



Summerhill Community Ministries, Inc.

Sewing Inner-City Youth and Families

Newsletter ~ May 2005

Summertime in the City

What do you have planned for this summer? Are there vacations to take, sports programs to be involved in, and quality family time to be spent together? To most people this is the



norm, but not to our kids in the city. Summertime brings a whole new set of challenges to our communities. Parents still have to provide for their families, but have no one to take care of their children. Often the oldest child is left in charge of their siblings resulting in "babies taking care of babies". Back yards are small or non-

existent, so the children will bike and play basketball or football in the streets. The kids encounter speeders, drug dealers, gangs, and the mentally unstable on a daily basis. The inside of their home may not be any safer for them as tempers flare, unsupervised TV watching and video game playing occupy most of the day and uninvited guests may stop by. We want to provide

an alternative for our young people. For the past four summers, SCM has

We need your help to have a successful camp this summer. Please help sponsor a child. No donation is too small.

offered a quality Christ-centered camp for the kids in Summerhill, Peoplestown, Mechanicsville, and Grant Park where the young people can receive love and encouragement from staff and caring volunteers, and participate in enrichment activities, service projects and field trips. Each day of the seven week camp is filled with activities like



Bible Study, music, recreation, dance, and arts & crafts. In the past years, many children have prayed to receive Christ into their lives. Along with the camp, we also offer a Job Training Program for the teens. Our program is designed to give young

people an opportunity to spend quality time in an environment that requires teamwork and individual responsibility. Teens gain a work ethic and develop positive life long habits that equip them for their future.

We are asking you to consider giving a special gift to one of our urban youth this summer by sponsoring them for camp. Although, we ask the parents to pay

a \$25.00 registration fee, this in no way covers all the costs. The actual cost per child is \$300 for the summer. Due to our being a Christian organization, we will not be receiving a grant this year to help offset the costs and will only take the camp as far as donations will allow. We also want to

provide a small salary for the Camp Teachers and Job Trainers. We have provided a response card for you to return by mail. You may also email us if you want to be involved in this important ministry. Volunteer opportunities are available for individuals, families, and groups to provide snacks, chaperone trips, and teach enrichment activities. Above all we need your prayers! Thank you for blessing us!!

Justina Dix



Saying Goodbye

About five years ago God began stirring something in me to begin praying about a major change in my life. In October, 2000 I drove from Washington State across the country to Georgia, to serve a family in the city of Cumming. Even though that move was one of the hardest things I have ever done, it was also one that I will never regret. A year after my move I began seeking the Lord and asking Him to place me back in an inner city ministry, one where I could serve children and families as I had done in college. Shortly thereafter I learned of the ministry in Summerhill, and in November of 2001 I began my work as the After-School Coordinator. It is funny to look back and see how the Lord has worked over the last 5 years. I would have never chosen to move to the state of Georgia and never dreamed that I would end up moving into the inner city of Atlanta, but, God had this planned from the very beginning of time. He knew how much I needed to grow and learn during my time here. He saw every tear that I shed and knew each



hopeless thought that I would have. He also ordained the exact day that many special events in my life would happen: each day that I would meet some of the most wonderful friends that I have ever known—too many to list here, but you know who you are; the day that I would walk into the church that would become an answer to many years of fervent prayers—First Alliance Church; the day that I would meet the most incredible teacher and leader that I have ever known-- Justina Dix; the day that I would meet some of the most resilient people that I will probably ever know--the families in Summerhill; the day that I would meet the professors, students, and staff at the American University of Biblical Studies; and the day that I would begin working for an amazing Christian Adoption Agency-- Covenant Care Services. Each of these events has led to 4 1/2 years of pruning, shaping, molding and refining—the radical changes of which I was in desperate need. I know some of you are asking what in the world is happening and why is she sharing this with us? What I need to tell you is that I am moving. The Lord has called me to Manteo, North Carolina to work with my dad at his bookstore.

In March my aunt Christie passed away, which left the family without an incredible person, and also left my dad without someone who played a key role at the bookstore. My dad asked me if I would ever consider coming to work with him, and I told him that I would pray



about it. After just a few weeks of praying and seeking wise counsel the Lord gave me the answer-- I was supposed to move and go help my dad. This hasn't been an easy decision or one that I have made without a lot of thought and tears. I love the children and the families here in Summerhill--they are such a big part of my life and my heart. However, I believe that God's Word is true and that He has a plan in all of this that is good. I don't have any idea what God has in store for me, or what life will be like in this new place, but one thing that I am certain of is that I serve a faithful and awesome God! I am so sad about

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leaving all that I have been blessed with here, but I am also excited about what the Lord will do in these new circumstances. Please pray that the Lord will lead me to a Bible-believing church and Christian friends, and also for encouragement as I leave so many people that I love. Please pray for those that I am leaving too—it's never easy to say goodbye. Pray that God will raise up new leaders and volunteers—people with hearts to serve. And, please pray that this wonderful ministry will continue to flourish no matter who leaves and no matter who comes—we want to see people's lives changed and made better because of the hope and love that we offer through Jesus Christ.

If you would like to stay in touch with me my address until June 1st is still 751 Cherokee Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30315 and after that my address will be P.O. Box 1388, Manteo, NC 27954. My cell phone number is (404) 909-3110 and will be the same for awhile, and I will also keep my email address (jenbrumfield@cs.com). I thank each and every one of you for your support and prayers, and trust that the Lord will lead you as to whether you should continue to support the ministry in Summerhill. I know that I plan to, no matter how far away the Lord leads me. I pray God's love and blessing upon each of you!

Jennifer Brumfield



Labor of Love

It is never easy saying good-by. God places people in our lives for times and seasons. We have been blessed with Jennifer Brumfield for the past four years and will miss her presence in SCM. No one can put a value on the service Jennifer has given to inner city children and families. Jennifer tackled difficult tasks, over came racial tension, laughed and cried with kids as they shared their hearts, and made herself

available for service in many different areas of need. **Truly, God will not forget her labor of Love.**

As Jennifer goes to be with her Dad, to help him with the bookstore, we send her our love, prayers, and support. Because she is a dear friend of my family and me, we will keep in close contact with each other.

Justina Dix



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Check out our new website! - <http://www.summerhillcm.com>

All donations are tax deductible.

Thank You!



A big THANK YOU goes out to all of our wonderful After school Tutors and volunteers.

We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication. The children really benefited from the extra tutoring and homework help.

Justina made many visits to the schools and held conversations with several teachers. Incomplete homework is one of the problems teachers often complain about, and counts for a certain percentage of a student's grade. High praise came from teachers about homework being turned in completed. Without a doubt, math and reading skills have really improved.

Teachers are looking for better test scores this year. (We will let you know when they're back). These wonderful accomplishments were the results of having these dedicated volunteers.



Annie Swier - Mission Year



Philip Yarberough - Mission Year



Juliet Cho - Mission Year

Special Thanks to **Nancy Lindsey** for being a wonderful editor and administrative assistant.

Special thanks to **Jennifer Brumfield** for coordinating our after school program this year and assisting our new soccer coach.

Thanks to **Anne Burlas & kids (Billy, Katie & Michael)** for their labor of love in designing our newsletter and website and for printing, stuffing & mailing our newsletters!



**Kristy Smith
Margaret Goins from First Alliance Church**



Anne Burlas - from East Cobb PCA



Diane Doss - Redemption Fellowship



Katie Weber from Atlanta

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
Galatians 6:9



Sally Doster - from Christ Church PCA