



## The Year is Ending, The Year is Ending!!!

Are you as shocked as us that 2014 is almost done?

Even though the year is coming to a close, your opportunity to give to New City Neighbors hasn't. Please prayerfully consider giving a year-end donation to NCN. The money you give helps us provide nutritional meals, homework help, fun activities, field trips, youth employment, and job skills training.

You can donate in two simple ways:

1. You can go to [www.newcityneighbors.org](http://www.newcityneighbors.org) and click on the *Donate Now* button.
2. You can write a check and mail it to New City Neighbors, 1226 Union, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

Thanks in advance for your generosity!

# Stories

The Newsletter of New City Neighbors

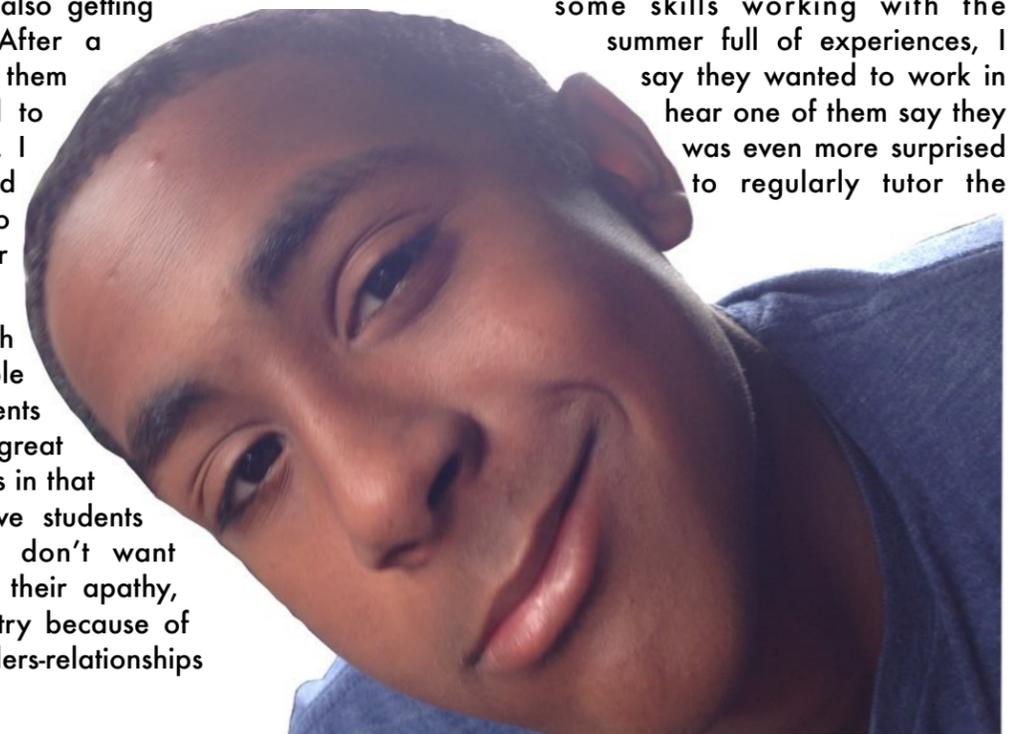
## Thank You - Eric Schalk

We just celebrated Thanksgiving with most of my family. I thoroughly enjoyed sitting down with people I love to eat delicious turkey, potatoes, salads, and pie! Maybe it was the homemade cranberry sauce, or my father's sausage-infused baked stuffing, or the Lions winning, but whatever the case, I found myself feeling very grateful.

The truth is, all of those things were amazing, but the real source of my gratitude came from reflecting on God's goodness over the last year. This has been an incredible year for New City Neighbors. Once again we saw our Urban Farm expand to hire more students, and not only that, but we were able to hire Shanna as our Farm Manager. We're super excited to see what God is doing in her life, and we were excited to see God use her this summer to impact the lives of other farm students. We were also blessed this summer to sell a record number of shares and receive grant money that allowed us to upgrade equipment.

I'm also grateful for the way lives were changed through the Breaktime Bakery. This year we changed our Leader in Training program up to give the returning students more management skills. Yadira, Aubrey, Joel, and Avrey ran the kitchen, store, and cleanup, while also getting some skills working with the younger students of Breaktime. After a summer full of experiences, I wasn't surprised to hear a couple of them say they wanted to work in the Bakery again. I was surprised to hear one of them say they couldn't wait to work on the farm. I was even more surprised to hear another one say they wanted to regularly tutor the younger students, even if they had to do it as a volunteer, and not for work.

God is also working in our High School ministry in some incredible ways. We've had numerous students attending this year, and there is great potential for God to raise up leaders in that group. At the same time, we have students who, because of life situations, don't want anything to do with God. Despite their apathy, they continue to come to the ministry because of the relationships they have with leaders-relationships that model the love of Christ!



**December 2014** Seeking to be a diverse, empowering ministry that works with Northeast Grand Rapids neighbors to restore and develop their community.

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is a 501(c)(3)  
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organization.

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Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
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This fall I've also been thankful for the dedicated volunteers who give countless hours to our ministries. We have a solid crew of people who show up every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday to love students and point them to Jesus. About a month ago, as we were announcing small groups for 180, a bunch of the boys were asking where their leader was. When he walked in late, they screamed his name and ran up to him exchanging high-fives.

We've had a great year at New City Neighbors, and a large part of that success is because of people like you! We are so grateful to have a great group of people who read our newsletters, pray over our ministry, spread the word about NCN, and of course generously donate your financial resources to our ministries.

