

The Good News Newsletter is a monthly publication of Neighborhood Ministries. To contact us for tours, speaking engagements or other special needs, please write or call the following:

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Fairview Center
4220 Youngstown Poland Rd
Youngstown, OH 44514
(330) 755-6412

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Just a Reminder...

The Youngstown Foundation will provide a 5% match for any gift of \$100.00 or more given to Neighborhood Ministries. Donations can be made out to The Youngstown Foundation with a note earmarking the gift to Neighborhood Ministries. Donations can be sent to:

The Youngstown Foundation
PO Box 1162
Youngstown, OH 44501

Thank you for considering
this extra giving opportunity.

Please remember your church and Neighborhood Ministries in your will.

GEMS Bake Sale a Big Success

The end of June our GEMS volunteers held a bake sale at the Sam's Club in Boardman, Ohio. Our GEMS volunteers are individuals from a number of churches in three counties who have partnered with Neighborhood Ministries to provide love and support for the children and families we serve. Their current projects include buying birthday cakes for the children in our programs, providing meat vouchers for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, providing small gifts to pass out to children during our Christmas outreach events, and more. To support their activities they hold fund raisers, with the bake sale being the biggest.

This year they raised almost \$500 from the bake sale alone. The commitment of our GEMS volunteers, as well as all of the individuals who bake for the sale, is wonderful. Thank you to everyone who baked, bought, worked, and prayed. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and we appreciate the partnership of everyone who participated.



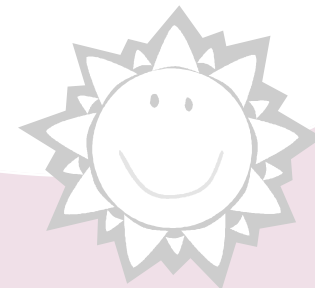
July/August
2008



NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES:

Putting Jesus First and Changing Lives!

The Good News Newsletter



A Child's Perspective

By Mark Samuel, Executive Director



"Things are sure different now." "When I was a child ..." How many times do we hear statements like this. I admit I am guilty of reminiscing about days past, wishing that life was simpler, like it was when I was a child. But when I really stop and think about it, there were problems back then too. Martin Luther King, Jr. was leading the way to racial reconciliation for our country. There was a war in Vietnam. Many youth in our country were heavily involved with sex and drugs. Are these the days I am wishing for? Not at all. What I wish for at times is for the innocence of my youth.

Many, many times I have spoken to young adults who have grown up in our centers. They tell me story after story about the things that they did, what they learned, and the trips they went on. I also hear statements that reflect the impact that Neighborhood Ministries had on their lives. "I learned how to swim from all those trips we took to the YMCA." "We listened to everything you said, even though it did not look like it." "Man, I miss going to camp." "I loved going to Dairy Queen."

Some of our children have to grow up so fast. Some see drug dealing, violence and crime right outside their front door, and sometimes in their living room. They see adults who have made poor life choices.

Some care for younger siblings because no one else is around to do it.

At Neighborhood Ministries we provide places for children to be children. They are safe places for children to gather and spend time with people that love them and accept them as they are. During the summertime we open our doors for the children at 10:00am. We do not have structured activities during this time. Staff members are available to talk, to play games, and simply to spend time with the children. We serve lunch at 11:30am and then have a variety of activities in the afternoon. Add to this camp trips, job training for teens, family assistance for adults, and you have a very full summer.

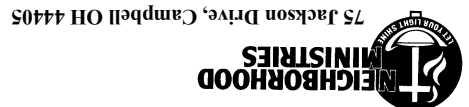
I don't think that the children in our programs know about the paperwork the staff deal with on a daily basis. I don't think the children are concerned about van maintenance or fund raising for camperships or about following the rules and policies of our summer food program. I don't think it is even about what the children think. It's about what they know.

They know they are loved. They know they can come down to our centers and have a safe place to play. They know they can come down to the center to play games, eat and hear about Jesus. And I know that, years from now, they will look back on these times with fondness and wish for the days when they were children at Neighborhood Ministries.

Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, the American Baptist Churches of Ohio, The Trumbull Baptist Association and the Youngstown/Mahoning Valley United Way.

