



Highland Park
Community
Outreach

THE HIGHLAND PARK

HIGHLIGHT

Winter 2007

A Season of Growth

By Sarah Hilliker



Sarah, Olivia, Nikia and Ajaia trying to stay warm on a brisk fall afternoon

This fall, HPCO was blessed with some new faces to join our already amazing group of volunteers. As we began programming it was obvious that we were in great need of some male volunteers. Frank, who leads the Jr High boys was on his own and we only had two men to work with our boys for Kids Club. We prayed that God would bring in workers who would love Him and have a desire to reach our youth.

In October, John and I were given the opportunity to speak at Highland Park Baptist's evening service (a service which is focused on reaching young adults). We shared about the ministry and our need for volunteers. Through this opportunity, we received three new volunteers, Hugo, William and Kristen. Hugo and William are two young men who joined Frank. Kristen also came on board and works with our Jr. High Girls. In addition to our Highland Park Baptist recruitment, two more men joined our team, Clark and Joseph. Clark who heard about us through his parents, who I know from Grand Rapids has been working with our Kids Club boys. Joseph who attends Citadel of Faith in Detroit,

(Volunteers, continued on page 4)

Operation Outreach 2006

By Sarah Hilliker

Even though I have been volunteering at HPCO for the past two years, I was never able to participate in Boxes of Love or our Christmas outreach. Until this year that is! I had heard so much about it and was so glad that I could finally be here for the experience.

The Saturday before Thanksgiving, HPCO was jammed pack with volunteers from Life Church in Canton who were preparing to handout 50 food boxes and turkeys to families in Highland Park. Along with food, each box also contained a tract and Bible. Most of the boxes went to families of our kids and youth and we also were able to make contact with some new families who were in need. The volunteers prayed together and loaded up their cars to deliver. This is a great opportunity to not only reach families by meeting their physical needs, but it's also an opportunity to meet spiritual needs. Each food box contained a track and the volunteers took the time while delivering to stop and pray with the families.



Volunteers load up turkeys and presents for Christmas delivery.

"Next year, my hope is to have real Christmas trees for the kids to decorate... instead of volunteers"

HPCO Hopes

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"I was especially blessed to spend time with the mother of one of my high school girls."

Outreach

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HPCO Hopes...

By Melissa Scrabeck

Hope scares me sometimes. It's often based on a glimmer of the future that contradicts the reality of today...so scary, to me at least. As a child of God though, it is what keeps me going, hope that this life is only the beginning, hope that God does indeed desire everyone to know and love him.

Over the last few months I have been challenged to have hopes, dreams, and goals in life. Where am I trying to go and how am I going to get there? Good questions and I was excited to apply to my work at HPCO. The interesting thing about hopes and dreams is they have to be realized, you don't accidentally achieve your dreams or stumble into hope, you need a plan. That all made me curious about what my co-laborer's thoughts were on the topic of hopes for HPCO. When asked "What are your dreams for this next semester at HPCO?" our volunteers responded with the quotes found on these next two pages.

Hope Realized and Growing...

-Frank, Jr. high boys

The Fall term for the middle school boys was an awesome time of abundance, as 4 volunteers came on board to work on Thursday nights. This winter we hope to continue to build on relationships that began last fall. With the extra man power, this relationship building will be much easier, more hands means more avenues for God to reach the boys. Thus one focus will be discipleship. We will continue to get into the scriptures and concurrently work on reading skills through scripture reading. We also plan on a couple field trips, possibly a Piston's game and another basketball/movie night at Wayne State University.



Above: Daniel, Michael, William, DeMarco, Frank and Justin hanging out on a Thursday night

Below: Clark-the human Christmas tree!!



"I'm praying about being more responsible in serving kids, asking the Lord to give me more passion, compassion, and love for them AND the community. "

*Joseph, Jr. high boys



Daniel and William enjoying some Game Cube before Bible study

"Real Christmas trees for the kids to decorate instead of decorating volunteers"

-Clark, Kids Club

...for 2007

"I want to know how to make a difference in the girl's world. Sometimes I think their world is so different...but it really isn't. I want to find resources that the kids can relate to so they can bring what they have experienced at club to school and home."

