



Summerhill Community Ministries, Inc.

Sewing Inner-City Youth and Families

Mixed Feelings

Our country has certainly been through a lot during these past few months. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita made a lasting impression on countless Americans. Our hearts were touched by the tragedy of the aftermath. We stood united, without regard to race, cultural differences, or economic status to give money, resources and prayers for the hurricane victims. What brought us together? The thought of knowing so many families were uprooted from the place they called "home". I'm sure we have all responded in our own way to aid the hurricane victims. However, I must confess, I do have mixed feelings. I'll try to explain...

The news reported this month that Atlanta ranks #5 on the list of having the highest poverty rate in the nation. This is a number we read, but when you actually meet some of the people who make up

this number, you can no longer look at just the statistic. A large number of people are on long waiting lists for housing and jobs. Some spend their wait in shelters or with friends or family often time in overcrowded apartments and houses. Others try to make it on the streets, hoping each day just to make it through. Many of our neighbors who find themselves in this dire situation are not lazy moochers looking for hand outs, but rather need a "hand up" to get back on their feet. Lay offs and job loss have affected a large number of Atlantans. Furthermore, the shelters are full of women & children escaping an abusive situation who need help rebuilding their lives and a place to call home. However, Atlanta is facing a crisis in being able to place people on the long housing list into apartments or homes due to The

Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) freezing their stock of affordable Section 8 housing. HUD is now only renting to Hurricane evacuees leaving many in our city on the wait list to feel they have been put on the back burner. HUD's decision affects many of the families we work with in the ministry. Both those who have been displaced by the hurricanes and those who are without a home in our city need our help.

Now, hopefully you can see why I have mixed emotions. It's a touchy issue without any easy answers. The one thing we all can do is to remember those that have been displaced and are facing poverty and housing issues in our prayers.

Justina Dix



No Money - No Problem

SCM has contributed to the relief effort for the hurricane victims by donating cash, food, and clothing items both to relief organizations and directly affected families. However, if you don't have money or items to give, you can do something similar to what our ASP children did. They made a quilt out of squares with personal messages, scriptures, and drawings of hope. One of our new volunteers, Anna Winter, from Tyrone, GA led the children in this meaningful project of love for a family of 35 from Louisiana who now lives in the metro area. (Anna is an art major and will be our arts & crafts teacher this school year.) Our children learned that even when you don't have much money, you can always give that priceless homemade gift of encouragement.



Anna Winter & Wanda Jones

After-School Program

Twenty-one children are now enrolled in our After-School Program. Our teachers and volunteers are doing an excellent job assisting students with their homework and emphasizing math and reading skills. Miss Wanda Jones, a long time Summerhill resident and former educator joined our staff this year. Furthermore, we welcome our new Mission Year volunteers Caleb Starr from Ohio and Rebecca Niederfringer originally from New England, as well as rejoice that former Mission Year volunteers, Katie Weber & Phil Yarborough

return to the ASP. Joining our team are also Anna Winter (arts & crafts teacher), Paulette Jackson, Mary Lamont and Tracy and Michael Bunch who will be with us twice a month. A special thanks also to our returning faithful volunteers Sally Doster & Anne Burlas.

Your talents are needed to provide special enrichment activities for the kids such as cooking, music, sports, academic games, or educational fieldtrips. Other opportunities are available as well to assist in the program. Please feel free to contact us for more information.

Ministry Needs

- Prayer
- Van
- BP gas cards
- Snacks and juice for the After School Program & sports programs
- Office Depot or Staples gift cards
- Stamps & Envelopes
- Financial Contributions & Tithes of Time
- Handymen & Mechanics

Prayer Request

Please keep Justina & her family in your prayers. She's facing a family situation that involve adding a five year old boy to her immediate household. Please pray for wisdom, grace, and a resolution.

Flag Football Update

GO TEAMS!! After 5 weeks into the season, we are proud to report that both of our 18-under & 14 -under flag football teams are undefeated! More importantly all our guys are enrolled in school knowing that we are following their academic progress. SCM offers private tutoring for our high school players and works with their teachers for after school tutorials. Our volunteer coaches from last year, Phil Yarborough & Emanuel Dix have returned and continue to emphasize teamwork and sportsmanship. One of our goals is to see all of these guys receive a

high school diploma, as many African-American males are becoming discouraged and dropping out. Feel free to come out and support a game. All games are being played at South Bend Park in South Atlanta. For game times call Justina @ 404.964.4604. Donations of Gatorade and snacks are always needed and appreciated by the players.

Praise God! We finally have our official 501c3 tax exempt number!!!!

