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# Summerhill Community Ministries



Newsletter ~ October 2009

## After School Program

The after school program is in full swing. We have 30 children enrolled. We have new children that are well below grade level. We are asking for volunteers that could work with a child one on one. If you cannot commit to one day a week, we will be glad to take you when ever you have a free day. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our ASP volunteer coordinator, Anne Buchanan at [annebuchanan@bellsouth.net](mailto:annebuchanan@bellsouth.net)

The after school program is in need of snacks, and paper and cleaning products.

## Flag Football

Our 15 under Flag football team is undefeated so far. This rookie team plays with a lot of heart on dry Saturdays. Thanks to Desire Street Ministries for new cleats and jerseys for our teams!

Unfortunately, our 18-under team has not been able to play, as no other teams in this age group signed up to play this year.

## Justina

Pray for Justina's heart condition. She has had a few allergic reactions to heart medications and had a short stay in the hospital in September. Please pray for wisdom for the doctors, no more allergic reactions, complete healing, and rest.

## SCM Ministry Assistant

SCM is praying for an assistant for Justina! This is a part-time (15-20 hours) paid position. Duties would include

Assist with follow up phone calls and emails; Perform minor administrative duties that involve

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## Operation Frontline Comes to Summerhill

This summer I had the pleasure of visiting Summerhill Ministries during their summer camp program. Stepping out of my car, the first thing I noticed was the sound coming from the yard. It was a chorus of children's voices singing to the tune of summertime and happiness. A sound that I had not heard in quite some time – so much so, that the smile I felt on the inside made it to my lips.

I remember walking through the front door, held open for me by a young man of maybe 16 years. At that moment, I should have braced myself for being continually impressed for the next hour.

I had the pleasure of meeting Justina Dix, and hearing briefly of her personal mission for this facility and for the young people who come here. Every child, every teenager, and every adult, were friendly, respectful, and full of happiness. I should have asked myself, how did this happen – but somehow I knew. This truly was a place full of love and admiration for all who enter; and is taken outside the walls of this building and into the community.

It took me about 10 minutes to realize that this was a perfect fit for our Operation Frontline program. A program to help build on the foundation of success that was created and cultivated by Summerhill.

Operation Frontline is a chef-led cooking and nutrition class that is run by volunteers. The program has several different curricula, geared for different audiences.

The two programs that would fit at Summerhill would be our Kids Up Front series (for elementary school children) and the Power of Eating Right series (for middle school children).

In class, the children learn safe food handling and proper cooking techniques. They have a lesson each week that relates to healthy eating by using the food pyramid. During this time, they prepare a recipe as a class and enjoy eating the food together. They learn to work together as a team and are encouraged to try new foods.

The middle school children will get to take their lessons a step further, by receiving a bag of groceries at the end of the class. They are encouraged to use these groceries to prepare the same recipe they made in class at home for their family. The next week, they will talk to the chef and nutritionist about how it went, what worked, and any stumbling blocks they ran across.

At Operation Frontline, we believe that we learn by doing; we believe in sharing our strength; we believe in cultivating relationships; and we believe in the strength of community.

We are thrilled to be invited to Summerhill, and look forward to what we will learn from this exceptional community, and the wonderful children who reside here.

*Karen Kierath  
Director of Operations  
Operation Frontline*



Here are a few young folks that were able to work hard and earn money in a legal and respectful way this summer.



We were also able to offer life skill classes to help them as they move forward in their lives to become productive citizens in their community. Thank you again for your continued support!

## Summer Thanks!

Thanks to the groups and churches that helped this summer:

- East Cobb PCA
- Redemption Fellowship PCA
- Christ Church PCA
- The Rock PCA
- Westminster PCA
- Desire Street Ministries
- The Shannons
- The Fisher Corporation

Thanks also to the church coordinators, that worked with Justina directly this summer organizing volunteers and planning for smooth transitions, activities and meals:

- Beverly Black, Molly Blass, Anne Burlas, Sue Schnarr, Susan Parker, and John Buchanan

## Summerhill's Trip to Disney



Hi,  
This is Danny Wuerffel, Executive Director of Desire Street Ministries. First of all, let me express what a privilege it is to be a friend of Justina Dix and Summerhill Community Ministries. It is a blessing to see the work that

Summerhill is doing to revitalize its neighborhood through spiritual and community development, and it is an honor to walk alongside Justina as she seeks to do the Lord's work.

