and today, he is planning to attend college to become a pilot. The reality for Diego is that any pilot school would require good grades and would be very expensive. Diego has participated in UYM after-school tutoring and mentoring programs for 8 years and has maintained an A average every year. As far as tuition for college, he joined **Hammerman**, a local hammer throw program, after he tried it out during UYM summer camp in 2019. He is now in his fourth year of competition and is being pursued by several colleges offering scholarships in track and field, one being **Lewis University**, where they have a wonderful pilot program.

The most important opportunity Diego received during UYM programs happened during summer camp in 2017 when **he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior!** The God who sees gets all the glory for the opportunities UYM kids receive while attending UYM programs.



Praise The Lord For He Is Good, He Is The God Who Sees - Genesis 16:13