



# Summerhill Community Ministries, Inc.

Newsletter ~ January/February 2007

*Sewing Inner-City Youth and Families*

## This & That...

- A HUGE thanks goes to everyone that sponsored a child or a family for Christmas. This year we had our biggest response ever! We were able to help many children have a Merry Christmas.



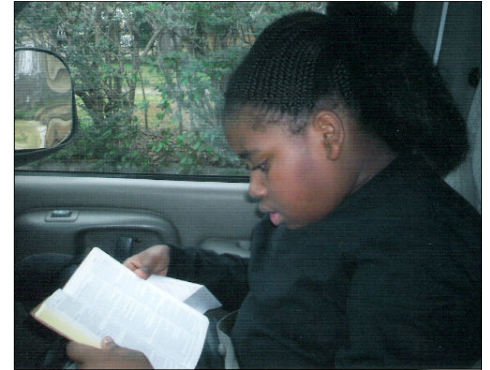
- Please pray for the students as they will be taking the CRCT tests in April.
- Justina Dix will be honored along with 6 other women for the Women's Leadership Award, at the Mercy Ministries Conference in April. Justina will briefly speak and show a PowerPoint presentation. She covets your prayers.
- Thank you volunteers for ALL you do! The homework help spent one-on-one with each child is really making an impact on their academic progress.
- Our next issue will include Basketball team updates.

## Hiding the Word in Our Heart

Justina pulled the van up to Staton Elementary School and the kids piled in. She heard the usual "Can I sit in the front seat today?" They know they are not old enough, but are satisfied with the few minutes they sit to wait on the Connally bus stop kids. Justina chose Bianca today.

One by one the kids start shouting things that happened in the school day. Bianca took a book out of her book bag, opened it and quietly leaned back into the seat and began to read.

Stunned and touched, Justina tried not to act surprised asking, "Do you carry your Bible to school everyday"? Bianca responded yes and asked about a scripture they talked about in devotion a few days ago.



What a gift when God encourages us with a glimpse of the His hand at work in the hearts of those within our circles of influence.

Each day Justina, the after school staff and volunteers demonstrate the friendship and love of Christ to these kids in concrete, tangible ways such as transportation to & from the program, snacks, devotions, loving discipline, help with homework, play, and enrichment activities.

*"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds... Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deuteronomy 11:18-19)*



Norman, Jeremy, James & John

## Enrichment Time

What do you get when you combine teenage boys, hard work and power tools? Fun, noise and accomplishment! Recently Norman Beck (volunteer from East Cobb PCA) helped the high school boys install coat & book-bag racks in the hallway. Some of the things they learned during this Enrichment Time included how to use a power drill, a leveler and wall anchors.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Honor Roll Students - Way to Go!

"Summerhill is more than an after school program, it is a family. So many of the kids who come to the program have difficult family situations, but Summerhill gives each kid a place to feel special, included, and secure.



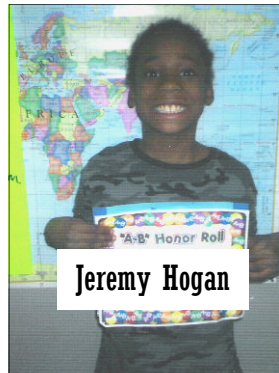
When my sister had to stop helping at Summerhill, the kids asked "Did she cry?" That is what Summerhill is to them. Everyday there is a devotional, and when I am there I am amazed to hear some of the answers the kids give. It is funny that I go to Summerhill to serve, but I am so encouraged by Justina, the teachers and especially the kids."

Shelby Robinson

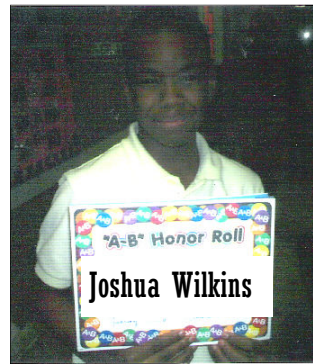
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They worked well together sharing the tools and taking turns. Now each day when they arrive, they see what they accomplished.

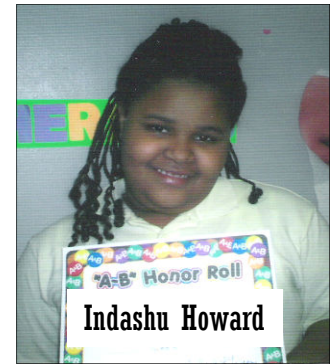
Do you have a skill or enrichment activity that you would like to share with the after school kids (elementary or high)? We have a 30 minute time frame set aside for this activity. Some examples are dance, music, drama, arts-n-crafts, cooking, sewing, wood works, sign language, pottery, gardening, etiquette, cosmetology, how to: tie a tie, change a tire, etc.. please let Justina know. She can be reached at her phone or email listed in this newsletter.



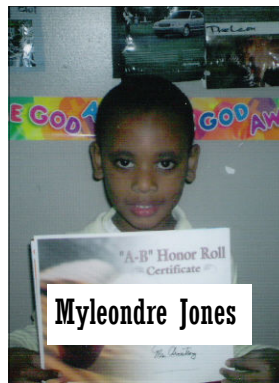
Jeremy Hogan



Joshua Wilkins



Indashu Howard

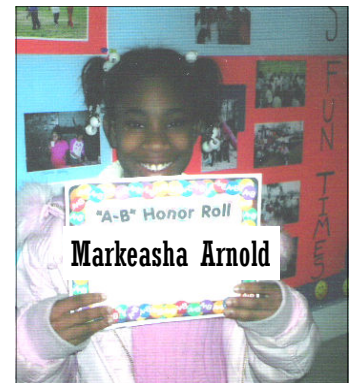


Myleondre Jones

Honor Roll Students  
not pictured

Kevin Payton  
Alexis Harkness

We are SO proud of you!



