



City Impact

from the inside out



How Your Support Brings Inside Out Transformation

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City Impact Teens Give Back



APRIL 2010

We welcome your letters and comments!

PLEASE CONTACT US by e-mail serve@cityimpact.org or write to: City Impact | 400 N. 27 St. | Lincoln, NE 68503

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Additional copies of our newsletter can be obtained by calling (402) 477-8080.

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For wills, trusts and gifts, our legal name is City Impact. Our Federal ID number is 47-0800906. Our State ID number is 05-7772750.

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...a supporter of the Impact Reading Center

“It’s not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are.”

- Roy Disney, American Film Writer,
Nephew of Walt Disney

City Impact Values:
Christ-Centered Relationships
Servant Leadership
Strengths-Based Development
Cultivating Personal Responsibility
Commitment to Excellence
Wise Stewardship of Resources
Learning and Teaching

It’s when we see City Impact’s core values being lived out by the youth in our programs that we give glory to God, and we are seeing a living, breathing example of that right before our eyes.

The Impact Leadership Academy (ILA) for Middle and High School Youth is held each Sunday evening, with the teens splitting up into various teams. Teens may participate in Speaking, Writing, Social Justice or Philanthropy teams. All the teams are led by volunteers and part-time staff who work hard to guide the teens and allow them to put their own creativity and strengths to use.

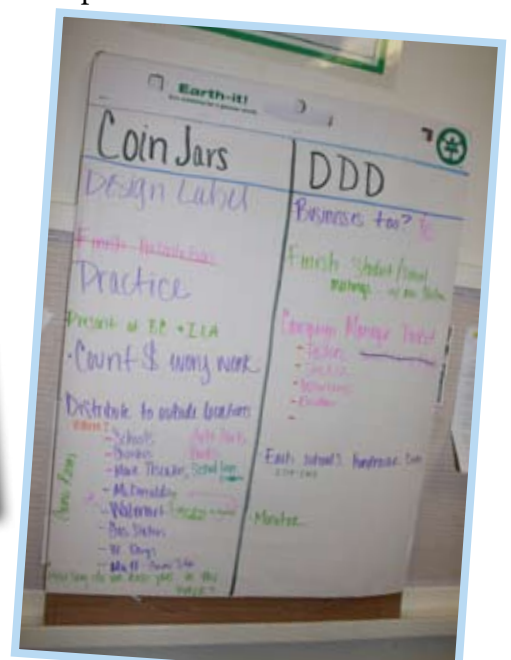
The ILA Philanthropy Team began researching and discussing their options for a special project last year and voted to focus on child abuse. They sought out an organization they felt was making an impact in this area and decided to go visit Friendship Home, an organization which provides support and shelter to victims of domestic violence. The teens also understood when they toured the facility why they were not allowed to visit with the people staying there, but took the initiative to seek out the organization’s needs by walking around.

They noticed the playground area and quickly realized how important that area was in fostering a fun, caring environment for the children of the women who were staying in the home. The teens felt that the area could become even better with a bike path around the perimeter and benches to sit on.

Excited to make a difference, they began brainstorming ideas for how to raise money for this effort. They held a car wash and designed coin jars that were placed in Bible Club rooms and on



Miss Chelsea assists two team members, Luke and Isaiha, in the planning of “Dress Down Day”.





Northstar Associate Principal, Vann Price, presents a check to Patty & Anessa of the Youth Philanthropy Team.



The Philanthropy Team designed stickers to promote "Dress Down Day" for teachers & staff at their schools.

the tables at the Black History Celebration. **The team went into Middle and High Schools and made presentations to the staff to hold "Dress Down Days"**, for which school staff members would donate money in exchange for dressing casual and wear a sticker promoting ILA's cause on a specified day.

One of the ILA teens, Patty, worked with North Star High School and made a formal presentation to the entire staff to promote the "Dress Down Day". Feedback on her presentation was extremely positive and the decision was made to move forward with the event. This is the kind of real-life experience that will serve our teens well into the future.

