



HIGHLIGHT

April 2006

A New Crop of Leaders



Tim and Becky Davis

As each year begins we pray for God to send volunteers that love Him and have a passion for the children of Highland Park. Over the years the faces have changed but God is faithful to provide a passion that does not. This fall we welcomed a new family to our volunteer staff team that has blessed our children with love and care while blessing our team with renewed energy and fresh ideas.

games, and pushes on the swings. Becky and Nicole are also using their creativity to provide crafts and special displays with pictures of the kids on the walls.

Even as the time is filled with activities and busyness, when the Davis family shares their favorite moments it is the quieter times that we hear about. Their compassion and understanding over each of the children has garnered an atmosphere of comfort. Becky has been able pray with many of her girls to receive Christ and Tim allows the Spirit to work as the boys need time to be rowdy and time to cry as well. God has surely blessed Highland Park with this family.

We have also added volunteer staff on *Thursday evenings* with Jr. High boys. **Ben Higgins, Mario Caston**, and returning volunteer staffer Frank Huxley work closely discipling these young boys through their various challenges.



Nate and the boys

“Oh, it’s the fun people!”

–Melvin Marshall, when he saw the Davis family arrive one Thursday afternoon.

Each Thursday, **Tim and Becky Davis, along with their children, Nate, Nicole, and Luke** *drive at least 30 minutes to HPCO* and arrive to shouts and smiles. Through their family the kids are truly being loved with countless piggy back rides, football and basketball



Nicole and the girls

New Volunteers

The Davis Family

At Thursday Kids Club

*Ben Higgins & *Mario Caston*

At Thursday Evening Jr. High Boys

“Loving relationships is the medium through which kids can best understand the gospel” John W.

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Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreach



Above: Volunteers from Cornerstone Church in Ann Arbor pack Thanksgiving Boxes and The "Life Church delivery team poses in front of the outreach center. **Below:** Kids club kids are excited to receive their fleece blankets



Above: Wrapping presents. **Right:** Excited volunteers begin loading their cars.

BOXES OF LOVE:

This year we were met with the challenge of starting out with 500 less boxes than we usually get from our National Here's Life headquarters. So we turned to our Detroit Metro Churches for help. We were thrilled at the response of people particularly from Highland Park Baptist and Life Church who gave so generously to help bridge this gap (over 160 boxes between the two churches). Then when it came time for delivering the boxes we were blessed by a large number of Life Church participants who came to participate. After meeting at HPCO for prayer and orientation, the groups set out to deliver the boxes to specific families in the area. 40 families were visited in the Highland Park Area. Each family was personally visited and a prayer was offered. Often there is a great conversation of the needs of the family which often leads to ongoing ministry to that family. (RIGHT OR WRONG) In one case a couple both looked on their map and agreed on the address they saw. After visiting the family, finding out that they were in great need of prayer and other resources, encouraged and ministered to them, they returned to their cars only to realize that they had visited the WRONG ADDRESS. Sounds like God went over our head on that one. They fol-

lowed up with another visit at Christmas with gifts and food and more prayer and encouragement.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES:

Christmas is always a special time both for communicating with our children the true meaning of Christmas but also to bless them with some special gifts so that we can not just *tell them* about God's gift of Jesus but also *show them love* through giving them a special gift. For our Christmas party this year we were excited Pam Zinn and the children's department at Life Church took it upon themselves to make special Christmas blankets for each child in Kids Club.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS:

Each year we plan to take food and gifts to each of our families in Highland Park but we never really know where the help will come from. This year God sent the college and career ministry of Woodside Bible Church to provide \$900 of food and Darrell DuBay (a board member) to challenge the people at his job to buy or to fund gifts for each of the children on our list. Then Darrell's family, some friends and more Life Churchers came to help deliver the boxes of food and gifts.



Theology of Kids Club

Jennifer Pattison and her mother Linda Stevens have continued to minister to HPCO children this year. Their energy and enthusiasm for God as well as the children is infectious for all of the volunteers.

It has been exciting to have the children begin questioning the concepts as we go along. We have tried a different routine this year, wanting to build meaningful connections between the volunteers and the children. It is our belief that this can happen in a small group setting more often than in a large group. The main lesson is still presented to the large group but then we break down into smaller groups for further discussion. It is during these small group times that we have seen many children ask the Lord into their lives and hearts.

It has also sparked some interesting conversations with some of our youngest children. Taylor, a mere age 7, has been challenging the adults with questions like **“So is Jesus broken into lots of tiny pieces so we can all have some in us?”** and **“What is God’s favorite thing to do? Live in us? So he created us so he could have a place to live and then he can come out of us and talk to us when we pray?”** The deep simplicity

of what she says with her unashamed excitement and acceptance should be a challenge for us all.

Another little boy, Jovanni, who attended day camp last summer, *randomly* came to club a couple weeks before Easter. As we watched a video representation of the events leading to the crucifixion he asked **“Did Jesus really get whapped? But isn’t He a spirit?”** He was so touched by the first half of the Easter story that the first words out of his mouth the following week were **“I’m gonna write a book about Jesus.”** To which the bus driving, Pastor John, responded **“Really? What are you going to put in the book?”** Jovanni responded, **“He died.”** We got to share with him that week the end of the story, that Jesus still lives and wants to live with each of us.

