

Stories

The Quarterly Newsletter of New City Neighbors

Transformation - Eric Schalk

I'm not sure what happened to summer. As I write this, I'm not just amazed at how fast the summer flew by, but how fast it changed from unbearably hot to below average cool. This past summer was the most intense three-month period of ministry I've ever experienced. We kicked off another summer of Breaktime/The Breaktime Bakery and initiated a new Leader-In-Training program designed to take former Breaktime students and prepare them for leadership.

There are great stories from Breaktime and The Bakery, but for me the best stories came out of the Leader In Training program. We picked three kids (Christian, Madison & Brian) who had multiple years of experience in our Breaktime programs. All three were eager to help with the Bakery program, but part of their training involved them

spending a couple weeks, in rotation, working with the younger kids in Breaktime. When they were first presented with this reality, they each lacked eagerness to spend time with the young kids. The Leaders-In-Training program quickly took on a life of its own and within no time had become the Leaders-In-Training-Entourage, or "LITE" for short. The LITE's were originally required to come at 8:30AM and had to stay until Breaktime ended at 2:00PM. The LITEs never left at 2:00 and many days they stayed until 4:00 or



Fall
2010

Seeking to be a diverse, welcoming ministry that works with Northeast Grand Rapids neighbors to restore and develop their community.

5:00 following me around on shopping trips, helping me plan for the next day and just generally hanging out. I couldn't go anywhere without them, which is where the Entourage came in, they were my "posse." I loved this time with them because they were a captive audience and we could talk about important matters that we couldn't hit on otherwise. We had candid discussions about Christ and his role in their lives, about leadership, about the temptations of high school, and what they would do with their lives.

With each passing week of the summer, they grew to love working with the younger kids, often challenging each other to be better leaders. They taught the the kids dances, read with them and loved them.

I saw each of them grow up and transform from Breaktime to Leader. I saw them work through issues, find joy, and maybe even their calling. I asked Madison to write a short reflection on her summer and this is what she wrote:

"I've spent the last seven summers of my life at Breaktime and the Bakery. Through that time, I've experienced things that I couldn't otherwise. Friendship, fun, laughter, leadership and diversity are words that give you a small taste of Breaktime. It's an escape from the boredom of a typical summer. It's about caring for the people in your community. It's experiencing new and challenging things. It's about making great friendships with people you never thought you'd have anything in common with. Most importantly, Breaktime and The Bakery are about growing closer to Christ, and believe me, you will. The fact that I've spent half of my life at Fourth Reformed/NCN, blows my mind. I can hardly remember summers not being there. I could and have spent hours with the people of Breaktime going on about the "remember whens" and all the amazing memories we've shared. I'd recommend Breaktime/The Bakery to anyone who is looking for something...different."

God did a lot of great work in the hearts of children this summer. Many of you were a part of that work. You donated meals, resources and money to help us have a great summer impacting lives for Christ. Madison's story is only possible with your help.



Challenges

Over the past year, the world has faced challenges never seen before and as Christians we know that the only way to face these challenges is with Jesus at our side. We have seen an increase of children not having enough to eat, and families needing to move out due to lost jobs or homes. These challenges are real and they impact children in profound ways.

As the new board president I thank the donors, volunteers and staff for facing these challenges head on and as they work to meet the needs of this neighborhood. As the demands increase, the staff of New City Neighbors have stepped up to the plate and offered whatever support that was possible.

To meet these challenges, the board of directors established the following action steps to support this community and re-establish a vital and healthy neighborhood:

1. Prayer for the neighborhood: The board studied "Why Pray?" by John DeVries and is dedicated to becoming a house of prayer for the community. While we don't know all the people or their needs, we do know that the Holy Spirit can bring healing and restoration.
2. The establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee: The primary role for this committee is to assess the needs of the neighborhood, determine how our mission statement sufficiently meets those needs, look at future program expansion, and develop a plan for expanding the ministry.
3. The Development Committee has been working hard for the past year and is dedicated to raising the funds necessary to meet the programming expectations, expand our donor

base and provide the resources for NCN needs to meet the community needs.

These are the challenges that the Board has taken on and now I want to challenge each of you to help NCN continue to be a vital resource for the neighborhood.

1. Continue to pray for the families of this neighborhood. I challenge you to choose a home, a street or a group of homes and pray that God will bring about redemption, healing, and transformation.
2. Become an active board member: We are in need of someone who has a finance background to guide us with the resources God is providing for us. We are looking for individuals that have a passion for community development and want to be part of the revitalization that is occurring.
3. Become a board supporter. Pray for the board, staff and volunteers of New City Neighbors. We are always seeking wisdom, grace and peace as we struggle with decisions that impact hundreds of people.
4. Become a monthly donor: this provides us regular revenue to strengthen our budget and expand our programming.
5. Become a volunteer to help a child read, tutor homework, provide a meal for our evening programming or just visit with a child and show them Christ's love.
6. Join us Saturday, November 6, for our fall auction. (More details on the next page)

If you are interested in participating with New City Neighbors, please talk with Eric or any of the board members.

David Langerak - Board President

Ministry Wish List

The items listed below are things that will enhance our ability to do ministry. If you would like to make a donation toward an item, simply make out a check to NCN and include the item description in the memo line.

- Rototiller - \$500
- Macbook Pro - \$1,500

New City Neighbors is a 501(c)(3) nondiscriminatory, nonprofit organization.

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FALL AUCTION FUNDRaiser

What: An auction to benefit the ministries of NCN

When: Saturday, November 6 at 7:00PM

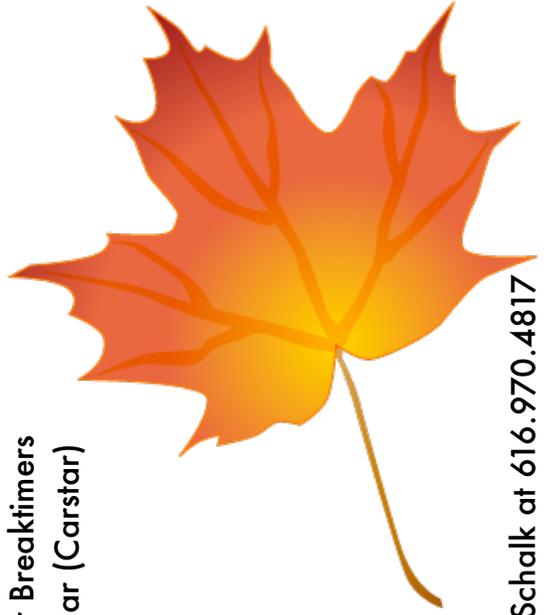
Where: Kuyper College's Dinning Hall

Make plans to attend this great night of connecting with other donors, eating awesome desserts and bidding on amazing items. The night will begin with dessert and a silent auction at 7:00PM. At 7:45 we will have a live auction with some one of a kind items you won't want to miss.

Items to be auctioned include:

- A weekend escape to a log cabin in Pentwater
- Hand made rocking chair (Hal Taylor Design)
- Plates painted by our Breaktimers
- Car washing for a year (Carstar)
- House Cleaning
- Jewelry
- Meals
- Art

Much, much more!!!



RVSP by calling Eric Schalk at 616.970.4817