Under the leadership of City Impact's Philanthropy Team Leader, Chelsea Amundson, the teens worked together to identify a cause and make an impact. **Miss Chelsea was glowing with pride as she relayed this story about God doing amazing work in this group of teens who are just getting started changing the world in which they live.**

Living the values is what will make a difference, both in their own lives and in the lives of others. And, just imagine the ripple effects! More urban teens wanting to have a little of what the ILA teens are modeling. The world will be a better place, indeed, and all of Heaven will celebrate!

Words of Wisdom

Recently, I sat in with with the High School boys at the Impact Leadership Academy. Not only did I get to listen to their conversations, I was able to witness what I would like to call a "highlight" of the night. The study sheets were passed out and the boys were asked to think about what they would be talking about that night by looking at the sheet. They agreed that they would again be talking about the gifts of wisdom and knowledge. **All of a sudden VaDoll said "just look at Proverbs for wisdom!"** I just looked at Mr. Ty and Mr. Adam (high school boys' leaders) and we all smiled at each other. **We got a kick out of VaDoll being so sure of what he was saying,** it was kind of like he was saying "Duh guys!" It was awesome to see VaDoll recognizing that you can gain wisdom from God's Word.

- Evian Schindler, Communications Coordinator



Impact Reading Center Gets R



Fun, learning and great results!

Studies have shown that if a child is two or more grade levels behind in Grade 4, they have a much higher chance of getting involved in criminal activity in the future. And, they will not be as successful in other classes. Falling behind in reading also adversely affects self-confidence, both in and out of school. That's why we focus on reading.

The results at the IRC are significant, with nearly one hundred fifty struggling students in Grades K-2 in our daytime literacy programs on pace to finish the year at grade level.

In addition, the sixty students in our after school literacy programs improved, on average, nearly one full grade level in a semester.

Although reading gains are celebrated when measuring results, often times the most celebrated results are those much more subtle. Some children have a tougher time than others, but we still work with them and celebrate the smaller strides in improvement. Or, perhaps improvement is something as simple as what Nicole, a valued IRC volunteer shares:

When the Impact Reading Center (IRC) was launched in the Lincoln Public Schools nearly two years ago, the goal was to make sure that children who were struggling with reading skills were given the opportunity to improve. Reading scores in many of Lincoln's low-income schools lag behind due to higher mobility rates and other factors. Therefore, the decision was made to enter some of our central neighborhood schools first. The IRC is currently at Elliott, Clinton and Hartley Elementary Schools. Because the foundation of literacy is so critical to a child's and community's future success, City Impact continues to measure results and seeks to expand and touch even more young lives. Thankfully, we're witnessing real results.

Todd Bowman, City Impact's Program Director, has worked diligently to ensure IRC results align with standards used by LPS. Over the past couple of years, Todd has fine-tuned the lesson plans to be consistent with LPS standards while remaining volunteer-friendly as well. Over 200 volunteers have served as reading tutors in the 2009-2010 school year alone. Just one two-hour training session equips a volunteer to sit one-on-one with a child and work through a lesson in 40-60 minutes, one day per week.



Students at Elliott Elementary School love their Impact Reading Center volunteers!

I am an Impact Reading Center Tutor at Elliott Elementary School. During the 2nd quarter, I was assigned to a new student, "Damion". When I met Damion, the first thing I noticed was his mischievous smile and outgoing personality.

As we started working through the first lesson plan, it was anything but successful. Every few minutes Damion would have a request to use the restroom or to get a drink from the water fountain down the hall. Worse was his ability to magically kick off his shoes even though moments before I had helped him tie double knots.

During that first 20 minute lesson, in pure desperation to try to get some reading done I told Damion that I like to read a good book with my shoes off at home and suggested that we try it. He liked this idea and we continued to read without shoes on for a couple of sessions.

I left a majority of our reading sessions feeling that I had not helped Damion with his reading skills but as the weeks went by things slowly started to get better. The requests to use the bathroom or get a drink became less frequent and the shoe trick disappeared all together. Damion started to recognize me when I came into the classroom and would flash me his smile before running to get his books. Then on the last day of the quarter as I was getting ready to leave, Damion ran up and gave me a big hug! I looked at him with tears in my eyes and realized how far he had come. His reading is getting better and better and I look forward to continue reading with him.

