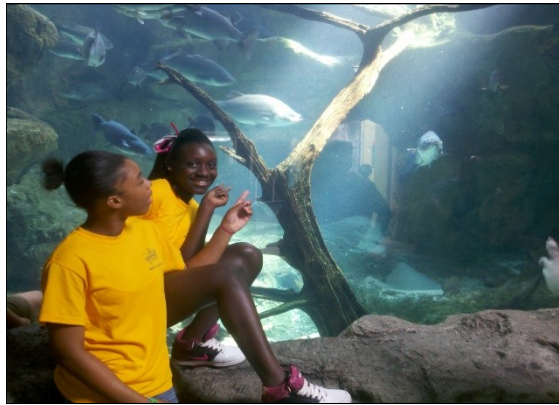


ACADEMIC PROGRAM EXPANDS TWO NEW CLASSROOMS!

The seeds of renovation are springing up in the Family Life Center where the number of classrooms expanded for summer camp from six to eight, and neighborhood teenagers returned to help younger students. Summer◊Bridge Camp is an eight-week, six-hour per day program that serves the students academically and enriches them with the intent of bridging the infamous summer learning gap.

The expansion was huge for PSM since it allowed more students to be impacted through a proven program that boasts a 98% passage rate for the last three years. It was also a historic summer because high school students, who had outgrown our K-8 program, returned to volunteer at camp. Indigenous leaders are a long-term goal for PSM, and June 2011 will be known as the year indigenous teens stayed with the program as servant leaders.



Florida Aquarium field trip enrichment day

We are grateful for generous contributions from the **Hazel Haley Fund** and the **George W. Jenkins Fund**, both within the **Community Foundation of Lakeland**, as well as **Camp Rotary Foundation** and many individuals, who made possible Summer◊Bridge Camp.

Throughout the renovation, the staff and neighborhood residents have been visibly reminded of the love shown us by the community.

We are positioned to expand successful programs and grow new ones as we remain committed to Gospel-centered community development.



*K. a.k.a. Dumbledore
at MOSI field trip*

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing Events

Wednesday Evenings—Neighborhood Bible Studies—**volunteers needed for meal preparation**—contact admin@parkerstreetministries.org

School Days—Academic Enrichment Program—Aug 2011-May 2012
volunteers needed—contact volunteer@parkerstreetministries.org

Various Saturdays—Neighborhood or Facility Work Projects—**volunteers needed**
contact admin@parkerstreetministries.org

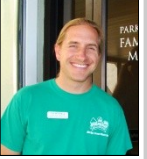
Scheduled Events

September 20—*Parker Street Sweets | A Day of Celebration*

Date TBD—Fall Festival—**groups needed to sponsor and organize this fun neighborhood gathering to take place in early November**
contact admin@parkerstreetministries.org

Christmas Store 2012—Signing up organizations to help NOW
contact admin@parkerstreetministries.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thank you for your prayers and support this summer. We were blessed by all you have done to help keep this ministry rolling. The summer has been full of wonderful moments... many of them enhanced by a beautiful building with AC!!!!

God is teaching us about His way of working and His kind of love. I have been blessed to discover how much I don't like either. **God calls us to give to those who can't give back and to love those who don't love back.** The summer has been full of God pushing me to see my selfishness with my time. I have had more late nights and early morning calls for help than ever before. It seemed that no one got the memo of how I want to spend "my" time.

Here are two examples of recent life in the neighborhood that will help you better pray for us:

I've had the privilege of working with a young man, to see him grow and gain a real passion to make changes in his life. He had a massive stroke two months ago and is now in rehab. At this point, he is unable to remember my name and is struggling to communicate in full sentences. Please pray for T.

R and R are two dear people who I have had the joy of knowing for many years. This month they both died unexpectedly. Their deaths will leave a real hole in the 'hood.

Our ways are not like God's, and that is the best thing for PSM and me. Praise God and thank you again for your prayers and support.

God bless you,

*Tim Mitchell
Executive Director*

RENOVATION DONORS PAVE THE WAY

As we begin a new phase of operational fundraising, we recognize our renovation donors who paved the way for PSM to broaden its impact.

Greg & Christina Allen
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 Ward's Air Conditioning

SUMMER BRIDGE CAMP

PROGRAM UPDATE

by Christina Allen, Director of Education



God always keeps his promises; this was the theme of our elementary Bible curriculum this summer. This amazing truth was so evident during our sixth annual Summer Bridge Camp. God faithfully cared for over seventy kindergarten-eighth grade students, eight classroom leaders, about ten neighborhood teenage volunteers, countless volunteers from the Lakeland community, and me! **In spite of the chaos and brokenness of our neighborhood; our students were able to experience a summer of learning, laughter, and love.**



Sock Puppet Day

Learning—Throughout the eight weeks students spent approximately two hours a day working on their reading and math skills. For the third consecutive summer we used a hands-on, engaging reading curriculum from LitArt. Our students were challenged as they learned about other cultures, explored the history of our country, and reflected on the lives of others. We also continued to use the Star Math curriculum, which generates individualized lessons for each child.

During the non-academic portion of our day, students learned new skills in cooking, art, tennis, drama, baseball, basketball, and dance. Wonderful volunteers and staff shared their expertise. A special thanks to:

Polk Museum of Art—Tara Campbell
 Tennis—Gregg Mays
 Yoga and Dance—Satya Life
 Girls Scouts of America
 Eloquent Actions (Drama)—Morgan Craven
 Stranger Danger—Officer Freeman from LPD
 Cooking—Kathy Wallen and Susan Starr
 IWait—Women's Choice, Aimee Almon

Laughter—Each Thursday, my staff gathered to pray, read God's word and prepare for the following week. We shared lots of laughter as we reflected on our interactions with students.

