



City Impact

from the inside out



How Your Support Brings Inside Out Transformation

July 2010
cityimpact.org

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Want Change? Get Strong!

Strengths for Life Mentoring

City Impact, as many of you know, takes the approach of looking at youth development through the lens of strengths and assets, not needs. We depend on the great organizations that also carry out God's work of feeding the hungry and clothing the poor, but **our focus is on equipping urban youth and families with tools that foster individual responsibility and lead to long-term change.**



Supporting that same philosophy is our new Strengths for Life (SFL) Mentoring Program, led by Natalie Byford.

"I've seen too many dreams fall by the wayside due to lack of opportunity. I've witnessed too many talented and gifted youth settle for what the world

offers because they don't have someone reminding them on a regular basis that God offers something greater.

Jesus saw the importance in mentoring, which is why he spent the majority of his ministry doing just that. He has called each and every one of us to do the same."

"...go and make disciples...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20)

Just as our logo implies, we want to see ripples that create **long-lasting positive change** in our community. But, first, there needs to be an impact to create the ripples. A Christ-centered mentoring relationship can be just the impetus needed to make that first impact in a young person's life.



You.
Mentor.
Change a life.



JULY 2010

We welcome your letters and comments!

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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

What does Strengths for Life Mentoring look like and what makes it different?



Take a closer look at SFL Mentoring!

Faith Based. It is faith-based and is unashamedly so.

Volunteer Friendly. Traditional mentoring programs ask volunteers for a once-a-week commitment while SFL Mentoring is asking for only a once-a-month commitment from mentors (but more is fine). Our youth are already receiving weekly programming, so that's why we feel that monthly mentoring is adequate. Mentoring can occur when your schedule allows...any place, any time.

Holistic. Students must earn the opportunity to enroll in SFL Mentoring through consistent participation in City Impact core youth programs called Bible Club (elementary) and the Impact Leadership Academy (teens). It is one part of a very deep youth discipleship program.

YOU CHOOSE the type of mentoring you do:

- 1. Interest Activities** — Students will have the opportunity to develop their God-given gifts and talents by participating in activities with an adult who shares the same interests and passions. These similar interest activities, such as basketball, golf, swimming, singing, painting, dancing, guitar, drums, etc, will be the focus of their monthly meetings. Grades 3-12.
- 2. Site Visits** — Students will be accompanied by their mentor on a variety of different site visits to local businesses and college campuses to explore options for their future. Grades 3-8.
- 3. College Prep** — Mentors will walk their students through every step of the college exploration and application process, including researching colleges, applying for scholarships and preparing for standardized tests. Grades 9-12.

Get Involved ...

If you feel God calling you to be an agent of change in a young person's life, someone who can make an impact that will ripple outward to great things, let us know!

We would love to visit with you, answer questions or get you signed up for the first Mentor Orientation on July 27, 2010.

Contact Natalie Byford at 402-477-8080 or nbyford@cityimpact.org

KAA CAMP

... AND S'MORES



Summer camp. **God.** Hot & sticky. **God.** Archery. **God.** Campfires. **God.** Swimming. **God.** Cabin conversations. **God.** Talent shows. **God.** Boat rides. **God.** Roasted marshmallows. **God.** Your support. **God.** Thankful. **God.**

Anyone who has ever been to camp has a special memory tucked away. Amazing life-changing stories. Some not-so-great stories about bug bites or homesickness (keeping us humble!). Sometimes, we don't even recognize the story play out in our lives until many years later. Camp impacts each one of us!

However, there is one common theme we hear about every single year: **God is present.**

He's hot & sticky with you. He's listening in on the cabin conversations and keeping you calm during the lightning storm. He never fails to show up! That's why we get so excited each year to see kids experience God's presence at camp, when they're closest to His beautiful creation.

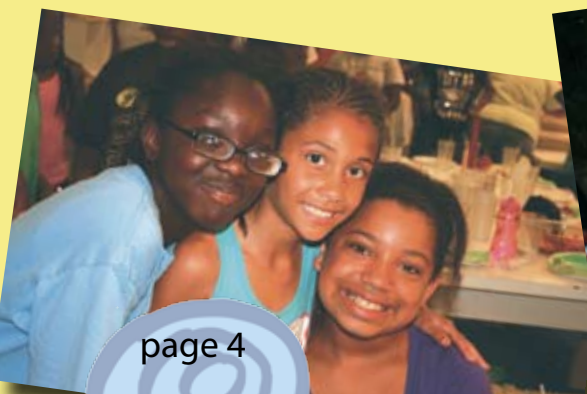
TJ, one of our Impact Leadership Academy teens had this to say,

"I saw God basically everywhere. He followed me everywhere. I saw God in the counselors while they were teaching. Camp gave me a better perspective of my life and I'm learning every day."