- Nicole Mroczek, IRC Volunteer



Did You Know?

It currently takes over 150 volunteers investing 6,000+ hours to impact 200+ students at the IRC.

The kids need 100+ more volunteers to invest an hour per week to fully ensure their growth & success.

The financial investment needed per student is \$110 per month or \$1,000 per student, per school year.

The IRC needs more financial support today to sustain and grow this valuable program for great outcomes for Lincoln's kids this year. Please consider helping.



Black History Celebration

City Impact held its 5th annual Black History Celebration on Tuesday evening, February 23, at First Baptist Church (1340 "K" Street). This year's theme was "The History of Dance".

City Impact youth and families, joined by community members, staff and volunteers, heard opening remarks by Dr. Jeanette Jones, Assistant Professor of History and Ethnic Studies at UNL.

The program included interpretive dance, poetry readings and dance and drum performances by Impact Leadership Academy teens, led by City Impact's Dance Club Director, Angela Pillow. Children in Bible Club assisted with decorations and leading a time of worship at the end of the service.

The evening culminated in a soul food potluck, enjoyed by over 200 people. Special thanks to Walmart for sponsoring this event.

A Gift that Gives Back

Did you realize that you can increase your income through a creative giving tool called a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A Charitable Gift Annuity pays you an income for life (or the lives of you and your spouse). The rate of return is based on your age at the time of your gift (see sample rates below).

Age	Payout Rates
60	5.0 %
65	5.3 %
70	5.7 %
75	6.3 %
80	7.1 %
85	8.1 %
90+	9.5 %

This chart reflects sample payout rates for single donors. Payout rates differ for couples.

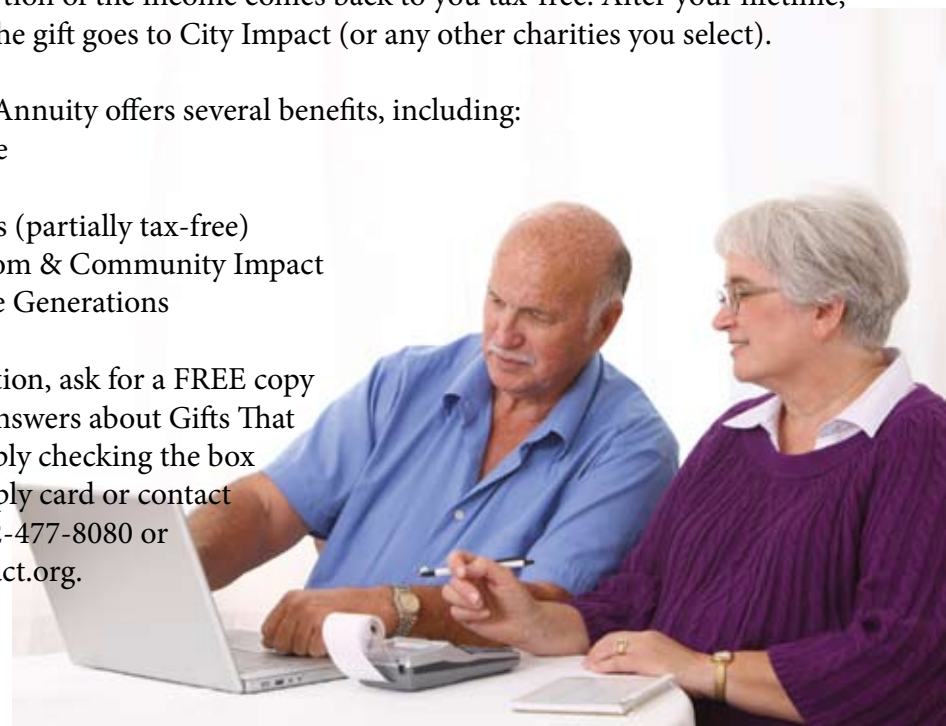
You receive a charitable deduction for a portion of the gift when you make the gift. Additionally, a portion of the income comes back to you tax-free. After your lifetime, the remainder of the gift goes to City Impact (or any other charities you select).