*Becky, Kids Club



Tim, Victor, and Jason spent many warm-ish afternoons on the basketball court.



Above: (back row) Jennifer, Sarah, Nicole, and Becki (front row) Caroline, Mary, Katrina, and Ajia pose having fun on a Kids Club Thursday.

Below: We spent a Saturday afternoon at Kristin's (Jr. High girls volunteer) house riding her horse, B.W., and relaxing in the hot tub.



"I pray that we can instill in the kids a desire to seek after the Lord with all of their hearts and not after the things of the world. I want the kids to know that the Lord loves them and that they can talk to him about anything."

*Tim, Kids Club

"My hopes and dreams for HPCO this year are to have the kids pay more attention in the small groups. Also to grow closer to the kids and have more fun with them."

*Nate, Kids Club

"I'd like Nikia to be excited and happy for an entire evening...and I'd like the junior high girl's to be able to look up Bible verses quickly without help."

*Kristen, Kids Club & Jr. high girls

Word from the Pres

“God cares for the people in the city”

JONAH 4:11

But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?



Pastor John teaching our youth at Kids Club

Just as in the book of Jonah, God expresses His compassion and concern for the people of the wicked city of Ninevah. This is the message that we are sharing with each college group that comes to us for their Spring Break. It is an important message for them to hear since most of these students come from the Suburbs or small towns. Many of them hear negative messages about people in the city “they are lazy, violent, criminals, irresponsible, etc.” No doubt there are many who fit into this category but there are also many well meaning people here.

In either case, God still cares for the people in the city and is actively recruiting and sending His people to the cities to share His loving message of Hope and Healing. Not only will the students hear these messages but they will also have the opportunity to personally see, meet, and minister to some of these people. They will also see and meet those who are actively ministering to those in need in the city. We thank God for the opportunity to give them this life changing experience and we pray that each of them would hear from God about how they can participate with His plan to reach and restore the people in the city.

At HPCO we are very happy to be involved in God's plan to Redeem, Reach, and Restore people in the city. We know that often this process can last 10-20 years in that many of the people here have a host of challenges that must be worked through before they can become mature Christian leaders. As you read about all of new volunteers that God has been sending us and our efforts to recruit and train more, we are thrilled about the possibility that each relationship these leaders form with a child in the inner city would result in the long term life change of that individual. Thus we are seeing the city Redeemed one life at a time.

Volunteers

(continued from page 1) also joined Frank and has been working with Jr High boys.

As I was preparing for our volunteer Christmas party I was so amazed as I looked back on how God provided over the past couple of months. We came into the school year with a great need for volunteers, and He abundantly blessed us! In a matter of weeks, we went from having a total of three male volunteers to having seven! We are so thankful for each of our volunteers and are excited to have Kristen, William, Clark, Hugo and Joseph join our team! They are already involved with building relationships with our youth and reaching them with the love of Christ.

Outreach

(continued from page 1)

As I listened to some of the experiences volunteers have had, I see that God also blesses them through the experience. The Christmas delivery is very similar to Thanksgiving. However, through the generosity of caring people, we also are able to provide our Kids Club children with Christmas presents. HPCO was full of energy, presents and wrapping paper the Saturday morning of delivery. This time, I was able to participate in delivering food and presents. I went to three of the homes of our youth. Even though I had met these families and talked to parents on the phone, it was nice to be able to spend some time with them and talk and pray with them. I was especially blessed to spend time with the mother of one of my high school girls. She shared with me all that God has been doing in their home over the last year and how she is continuing to trust Him to meet their needs. Even though physically, they don't have a lot, she had such a joy and complete trust in God. It was a blessing to spend this time talking and praying with her.

We especially want to thank Life Church (who donated over 100 boxes of food at Thanksgiving and all 40 boxes for Christmas), Highland Park Baptist Church for their donation of 35 boxes, and members of Kensington Community Church and their friends who rallied together to donate gifts to all the children in our HPCO youth programs.