In late August, we were able to use Desire Street's partnership with AirTran Airlines to provide 24 youth from Summerhill with the opportunity to spend a day at Disney's Magic Kingdom in Orlando. We experienced the screaming thrill of Thunder Mountain, the spooky horror of the Haunted Mansion, the soaking-wet adventure of Splash Mountain, and the magical wonder of the Disney character parade. It was a great day, filled with joyful smiles and memories



that will last a lifetime.

As you may know, Disney often calls itself "The Place Where Dreams Come True." During our day at the Magic Kingdom, Disney lived up to its billing, making dreams come true for a number of Atlanta youth. As we further our relationship with Summerhill Community Ministries, we aim to see the dreams, hopes, and prayers of the young men and women in this neighborhood continue to come true.

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## Summer Camp - Camper Thoughts

Briana- Loves to spend her free time in the dress up center. "I like camp because it is fun and my teachers are nice. When I dress up, I am pretty. I also like my hair. My favorite lunch was pizza and I like going to Stone Mountain."



Briana

Tamaria- "I like camp because you get to go in the dressing room and dress up. I like my teachers and I like everything I made at camp. I like all of the East Cobb volunteers



Lakesha

that came out came out this year and I also want to give respect to everyone even if I don't know them. My 3 favorite lunches were pizza, hot wings and nachos. Dixieland was my favorite field trip! I really liked when we made a tornado in science class."

Donta- "I like field trip day at summer camp. I like going to God's Farm. I like eating chili dogs for lunch. I learn about God and Jesus."



Donta

Lakesha- "I like this camp and my teachers. I made some new friends. I love my family and I love God mostly. I learned about the fruit of the spirit, some math and how to behave out in public. I really liked the chicken tenders for lunch and swimming was one of my favorite field trips. My favorite enrichments was when we made t-shirts, purses and sand art."



Tamaria

Jordan- "I like camp because we can go outside and play and we go on field trips to the skating rink. I liked when we played football. It was the Gators against the Falcons. The Gators won. Barbeque chicken was one of the best lunches and I really enjoyed drama class"



Jordan

Destiny- "I like camp because of all the field trips and I get to meet new people. I love the taco salad and lasagna for lunch. I like bible study and painting. My favorite fieldtrip was when we went to God's Farm."



Destiny



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typing, filing, and basic computer skills; Minor accounting and book keeping; Run local errands; Assist Justina on home visits and home deliveries; Assist in coordinating the after school program and summer camp; Attend some of the speaking engagements

### Holidays

The holidays are coming soon. We are taking donations of gift cards and sponsorships for children and families. If you would like to donate for Thanksgiving or Christmas, please send donations directly to our P.O. Box address. Our "Sponsor a Christmas Star" program will go out in November. Look for the newsletter!



## Drama Class

This summer the kids took a great interest in Drama class. Jennie Ortega from Christ Church taught our class this year.

Jennie is the director of a traveling kid's drama play called Pilgrim's Progress, a very beautiful musical presentation about Christian's adventures as he journeys from the city of destruction, to the celestial city. Along the way he escapes from prison, encounters lions, the shining ones, the worldly wise men, and others and finds forgiveness.

At the beginning of the class, many of the kids were hesitate to respond

to the drama lesson, but soon after several of the kids really got into this drama presentation.

Jennie held an audition for the kids to have the opportunity to perform the next day with the actual actors of Pilgrim's Progress. A few of the kids, a teacher and one of our youth workers were chosen to perform. They were very excited!

The performance was wonderful and one that the entire camp will remember. We all have a new found interest and an appreciation for Drama.

Thank you Jennie!



This summer I was blessed to spend a day in Disney World with the children and leadership of Summerhill Community Ministries.

Never have I witnessed more love, kindness, better behavior, or sheer joy than with this group. Justina embodies the fruits of the Spirit and God is infusing these into the lives of all under her care.

When I think back on the day, I see smiles, hear laughter, and feel gratitude that I was allowed to accompany them and be a part of creating wonderful memories for such a special group.

*Sara Pace  
Executive Assistant to Danny Wuerffel*



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Thank you for your continued prayers and support as Justina and her staff seek a magical, God-inspired transformation of the Summerhill community.