Thanks to your loyal support, we took 36 kids to the week-long Kids Across America (KAA) Camp near Branson, MO in mid-June. Brad Bryan and some City Impact parents who were adult leaders (for whom we are extremely grateful) made the trip in fine shape, with some great stories amidst the tired, worn out kids getting off the bus back in Lincoln.

Read on for more powerful reflections...





It's been said that a family that prays together, stays together. This year Ken "Cricket" and Angela Pillow headed to Kids Across America camp along with their kids! Here is what they had to say about their experience ...

"All my memories are great, but my best memory at camp was Cross Talk. That was such a godly experience for me. We were praying for some stuff and just to see God work.

"The best thing about camp was the long time I had with the Lord and I didn't expect that. I didn't realize I was so busy. But, at camp, I didn't worry about work, about the laundry ...

To see believers come together and to see a bunch of men in our cabin, coming together, crying, praying and talking about emotional things. That doesn't normally happen.

My prayers changed from 'Lord, please help me through the day, please help me with this or that' to 'Lord, I want to know you. I want to grow closer to you.'

My attitude is now different. God knows everything. And, sharing, opening up to our kids. Our prayer life has changed. We have more of a servant attitude now.

Since we've been back, there's a change in our life at home. Our kids have been to camp many years. Each year, they'd come back on fire for the Lord, but I have always been too busy to sit with them and really listen to their experience. Now, it's different. Our prayer life and family time has greatly changed." - Angela

We used to see our kids come home and we'd put out the fire. Now, we know what they experienced." - "Cricket"

And the Son shines on...

We are planning to take 60+ kids to Camp Sunshine, a week-long Christian day camp just south of Lincoln in August. The kids depend on support from people like you each year to make that happen. Cost is \$140 per camper.

To help, please use the enclosed envelope or contact Mike Friend, Resource Ministry Director at askmike@cityimpact.org or 402-477-8080.

Your support will ensure many more wonderful Camp Sunshine memories for these and other youth!



Hopes & Dreams

Benefit Dinner & Auction

You won't want to miss it!

Monday, October 4

**6-8:30 pm (doors open at 5:30 for Silent Auction bidding)
Embassy Suites Hotel**

Our vision for the evening is to see the caring community of Lincoln come alive, knowing hopes and dreams of our urban youth and families are in the making! You will have a glimpse into the lives of some teens that will leave you desiring to know more. You will have the opportunity to meet and interact with some amazing Impact Leadership Academy youth who benefit from your support. You will hear transformational stories and leave feeling uplifted to know you help bring glory to God in the heart of Lincoln, where help is needed.

Enjoy an evening of fun, socializing and great attention-grabbing silent and live auction items!

**Invite your friends, host a table of ten for \$500 or just come & enjoy!
Use the enclosed reply card to reserve your spot!**

We Hope & Dream we get to see you on October 4!



Thanks to the **Good News Guild** and their energy in making this the best benefit event ever!

Their support in collecting donated auction items, seeking corporate sponsorships and planning everything from food and centerpieces for the benefit is much appreciated.

If you're interested in helping (we have a lot of fun!), there's still time to get involved. Contact Jo Sheets at jsheets@cityimpact.org or 402-477-8080.

Dance ... like no one is watching!

If you were asked to do something for God that might outwardly embarrass you, would you do it? You may not dance, but your partnership makes them dance! Thank you!

(below is a recent excerpt from the City Impact blog)

The Dance Team is learning how to be bolder. Mrs. Angela (Dance Team Leader) wants the Impact Leadership Academy youth to get used to dancing in front of people, so on Sunday **the dance team hit the sidewalks**. They all marched outside, where they planned on practicing their step routine while walking down the sidewalk on 14th street. Can you imagine doing this while all those cars were driving by?! Well they did it, and there was no complaining coming from the students! Later, Radius (a student on Dance Team) responded about dancing down the sidewalk. She said that Mrs. Angela had asked them before they went out if they would do anything for God, and most of the students said yes. Radius shared that **Mrs. Angela emphasized the fact that the reason they are dancing and have the Dance Team in the first place is so they can use their talents for God!**



Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might ... - 2 Samuel 6:14



The Dance Team stepping out in faith as they take their dancing to the streets.

JOIN IN

Bible Club

(YOU can change lives in the heart of Lincoln!)

When authentic relationships are created through serving others, the rewards are immense!

Bible Club is City Impact's core program that began 15 years ago when Brad & Carma Bryan would sit on the steps of a neighborhood church, with kids gathered around hearing about God's love. It has grown to impact hundreds of young lives, with results that will continue to ripple out creating long-lasting change in our community.

Weekly gatherings are held on Tuesdays, from 6-8:15 pm at First Baptist Church, 1340 "K" Street. Volunteers enjoy a served meal with the children, leading classroom or small group discussions (curriculum & training provided) and worship. Most of all, they enjoy knowing they are helping young people become all God created them to be.