Other Ways to Support HPCO



Meijer Community Rewards

(DON'T FORGET TO SHOW YOUR CARD WHEN YOU BUY AT MEIJER)

Did you know that every time you shop at Meijer, you can earn rewards for HPCO? By applying for a Meijer Guest Card and scanning it with your purchases, a portion of your purchase total will automatically be donated. The more you shop, the more you earn – at no extra cost to you.

You can join the program in 3 ways. **First** of all, you can join online at Meijer.com/rewards. **Second**, you can complete a Meijer Guest Card application available at your nearest Meijer. **Third**, you can also join when you apply for a Meijer Credit Card. If you already have a Meijer Credit Card, please call 1-800-962-7011 to join. **When joining the program, please provide HPCO's organization code which is 905454.**

And please invite your family and friends to join as well. This rewards program is a great way to support our youth ministries, sports programs and summer camps.

PRIMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICES

Recently we have met a representative from Primerica Financial Services who is a Christian named Asad Faraj who has come up with a great and unique way to help our ministry financially. He said that if anyone we contacted bought some of his products he would **donate 80% of his profits** from those sales to our ministry. We very much appreciate Mr. Faraj's generosity in this matter and would encourage anyone who is in need of financial services from an experienced (13 years), God-fearing man of integrity to **contact Mr. Faraj at 248-343-4970**. John and Jacky have met with him and have found his services very helpful and have purchased some of the products he had to offer.

If you have any further questions about this opportunity feel free to contact us and we will provide you with more information



Highland Park Community Outreach is registered at Charity Motors as a non-profit organization and is available to receive donations. *If you donate a car ask them to send the profits from the sale of your car to HPCO.*

Charity Motors is a 501c3 organization and your donation will also be tax deductible. Visit them at www.charitymotors.org or call **313-255-1000**.

Volunteer Opportunities Spring 2007

We have many opportunities for volunteers who are interested in working with HPCO. **Current needs are for mentors, tutors, anyone administratively gifted, grant writers, and people willing to help keep track of the finances.** If this is you, call or check out our website for more details about volunteering at www.hpc.org.

NEW!!!! ORLANDO VACATION HOUSE TO USE FREE (FOR A DONATION)

One generous donor has offered to make his vacation house available to use **for a donation of any amount to the ministry of HPCO**. It is a **3 bedroom house** and it is only **5 minutes from Disney World**. To participate in this creative fundraising idea please email us or call us and we will check and see if the house is available for the dates in which you are interested.

Prayer Corner

PRAISES

- 1) **We were blessed with 5 new volunteers this fall.** God has brought us a wonderful group who love Him and are dedicated to our youth. What a great addition to our amazing volunteer team!
- 2) We have had **great work groups** this fall and winter. Not only were we able to get some much needed cleaning and organizing done here at HPCO, they were also able work on the home of one of our families
- 3) Sarah Hilliker has been able to come on staff full time at HPCO!!
- 4) The on-going **relationships being built** between the children and volunteers. It's been exciting to see the relationships grow and God working through them.
- 5) Two of our high school girls had the opportunity to attend a Purity and Holiness Seminar (on sexual purity and relationships) in Grand Rapids, MI.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) For the **planning and preparation of our summer day camp starting in June.** Also pray for the recruitment and training of summer staff.
- 2) For the **children and youth** we reach every week. Pray that God would continually work in their lives, that they would learn what it means to **truly be a disciple of Christ**
- 3) That not only will we get volunteers to work with the children but also that God would provide a **very needed administrative team** to work with Sarah and Melissa to help keep track of funds, do fundraising, help maintain the facilities and vehicles, work with the board, etc.
- 4) For the Weidman's and Sarah as **they continue to raise financial support.**

WANNA BECOME A REGULAR PRAYER PARTNER? You can sign up for our MONTHLY EMAIL PRAYER UPDATE by emailing us at godrule242@aol.com.

Highland Park Community Outreach

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Address Correction Requested