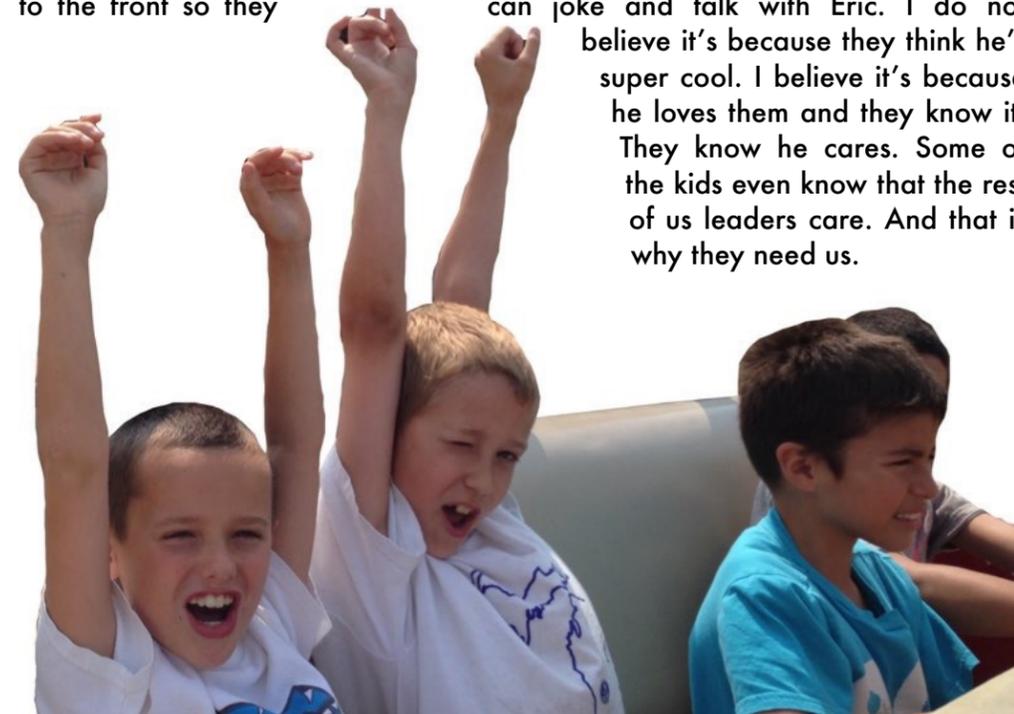
Thank you for being a significant part of what we do and for standing with us as we serve children in the Creston community.

## What I See - Shayla Newman

When I look at the kids who come to 180, I see a lot of different things. I see the things that divide them, making them different from each other, but I also see the things that make them all too much the same. In some kids, I see drive and commitment to their schoolwork. I see passion and excitement about their favorite bands. I see joy and happiness. I see their sense of humor and their potential.

The sight that wrecks my heart, though, the sight that I see more than anything else, is pain. There is a lot of pain, anger, and loneliness amongst our students. I see the students vying for the attention of the leaders. They try to get our undivided attention in many ways. They are ridiculous, they tell jokes, they sing, they run around, and they sit in the front seat of the van. In the few van rides I've been on, I have seen the same young men sit in the closest seat to the front so they

can joke and talk with Eric. I do not believe it's because they think he's super cool. I believe it's because he loves them and they know it. They know he cares. Some of the kids even know that the rest of us leaders care. And that is why they need us.



They need someone to teach them about God, to introduce them to God. They need a safe place to be that's warm in the winter. They need dinner. Above all of that, they need to believe that someone, anyone, cares about where they are on Thursday nights. They need people who care about who they are. I believe that is why a lot of the kids come to 180. I believe that it is our privilege to care about the students. I believe that teaching them about God is a perk that we get for loving them. I have hope that some of the kids will someday realize that our love comes from God and discover that His is the only acceptance they need. Until then, I'm going to have fun caring about them and hope it makes a difference.



## Fall Auction Recap

On October 30, we held our 5th Annual Fall Auction. The night was incredible in many ways. We had delicious appetizers made by Joel Schramm, from items grown on our farm and baked goods produced by our Breaktime Bakery. Sozo Coffee provided us with a superb coffee bar complete with gourmet hot chocolate, decaf coffee, and an assortment of lattes. We were also blessed that night to have the Vander Mill deliver over two hundred fresh donuts and at least a dozen gallons of fresh cider.

We were also blessed to have a record turnout for the auction. Over 180 people came out to enjoy the night

## Ministry Wish List

- Snacks for High School or GEMS: \$30
- Meal for 180: \$100
- Muck Boots for students: \$300
- Lap Top Computer - \$500

of bidding through the silent and live auction, purchasing balloons, and competing for baskets. Those items were supplied by nearly 100 businesses and individuals who were happy to support NCN.

One of the best parts of the evening, was having Avrey speak about the years he has spent in the ministries of New City Neighbors. Later on that evening, during the live auction, one of our donors purchased the Mongoose fat tire bike and gave it to him as a gift.

With the help of many generous donors, we were able to raise over \$23,000 to support NCN! This is a new fundraising record for us and provides us with valuable resources for impacting the lives of other students like Avrey.

We are truly grateful for everyone who helped make this night special.



NEW CITY  
URBAN  
FARM

Farm Shares will go on sale in early February. We will once again be offering full shares for \$450, half shares for \$275, and quarter shares for \$175. 2015 Farm Share applications will be on our website soon.



RUN NCN RUN

Run NCN Run, our spring fundraiser will once again take place during the 5th 3rd River Bank Run, on May 9. It is not too early to think about joining our running team. If you'd like to walk/run the 5k, 10k, or 25k race, please email Eric at [erics@newcityneighbors.org](mailto:erics@newcityneighbors.org).