A Charitable Gift Annuity offers several benefits, including:

- Increased Income
- Tax Deduction
- Annual Payments (partially tax-free)
- Increased Kingdom & Community Impact
- Legacy for Future Generations

** Rates are determined by the American Council on Gift Annuities (effective through July 1, 2010)*

For more information, ask for a FREE copy of "Questions & Answers about Gifts That Give Back" by simply checking the box on the enclosed reply card or contact Mike Friend at 402-477-8080 or askmike@cityimpact.org.



JOIN IN

The Pre-K students spent March learning about the Easter story. They talked about God dying for our sins and what an act of love it was. The Pre-K students gave some ideas of how they could show love to others just like Jesus showed love to us.



Mariah- "Give my brother a big hug."

Maliah- "Help my mom by cleaning up the living room and our bedroom."

Alejandra- "Help my brother clean up his room."

Libby- "Help my sister make her bed."

Summer Daytime Volunteer Opportunities!



The Impact Reading Center (IRC) is a one-on-one reading tutoring program in Lincoln's lower-income elementary schools. The goal is to bring struggling readers up to or above their appropriate grade reading level. Volunteers attend one 2-hour training session.

Call Stacy at 477-8080 or visit www.cityimpact.org for summer opportunities.

Need a speaker for your organization, church or business?

We are happy to share the exciting things going on at City Impact and can tailor the message to suit your needs. Call Jo at 477-8080 or jsheets@cityimpact.org.

Want to gather monthly for lunch with like-minded people and share good news??

Join the Good News Guild and help City Impact plan and carry out special events. Meetings are the last Tuesday of each month. Call Jo at 477-8080 or email her at jsheets@cityimpact.org.

Save the Date!

*Join us for our annual
'Hopes and Dreams'
Silent Auction Benefit Dinner*

*Monday, October 4
The Embassy Suites
5:30 - 8:30 pm*

*\$50 per person / \$500 per table of 10
Corporate Sponsorships Available*

For all volunteer service opportunities, please contact the City Impact office at serve@cityimpact.org or 402| 477-8080.

SEND KIDS TO CAMP

After a long (yes, very long), cold winter, our City Impact youth are counting the days to Summer Camp time! Each year, we are blessed to send 60+ children and teens to KAA (Kids Across America) or Camp Sunshine. They always come back with great memories and stories about how God showed up in various ways throughout the week.

Sponsoring a child not only creates a life-changing experience for them, but it can be a life-changing experience for you. Investing in a week-long camp reaps many years of rewards in knowing that memories will be permanently etched in young minds. Eventually, they will look back and understand how God used all the camp adventures to change and mold their souls into well-rounded successful adults.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Zach – “I loved the **BLOBBING** and **TUBING**. I also spent time reading the Bible.”

Cecily – “I really enjoyed the pool. **I LEARNED MORE ABOUT GOD** and saw God in the spirit of everything.”

Linda – “**THE SLIDE WAS FUN** and it was fun to talk about God.”

Macey – “We had parties that were lots of fun. **GOD SHOWED UP** when we had discussions with the Kaleos (leaders).”

It's easy to provide this life-changing opportunity for an urban youth! Visit www.cityimpact.org & click on **Camp Sponsorships** or use the enclosed **reply card to donate**. To speak with a staff member about this opportunity, contact City Impact's Resource Ministry Director, Mike Friend at 402.477.8080 or askmike@cityimpact.org.

One special way god spoke to me this week was whenever we had bible study in our cabins. My all time favorite memory from KAA this year was when my cabin mates went off the blob I stayed on most of the time. The thing that impacted me the most was when we saw the play of Jesus dying on the cross.



Please help all these great kids go to camp!

Over \$15,000 in Camp Sponsorships is needed! Play a part of making lifelong memories! \$250 or \$140 to sponsor one youth.



Our vision is to see urban youth, families and neighborhoods transformed from the inside out ...

400 N. 27th St. | Lincoln, NE 68503 | 402.477.8080 | www.cityimpact.org