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Summer Happenings

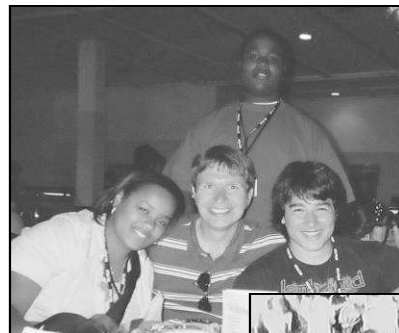
Youth Group Pays a Visit

The end of July seven youth and two adults from Grand Prairie Baptist Church in Marion spent three days with us. They played with our children, organized group games, helped with our lunch program and cleaned our Fairview Arts and Outreach Center. They did a fantastic job of loving our children and making our centers better and brighter. We rely heavily on volunteers to partner with us. **We could not do everything we do without you!**



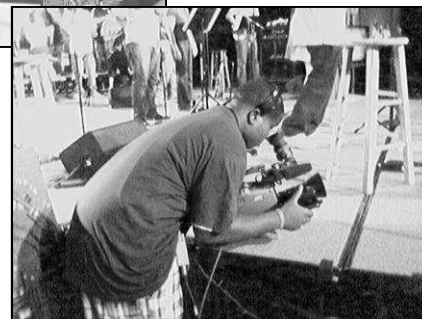
Youth Media Team Members Head for Colorado

Two members of our Youth Media Team were given the opportunity to attend the More Than A Week Gathering of Youth in Estes Park, Colorado in July. Leresean Jackson and Jaquan Madison spent 11 days providing media support and building relationships with youth from all over the United States. When asked about the trip, Leresean said, "It was amazing!" She talked about friends she made, how kind and loving everyone was and how much she learned about Jesus and taking her problems to Him. She asked if she could go back again in four years.



It is a blessing to be able to share so many opportunities with the youth who attend our programs.

Thank you to National Ministries for inviting our youth and paying for all of their expenses.



Thank you to Jerry Shaki, the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and the John Madden Foundation for providing a GREAT trip to Canton.



Golf Program Off to a Great Start

By Gerald Hamilton, Kirwan Homes Program Director



This summer Neighborhood Ministries has partnered with the First Tee Foundation of the Mahoning Valley to offer the city of Campbell its' first ever free youth golf program. This program not only focuses on the basics of golf, but also stresses many life lessons, such as courtesy and respect. The program includes many guest instructors, like Jim St. George from the Golf Dome in Girard and long time Neighborhood Ministries' volunteer golf instructor Dave Penturf, a member of First Baptist Church in Alliance, Ohio. Neighborhood Ministries' staff, along with help from Bedford Trails Golf Course, has transformed Campbell's own Jackson Park into a great golf hole for the program.



We greatly appreciate the many donations of golf clubs and balls from many supporters in our church community. To all that have helped this program get off the ground we say, "Thank You!". Your help will go a long way in making a difference in many children's lives.

Welcome to Kidz Academy

By Angelo LaCivita, Rockford Village Staff



On June 30th, Rockford Village had their first Kidz Academy. We had fun learning about Jesus' 12 disciples. We started off with some great praise music to get the kids excited about Jesus. We played group games that were fun but still focused on Jesus. The next step was the Bible lesson itself where I taught about John and James, the Sons of Thunder, and how they were called Sons of Thunder because they argued with each other. John was also called the Beloved because he learned about the love of Jesus. We had candy on hand for Bible questions that the kids were asked to answer. We ended up playing a group game and then finishing with everybody receiving some candy! The children had a wonderful time and enjoyed the day.

Camp Update



What a tremendous summer we have had. As of this writing we have sent 28 children to Koinonia Camp and Conference Center in Geneva, Ohio. Every child that goes to camp comes back with the same question: "When can I go back again?"

Years ago we sent a young girl to camp. She ended up coming home early. When asked about it she said that she could not handle all of the love she received at camp. This girl grew up and moved out of the housing development. Though she no longer lives in one of the neighborhoods we serve directly, she returned with her daughter this summer and asked if she could go to camp. Because of strong support we were able to send her to camp for a week.

It has been a blessing to be able to send her and many other children to camp. Thanks to the generosity of many churches and individuals, including a \$2,500 campership grant from American Baptist Churches of Ohio, this summer we have received enough money to cover all of our expenses for our camp program.