

Highland Park Highlights

Fall 2008

Highland Park Community Outreach P.O Box 3900 Highland Park MI 48203
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We are praising God for:

- **New volunteers for our Jr/Sr high age youth**
- **The donation of updated computers for our computer lab!!**
- **The ongoing relationships we are able to build with youth and their families and the way God is using them to reach people for Himself.**



Pastor John with one of his former youth group kids and now mother of a current youth in our program. We are thankful for allowing ministry here to continue into the second generation!

Teen Bible Study

For the past few years, the boys have met each Thursday for youth group and they have become a strong group of young men. We have been blessed with committed volunteers to work with them. As time has progressed, what was once a Jr. High Bible study has now turned into High School as the boys have grown older.



Kids at Sarah's house with her roommates Laura and Angela

This fall, we decided to switch things up a bit for our Thursday nights. It has been a few years since HPCO has had it's own youth group, so we decided to bring the girls on Thursday nights as well. For the first hour, all of the youth hang out together with our leaders. Most of the boys play basketball, but there is also plenty for others who like to do computers, video games, crafts, swings etc). After this, the girls go across the street to Sarah's house for the study while the boys stay and meet at HPCO. It's been exciting to see the house full again

with teenagers. Because God has blessed us with a consistent group of volunteers, we are still able to keep our adult/youth ratio low. This allows for mentoring and discipleship relationships.



We were able to take ten of our youth to a Tigers game this fall!

It's exciting to see how God is developing relationships and continuing to work among our youth. Most of those who come on Thursday nights have been coming to HPCO since they were young and it's such a blessing to see them return week after week, and year after year. It is through these on-going relationships and time in God's Word that He is changing lives.

Boxes of Love

Thanksgiving Food Outreach



Families pray together during food delivery

This November, we were again able to bless many of our families with a Thanksgiving food box. These boxes provided the families with food for their Thanksgiving dinners. Along with the food, each family also received a New Testament and tract.

We were able to do this outreach because of the ongoing partnership with churches (Primarily Life Church and Highland Park Baptist Church). These churches blessed us with not only providing the food and money for the boxes, but also individuals came to help deliver them the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

As boxes are delivered, we enjoy taking the time to pray with the family. Not only is this a blessing for them, but also for those who deliver. Often times, families take time to pray for us as well. It's a beautiful thing to see the body of Christ join together across racial and economic differences.

HPCO Fall Open House



Youth enjoy our updated computer lab. Praise God for this new donation to our ministry!

This fall, HPCO opened its doors to provide people with the opportunity to see first hand what God is doing here in Highland Park. On a brisk Sunday afternoon, people came from all over the Detroit Metro area to hear testimonies, presentations and take a tour of our facilities and our community. They were also able to spend time fellowshiping, enjoying some delicious chili and getting to know us better in an informal way.

After a presentation of HPCO by John Weidman, people were able to go across the street to Sarah's house to hear testimonies by those whose lives have been touched by this ministry. These testimonies included two current Kids Club youth, a grandmother whose children and grandchildren have been involved for years and also a former youth from our program. It was a great way for people to see both what God is currently doing through our ministry and how what has happened in the past is still affecting lives.



The HPCO Ministry house— where God is continuing to work to reach the youth of HP!

We want to thank all those who were involved in the planning, cleaning and preparation to make this open house possible and are excited about the fruit that will come from it.

Please continue to pray with us for our young people! Pray that God would protect them in their homes, schools and on the streets and that lives would be surrendered to Him

Sunday Afternoon Kids Club



An action filled game of touch football friends from Grand Rapids

Another change to our fall program is our once a month Sunday afternoon kids club. On the first Sunday of each month, we pick up approximately twenty kids for a fun filled afternoon of games, sports (lots of football!), a Bible lesson and snack.

One of the highlights for the kids on one of these Sunday afternoons was having Carlos, who grew up in Highland Park and was a part of HPCO's youth group, come back and share with the kids. He is a great role model to the kids as he understands their lives in a personal way and also has a life changing relationship with God. He shared with the kids a clear message of the Gospel.

This kids club has been a great way to get people involved in our ministry who wouldn't be available on a week day to come. In November, a group of guys from Sarah's brother's youth group came and had fun playing football with some of our boys.

Please pray with us that we will be able to resume our Thursday afternoon Kids Club in the new year. We are in need of more volunteers as well as funds to make this possible. We are also praying about starting a tutoring program soon. This is a great need in our community.



The kids showing their "attractive" sides...and having a great time with it at a Sunday afternoon Kids Club