This was not the first time for either of these children to hear the Gospel but it seems that they are continuing to think about it after we drop them off at home. It is times like this that really reenergize us as staff to keep sharing the Word and letting these children know we care. Thank you for your prayers! God is doing a work in the children of Highland Park!



Above: Tim leads the boys small group outside, weather permitting.

Below: Melissa and Nicole discuss the day’s lesson with their small group.



“Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of heaven? ...whoever humbles himself as a child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 18:1,4



Left: Jovanni has been coming to HPCO for Kids Club and Day Camp for almost a year.

Right: With or without her two front teeth, this is Taylor’s second year attending Kids Club..





Above: Daniel warms up at a basketball tournament.

Below: The guys huddle to strategize.



Above: Our teens posin' for the picture.
Right: Misha after a group game.



Friday Night Youth Club

Counterfeit Confession

-from *BreakThrough*

Ways we rationalize our sin

1. Ignore it
2. Excuse it
3. Minimize it
4. Compare it
5. Blame it on someone else
6. Compensate for it
7. Postpone it

It has been a busy and fruitful year with the HPCO Youth Club. Much like with Kids Club, this year we felt led to keep the groups small to maintain close relationships with each of the students.

In our small groups we went through a discipleship and personal relationship with Lord booklet called *Break-through*. It gave us as staff the opportunity to challenge the students to be in the Word during the week the way we would model for them on Friday evenings. We offered some incentives along the way including various small prizes each week and a culminating event - an Overnighter with a sister ministry Central Detroit Christian.

A few of the students have been faithful to complete their booklets, which translates to them spending time in the Word throughout the week on their own! It has been exciting to see the students rising to the challenge and know that they are growing in the Lord.

God has shown himself continually faithful. This spring, John, Sarah and I have occasionally struggle to plan together and yet we have found the Lord leading us to and through the same Biblical content during our small group time. Often it is powerful words and applications that the students (and staff) wince through, but together we understand the importance of the being challenged.

We participated in a basketball tournament with Central Detroit Christian in March. It was our own version of "March Madness" and though there were some "mad" moments (some fights broke out that we had to intervene and stop) in the end God was glorified in that the kids had fun, played hard, heard a amazing testimony (from a former College basketball player and Detroit Police officer who was shot 7 times in a shoot out and lived.) Beyond that it was great to see our Highland Park boys work hard as a team, overcome the obstacles, and take **SECOND PLACE**. We are very proud of them both for their accomplishment and their teamwork.

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 pro-**

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. When you donate a car you will help someone who is in need of a car as well as the organization that will receive the money. Charity Motors is a 501c3 organization and donation will also be tax deductible.

Volunteer Opportunities Fall 2006

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 John at 313.896.1502 or e-mail him godrule42@aol.com to offer your services.

DONATE USED JEWELRY—OR BUY NEW

All donations will be tax exempt and we will receive over 70% of the profits. If you are in need of buying new jewelry you can go to the website below and buy from them and a certain percentage of the purchase will go for our ministry. If you have any questions please call or email us and we will give you more details or visit www.golddonation.com.

Prayer Corner

Praises

- 1) We have had some great things happen in our children's programs recently. It has been exciting to see some of our 7-9 year olds make first time commitments and to hear their "deep" questions Christianity.
- 2) For the success and effectiveness of the Boys Basketball Tournament.
- 3) Amazingly we have already recruited our Summer Day Camp Staff and 4 of the 5 will be returning from last year.
- 4) The Weidman children are doing well with their transition to regular school at Southfield Christian. They are all in after school sports, have been challenged with their spiritual development, and all 3 made the honor roll. Amen!!
- 5) The Convoy of Hope went off great. Over 7,000 people came through for food, medical screenings, children's carnival, etc. While there they heard the gospel and Christian music, had people pray with them.
- 6) We were very encouraged by our 2 weeks of Urban Immersion. We had about 30 college students per week during their Spring Break to learn about the city and to do ministry in partnership with our local ministries.

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

Prayer Requests

- 1) Though we praise God for the new and faithful volunteers who come every week we desperately need more to help us reap the harvest that is here.
- 2) As we get closer into the lives of some our children and their families we see their brokenness and struggles face to face and feel helpless to do anything about it.
- 3) For our plans and fundraising for Summer Day Camp and overnight camp. We have heard that there are **NO GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM UNITED WAY FOR THIS SUMMER**. That means that we start our fundraising efforts already \$6,000 in the hole (\$6,000 is the amount we would usually get through United Way for the past 5 summers).
- 4) We have a need to replenish our own financial support base. Please pray for our efforts in the months ahead, that we would be able to secure some new financial partners.
- 5) Beyond the need for weekly volunteers we are still very much in need of finding an "administrative" team to help us manage the affairs of the ministry while helping us raise funds and move the ministry ahead.

Highland Park Community Outreach

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Address Correction Requested