Field trips and fun days brought lots of laughter. We were able to enjoy bowling, Explorations V Children's Museum, the Gandy pool, movies at Cobb Theatre, and trips to local parks. We also had water days and movies at the Parker Street Life Center.

We were very excited to take three larger field trips on charter buses to Florida Aquarium, MOSI, and Lowry Park Zoo. MOSI was the favorite for all our students and staff this year. In addition to exciting exhibits, we watched an incredible IMAX movie about elephants and orangutans. Our students had never experienced anything like that!

Love—I am so thankful to all of you too! The love and support of our volunteers, donors and prayer partners was so evident. Thank you for making Summer Bridge Camp 2011 a success!

Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering in our fall academic enrichment program. Our email address is volunteer@parkerstreetministries.org.



Chillin'

OVERWHELMED WITH OPPORTUNITIES

REFLECTIONS FROM SUMMER STAFF

One of the goals of PSM is to be an advocate for the poor to the Lakeland community. One strategy for meeting this goal in an exponential way is through the mentoring of our temporary classroom leaders. These young adults come to us full of energy and ready to make a positive impact. Most have misconceptions about urban ministry. Through weekly staff meetings, reviews, and classroom experiences, the AEP staff leave us with their eyes opened a little wider and prepared to be better advocates for at-risk communities. Below are reflections from Summer Bridge Camp staff.

From Mary-Catherine Savant, second grade boys and girls

When I began working at Parker Street, I was slightly terrified. How would I relate? How could a middle-class white girl from a stable two-parent home work with children who have seen and faced more than I can imagine?

As I gathered my class the first day, I saw how I would relate. These little children are just that—children. They love to draw and sing. They dance when you tell them they're going to play a game...

I never would have considered teaching in an urban setting. Now the impact these children have had on my heart has fully changed my desires.

From Adrienne March, middle school girls

The middle school girls I work with are wonderful, crazy, fun, sassy and more...As I look on them, in all their wonder and all their sin, I see myself. Our struggle is, at the heart, very much the same. I pray God will use me to impact them as much as they impact me. **Gifts do come in strange packages. Mine just happen to come with finger snaps and head rolls.**

From William Wainwright, middle school boys

Seven hours with middle school boys. Five days a week. This screams opportunity. Along this eight-week journey I moved from classroom teacher to a type of concerned guardian—a ride to and from football parties, a voice of reason in the middle of oh-so many scuffles... I also experienced rare moments when my tough students asked for help or came to me with genuine questions. Through it all, I became aware that this is not an endeavor I was prepared for. **Recognizing this allowed me to get out of the way and allow God to come in.**

Student comments...

"My favorite thing about summer camp was learning about God and being with friends..."

"I love this summer camp, the best one ever in my entire life and I want to come for the rest of my life, every single day!"

"What I learned in summer camp is how to respect teachers more and how to learn from my mistakes."



Adrienne March with students, former students, and volunteers



Classroom leader Steven Firmin during cooking enrichment

PLANTING SEEDS FOR LIFE

*by Ben Turner,
Director of Spiritual Development*

It has been an exciting and challenging summer at Parker Street Ministries as we have hosted the largest summer camp ever! And it all happened in the midst of a major renovation site. With the growth in numbers came changes to the format of how we approach the spiritual development of students during Summer Camp. We were thrilled to begin doing a "chapel style" format for the students in the beginning of the week and then having small group activities every day for the rest of the week. Christina Allen did a great job teaching chapel lessons, and classroom leaders did wonderful jobs facilitating small group activities. Older students were taught from the *Person of Jesus Study* and the younger ones studied God's promises all summer.

I was particularly impressed with the feedback from the middle school boys' class during their small group time. They, and the older girls' class, separately spent each day reflecting in a journal about the memory verse for the week. The reflection questions pushed them to think deeply about God's character, their own specific sin, and how Jesus can transform them through repentance and faith. I was personally encouraged by their diligence and genuine interest in reflecting on Scripture in a way that most have never done before.

Our hope is to plant seeds of Scripture and teach the necessary skills in order for our students to fall in love with God through His Word as the psalmist in Psalm 119:97 says, "Oh, how I love your instructions! I think about them all day long."

Ben can be reached at ben@parkerstreetministries.org.



Adult Bible study group continues to meet weekly



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SUMMER SPLASH NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



*LEDC Summer Leadership program
toured and volunteered in July*

FUN NIGHT OUT

More than 250 people attended our annual Summer Splash on August 2. It was held in conjunction with LPD's National Night Out. A grant from the City of Lakeland provided bounce houses. Heritage Baptist Church brought a hot dog meal and volunteers for the event. Two water slides, a younger kids' water-play area, and K-9 Harris provided entertainment. Would you like to be part of our Fall Festival or another neighborhood event? Contact Hannah at admin@parkerstreetministries.org.

WE ASKED. YOU GAVE.

All 74 of our academic enrichment students and several neighborhood high school volunteers were provided **backpacks** and **uniforms** for the 2011-2012 school year. **PSM seeks to be a blessing to parents, students and teachers** by sending students to school who are prepared academically **and** appropriately dressed and supplied for the first day of school. Thank you to employees of Lockheed Martin and to many, many individuals who helped us meet the need so quickly.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS AND TO OUR SUSTAINING PARTNERS

as of 7/31/2011

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