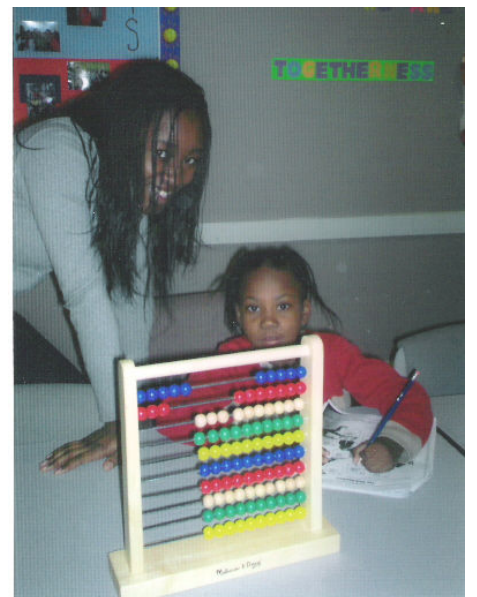
Markeasha Arnold

I've had situations with many of the kids that truly touched my heart. It was tough to choose one to write about. The most recent dealt with a young man named Jeremy.

*"... there's something amazing in each and every child."*

Jeremy would come to the after school program everyday and give us a hard time. I tried and tried to understand him and why he acted out the way he did. It took at least two weeks, but I realized that all he needed was a one on one connection.

He needed to feel close and connected to the people he was surrounded by. He has made drastic progress. For a while we took the entire homework time talking to him and trying to get him to focus. Now, we may have to ask him one or two times and he's on



the right track. His transformation taught me not to judge a book by it's cover and that there's something amazing in each and every child.

Khamirah Miller



*Dress-up time in the After School Program...*



*Rebecca leads devotions.*

## Baby News

### Baby Zachary

This is Rebecca Neiderfringer's second year with SCM. She and her husband Steve, came to Atlanta in 2005 as a part of Mission Year Atlanta. She has worked faithfully in the ASP, summer camp and has assisted Justina with administrative projects. Steve and Rebecca made Atlanta their home after serving with Mission Year Atlanta.

Rebecca and Steve conceived their child in 2006. The kids in the ASP grew very close to Rebecca and loved asking questions and were fascinated watching her stomach grow bigger and bigger.

Finally, Zachary was born at 3:08 am on February 4, 2007 and weighed in at 7 pounds 7 ounces and 20 inches long.

One recent afternoon, mom and baby visited the ASP kids at the park. The kids surrounded the car pressing faces against windows trying to get a glimpse of little Zachary.



### Baby Kamirah

We featured Zae Judd in our November 2006 newsletter. Zae was homeless, pregnant and the mother of three young children. She decided to turn her life around. Since then she has moved into an apartment.

On February 11th she gave birth to little Kamirah. She weighed 4 pounds and 4 ounces. She has been in the Intensive Care Unit at Dekalb Medical Center. A few days after her birth her lungs began to bleed. She soon had to have a blood transfusion. After much prayer and tears with Zae, Kamirah is doing much better. Some life support has been discontinued because Kamirah's organs are functioning on their own.

**Please pray that she takes a bottle on her own and continues to gain weight so that she can leave the hospital and join her family at home.**

## Urgent

We have two new after school students (girls ages 11 and 6 ) who recently moved here with their mother from Philadelphia. They are living in an apartment with NOTHING. No beds, no couches, no cooking utensils, no transportation, and no friends. First, please pray for them. The older daughter has been acting out towards her mother lately. Pray for their relationship. They miss Philadelphia very much.

If you have anything you can donate, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Justina to see if the need has already been met and make delivery arrangements.

### Ongoing SCM Needs

- Snacks for 30 ASP kids (4 days a week)
- Paper Goods (paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, plates, silverware, cups)
- Various grade/skill level worksheet books
- Cleaning supplies (big garbage bags, table, bathroom, & floor cleaning "stuff")
- Copier paper (white and colored)
- Stamps, envelopes
- Kroger/Publix gift cards (lately many families have food needs)
- Gift cards to Office Depot/Staples or Wal-Mart for office supplies
- Boxed cards for birthdays, encouragement, illness, condolences
- Basketballs, footballs, and soccer balls
- Gatorade, bottle water
- BP gas cards for vans
- Van maintenance (clean, change oil, rotate tires ...)
- Ongoing monthly contributions and one-time gifts.

## Can You Lose and Win?

You can't tell by their behavior that our 15-and-under team has not won a game this season. When the gym we normally rent was booked with other activities, this rookie team was so dedicated, that they practiced out in the cold. We tried to find another gym, but to no avail. On warm days the team could practice at Justina's house. But these guys wanted to practice no matter how cold it was. They were eager to learn the skills of basketball, and were excited to be a part of a team for the first time.

Each game they played hard and proud. They played against

other skilled players, but they would not let this discourage them. Coach Phillip did a great job of teaching them basic basketball skills and how to be supportive team players. He told them to have fun, and they did!

Director Joel Moore noticed their commendable, positive, persevering attitudes. He called Justina and said he would like to give our 15- and-under team a trophy for having the best attitudes and sportsmanship in the league. Congratulations to the SCM 15-and-under team!



**Our 15-and-Under Basketball team (in red jerseys) along with Joel Moore, the director of the Atlanta Youth Project (AYP), and the rival team, pray before the game.**