To experience this life-changing weekly volunteer experience, or to find out more ... contact Ashley at 402-477-8080 or alarson@cityimpact.org.



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Fall 2010 Opportunities

It's not too early to think about joining the outstanding group of Impact Reading Center reading tutors who give the gift of lifetime literacy to a struggling reader!

This one-on-one tutoring program in three of Lincoln's low-income neighborhood schools (Elliott, Hartley and Clinton) is a **weekly 40-minute commitment for a school semester**. For such a small investment of time, it changes lives forever.

Training begins in August!

To get on the list to receive more details, contact Stacy at 402-477-8080, or serve@cityimpact.org.

"I can't tell you what a privilege it is for me to be involved with City Impact's reading program. I have received so many blessings from the students I've met this past year, and look forward to the fall semester!" - 2009-2010 IRC volunteer



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

Maximizing Your Retirement Savings for God's Glory

Steve and Donna have four grown children. Steve worked as a carpenter all of his life and Donna has worked for a local insurance company since the children moved out.

Steve and Donna had accumulated retirement assets with the idea that one day, if they didn't need the assets for living expenses during retirement, a portion of those funds could provide for both their grown children as well as kingdom causes dear to their hearts, such as City Impact.

Steve and Donna own a home, a life insurance policy, some CDs and money market accounts, and have adequate retirement funds as a result of diligent savings over the years.

One of Steve and Donna's assets is an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), which had been designated for their children through a "beneficiary designation form" that their IRA administrator provided.

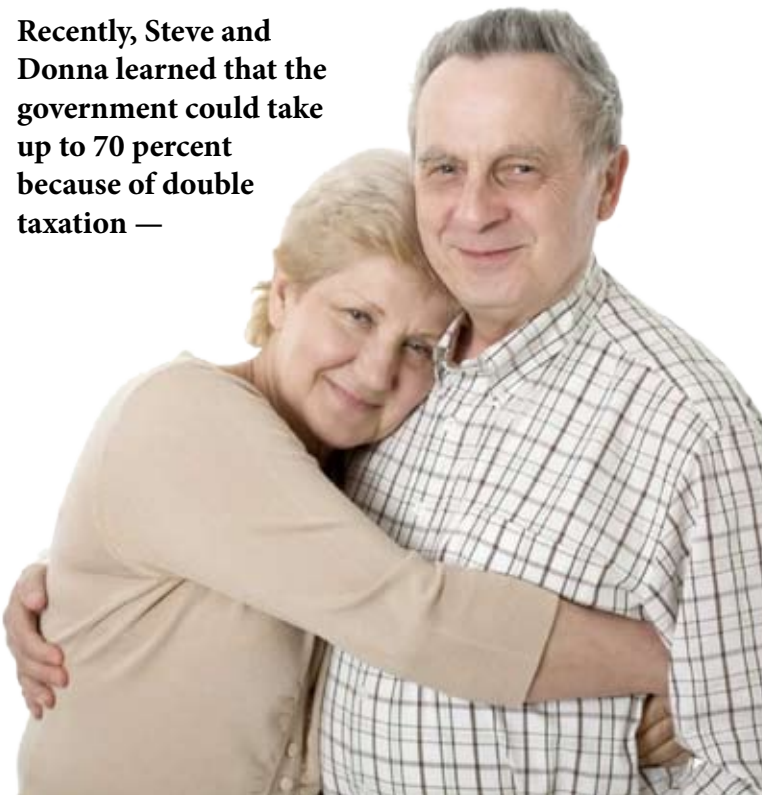
Recently, Steve and Donna learned that the government could take up to 70 percent because of double taxation —

income tax, plus a sizeable estate tax. In other words, Steve and Donna's children would only receive around 30 cents on the dollar from the IRA funds.

By using other assets to benefit their children, and designating City Impact as the beneficiary of their IRA, Steve and Donna can avoid the double tax and use the IRA funds to help touch the lives of people for eternity with the gospel at minimal cost to their family. Because City Impact is a registered tax-exempt organization, all of the IRA funds would be available to City Impact when Steve and Donna go home to be with the Lord. "It's really a win-win-win situation," Steve observed.

This sample illustration is for illustration purposes only. Please consult your own advisors.

For more information, ask for a FREE copy of "Save 70% on your Retirement Funds" by simply checking the box on the enclosed reply card or contact Mike Friend at 402-477-8080 or askmike@cityimpact.org.



Food for Thought ...

"Many people measure their success by wealth, recognition, power and status. There's nothing wrong with those, but if that's all you're focused on, you're missing the boat ... Using your time and talent to serve others—that's when truly meaningful success can come your way."

-Bob Buford, www.halftime.org

