

# UYM

## Urban Youth Ministry

AN UPDATE FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY



*“Sowing the seeds for tomorrow”*  
*Matthew 13:3-8*  
**Fall 2012**

REAL STORIES...REAL HOPE

### Change

It is said that “the more things change, the more they stay the same”. It wasn’t until recently that I really understood what this means.

This summer held several changes compared with our summer camps in the past. These included a change in the time, location, and participants of the camp. Camp was held at St. Olaf Lutheran Church instead of Brady Elementary School. The change in location was incredibly difficult for me at first. My leadership at Brady has spanned the past three years and I felt the Lord was blessing our efforts there.

Because of a scheduling conflict with a secular summer camp, we had the option to eliminate our Christ-focused activities or hold the camp elsewhere. I didn’t understand why God would have us change locations. I bathed the change in much prayer and as always, the Lord showed Himself faithful.

Because our location differed this summer, the 60 kids that we served differed as well. We transported approximately 30 children from the area around Brady, the rest came from the South Wind and Harbor Village housing complexes near the church. Bringing two demographics together from different neighborhoods proved challenging. Several times in the first week I called out to God, unsure of His purpose for the camp. As summer progressed, His faithfulness shined through.

He continued to show His grace and mercy despite the unique circumstances. After weeks of crafts, academics, games, and Bible stories the Lord once again showed me the beauty of His purposes and sovereignty over all. The kids from the different neighborhoods have become great friends and the counselors found much joy in seeing the kids interact despite their differences. St. Olaf Church was gracious to us; a profound example of a church who desires to serve God with their resources and facilities. Most importantly, children came to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. Seeing this brings me true joy. There is nothing more important!

Because of God’s faithfulness we are back at Brady Elementary again leading the after-school program. I will continue to participate in the kid’s lives in the South Wind and Harbor Village communities. It will be exciting to see what the Lord has for the upcoming months and school year!

As I grow older, the more I learn the benefits and beauty of change. Change isn’t always easy or desirable, but I believe that when God takes His children out of their comfort zones and into complete reliance on Him, He works in ways we never thought possible! I am so thankful that I serve a God who NEVER changes!

**Emily Wood, UYM Program Coordinator**



# Baseball Wrap Up 2012



The summer of 2012 held another great year of baseball for the Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League. 110 youth from Aurora participated in the 8 team league. We also had 20 6-8 year olds participate in our t-ball league. Through competition, hard-work and the love of the game, the coaches and players alike were able to enjoy the hot summer months with something positive for both those involved and the communities that the league played in.

It is so overwhelming to think about the great opportunity UYM has each summer to sow into the lives of at-risk youth in the Aurora area. Day in and day out these kids are faced with challenges and temptations that kids their age should never experience. Through the A.N.B.L. these wonderful kids are able to compete in sports, have fun and most importantly be mentored by godly men and women who want to be the light of Christ in dark places. I praise the Lord for the A.N.B.L!



## ***“HUMBLE THY SELF IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD”***

I have had the honor of serving UYM, Wayside Cross and the youth of the east side of Aurora for the past 7 years. Each summer at the end of camp I have said that this will probably be my last year. As the year ticks by I am thinking everyday about the kids and wondering how they have grown, both as a follower of Christ and as a person. When I receive a call asking me if I want to return as a counselor I can't help but feel a sense of completeness and joy because I know another summer full of faith and God's love is drawing near. I have been blessed by giving of something so simple; my time. I am amazed at the ease these children have to be thankful for this simple gift in life that doesn't come wrapped in beautiful paper or never will be outgrown due to age. I am humbled to discover my faith in God and Jesus Christ with the love and gratitude that these kids show every day.

**Samantha Dillion**  
Camp Counselor



## ***UYM Toy Drive November 1st - December 15th***

**New toys for elementary age children,  
boys and girls (K-5th grade)**

**UYM knows many girls and boys who will greatly appreciate a Christmas gift this year, and your toy donation will find its way into the grateful arms of kids from the UYM after school programs.**

**Just drop off your toy at WCM.**

**For more information contact Emily Wood  
630-723-3428 or [ewood@waysidecross.org](mailto:ewood@waysidecross.org)**

## ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM***

Volunteers needed on Monday & Wednesdays for after-school program at Brady Elementary School. The 1st thru 5th graders need you. If you have any time to spare between the hours of 3:00 and 5:30 pm on Monday or Wednesday come volunteer. They need homework help, you can read to them or help them with their reading. Play games or teach Bible lessons. Come make a difference in their lives and yours will change too.

Call Emily Wood at 630-723-3428 or email her at [ewood@waysidecross.org](mailto:ewood@waysidecross.org).