



**New City
Neighbors Fall
Auction**
November 3, 2016
The Cheney Place
1600 Monroe Ave NW



Save the date! Invitations will be on their way in early October. In the meantime, if you have an item you'd like to donate, please let us know! Contact Alaina at alainad@newcityneighbors.org or call at 616-970-4817.

Stories

September
2016

The Newsletter of New City Neighbors

Empowered Leaders -Alaina Dobkowski

On the right, in the top picture is Yadira, a high school New City Farm employee, and Analie, a Breaktime student. This was Yadira's second year working on the farm and she consistently went above and beyond in her work. She spent her summer investing in New City Neighbors as a whole. Often, when she was done working at the farm, she would come to Breaktime to tutor students. She also joined Breaktime on Fridays to help out with field trips. Yadira is one of many students who worked hard and loved hard this summer.

One of the beautiful things about having youth from 2nd-12th grade on site all summer is that the kids always have someone to look up to, as well as a different opportunity to look ahead to. This summer, we had a total of sixteen high school students. They worked on New City Farm, directed and managed New City Bakery, and led Breaktime, our seven week day camp for 2nd-5th grade students. In many ways, our high school students stepped up their game this year. For example, Avrey Smith and Avery Gleason directed and managed New City Bakery. They passed down the skills and knowledge they had learned when they were middle school bakers themselves. They carried on the mission and purpose of the bakery: teaching middle school students job skills, customer service skills, as well as helping them grow in their faith. Anna and Nathan both served as volunteers last summer for Breaktime. This summer they joined as staff, serving alongside our Breaktime Director, Kalee, to make sure our elementary students grew in faith, stayed on track academically, and had a safe and fun summer.

One of my favorite days this past summer was the result of turning a challenge into an opportunity. When sickness struck a couple of our Breaktime high school staff, we found ourselves in need of more help. This happened on a day that New City Bakery was prepared to head out to go swimming for that week's field trip. Instead, I shared with the bakers that we were going to stay and help out with Breaktime, they needed us today. The middle schoolers didn't skip a beat. They jumped right in to help. I was blown away by their willingness to set aside their own expectations for the day and show leadership and love to the elementary students. The middle and bottom pictures are from that day, the middle schoolers helped with activities and tutoring. And the elementary students? They loved it!

As you read the reflections included in this newsletter, you'll hear that God was present in our summer and with our students. He was at work empowering our students, staff, and volunteers to lead in new ways. He brought our summer programs together, creating opportunities for new relationships and role models. Students learned more about God as well as more about themselves. This edition of our newsletter focuses on New City Breaktime and New City Bakery specifically. While you read about our summer, join us in giving thanks. We are thankful for God's hand on a summer filled with leadership, laughter, learning, hard work, growth, and friendship.



Our Vision: A city of peace and prosperity. Our mission: To empower youth to reach their full potential.

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God's Love Each Day -Kalee DeVries, Breaktime Director



Now that the summer has come to a close, it's crazy to me how fast seven weeks of Breaktime went. Working with students brought a lot of joy into my life and taught me more than I could have anticipated. I saw God at work in what I like to call the long-suffering of relationships. A number of students this summer were also students I worked with during the Afterschool program last year. It was incredible to see changes in their behavior and attitudes from last October to the end of this summer. Students that were often defiant in efforts to obtain attention began to see New City Neighbors as a place that was safe and where they felt loved. Other students who once ran away and refused to listen, when upset, began to calm down and listen instead. Trust was built and they began to see that we genuinely cared about them. Change and growth often happen gradually. I found this summer to be a testimony of God's faithfulness and an expression of his unending love in the everyday.

Breaktime Staff & Volunteer Reflections

The most important lesson I learned this summer was about God's unconditional love for us. We can exhibit it if we choose to. Although children may make mistakes and sin, I learned that I still care for them and accept them for who they are. It's made me even more grateful for God's grace given to me because now I can really understand what it means when the Bible says that he still loves me even when I disown him. He will always love me and all of his people. -Anna Orr, Breaktime High School Staff

Time spent with my two Breaktime students this summer was a delight in every way. They were enthusiastic and always ready to visit with me. I was able to teach them how to do Cat's Cradle. It was fun to see them enjoying the string game that I played when I was their age- no batteries or computer chips required! -Dawn Fasse, Tutor

I wanted to tutor this summer first of all because I love children. I love their enthusiasm and honesty and especially helping them to learn on a one-on-one basis. My student was always happy to see me and told me when I met her, "I can't read ." I told her that was why I was there, to help her accomplish that goal! I'm not sure if I made a huge difference in her ability to read, but I know I made a friend by taking the time to invest! - Marcia Schuur

Fall Volunteer Needs:

New City Afterschool begins October 18th on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays.

1. Tutors: Once a week, 4-5pm
2. Bible Study Leaders: Tuesdays 5-6pm
3. Club Leaders: Teach kids a special skill for 6 weeks, Wednesdays 5-6pm
4. Van Drivers: Help transport students, 3:15pm or 6:00pm



Avrey (top right) with the 2016 New City Bakery Team of students

Leading New City Bakery

-Avrey Smith, Bakery Director

This summer of the bakery was a very long but interesting one. Everyday I would wake up around 7:15am and I'd leave the bakery around 3:30pm. While that routine was always the same, what happened in between those hours wasn't. Each day I spent with the middle schoolers helped me learn about being more of a leader instead of a boss and most importantly how to be a friend. These middle schoolers were only a few years younger than me and when I realized that, it helped me see that I was in their position not too long ago. I felt as if it was my job to teach the students how to grow and learn more about being amazing workers and even better people the same way Eric Schalk had taught me not too long ago.

The best part of it all was that while I was teaching them, they were teaching me. I learned more about myself and how to deal with controlling a big work environment. I also learned more about how to take all the stress of work and add in a whole lot of fun to make everyone's life easier. There were a whole lot of fun days that I can remember. I remember teaching them all ultimate frisbee at the beach and playing it in the water. It's the little moments like this that you don't really forget and that you learn from. I had an amazing experience, and I wouldn't have traded it for anything else.

Ministry Wish List:

- Afterschool Snacks - \$25
- Afterschool Field Trip - \$150
- Sports Equipment Cabinet - \$300
- Student Employment - \$1000
- Student Employment - \$1,000



Pictures of New City Bakery's year-end trip to Chicago



Life Lessons -Zack Coeling

Hello, my name is Zack and I am entering the 8th grade this year. I have been working at New City Bakery for three years now. My favorite baked good is the Mocha Brownie. There have been many challenges in the bakery. The biggest challenge was probably when we accidentally refilled the sugar bin with salt, so we were adding salt into all of our recipes throughout the whole day. We overcame this accident by working hard to remake everything over again.

I have learned many things throughout this great program, the most important thing that I learned was how to work with people that I don't know. This was a very fun summer for baking because it was different having Avrey Smith as our Director. What I learned about myself is that I struggle with working with new or other people. I also learned that God works in different ways in each person. Even though it may be hard for me to work with other people that may not be a challenge for some others. Overall, I had a wonderful year in the bakery.