



City Impact

from the inside out



How Your Support Brings Inside Out Transformation

October 2010
cityimpact.org

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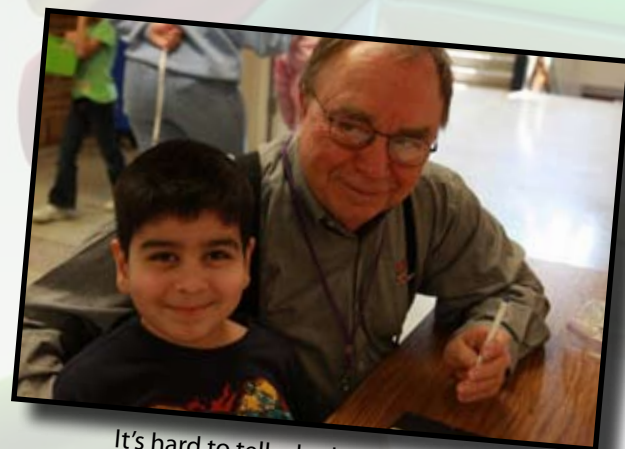
Making an Impact with Reading

The Impact Reading Center

As I walk into Elliott Elementary School at 25th & N on a cool, crisp autumn day, I can't help but wonder why students and adults line the hallways at their little tables and chairs. Are these kids in a "time out" or are they working on a special project?

Well, as I wander a little closer, I start to notice the eagerness of the children and the content faces of the adults. Then, I notice a high-five from the retired gentleman to his young friend sitting beside him. **What could make this young boy so excited, so confident that causes him to sit up a little taller in his chair?**

The reality is that over 150 volunteers come to Elliott to serve as Impact Reading Center tutors. Oh, now I understand... a fun time to take a break from the office and read to a child. Where do I sign up?



It's hard to tell who benefits most!

Well, the not-so-obvious answer is that these warm-hearted adults are reading tutors who have completed a training session so they can help struggling readers make significant reading gains. Students in the after-school reading program are seeing an increase of a full grade level in one semester! The goal is to see the students read at levels they have not read at before, not simply to read to them. **This is where lifetime empowerment through literacy begins.**

As I prepared to leave Elliott Elementary that afternoon, I was touched by the sight of adults taking time out of their busy days to serve in Lincoln's urban neighborhoods. It was not what I first thought. It was not obvious that something so powerful was taking place. I'm glad my eyes were opened.



The Impact Reading Center helps empower struggling readers with the gift of lifetime literacy.

"I would highly recommend this for anyone who has a Bucket List!"

- Roger Bell, retired, Impact Reading Center volunteer tutor



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We welcome your letters and comments!

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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

Making an Impact with Faith



Pray with us for forever changed lives.

Surround yourself with positive people. Good advice.

Well, it's not always so easy. Growing up in today's society, urban youth face many challenges. At City Impact, children and teens discover their God-given talents and learn to rise above their circumstances. They blossom into beautiful young people, with the potential to become all God created them to be.

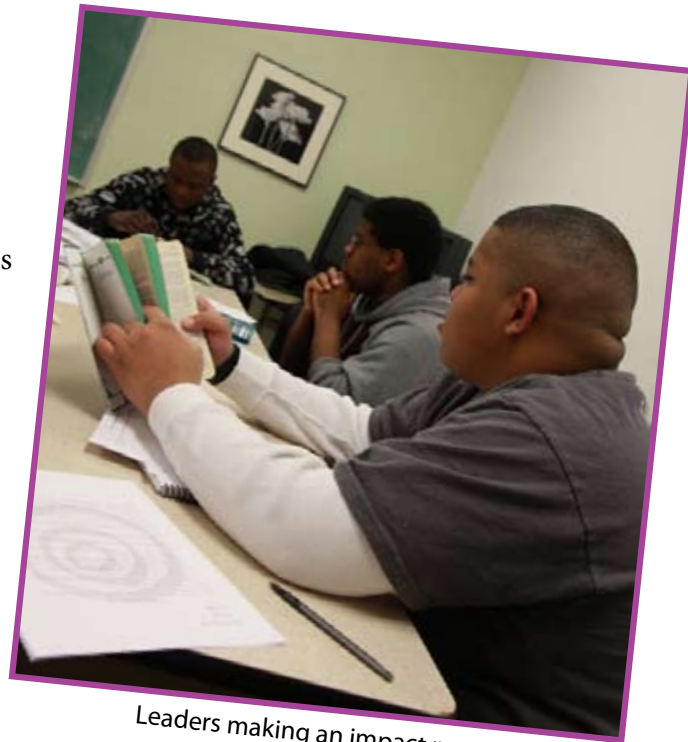
None of this is surprising when positive adult role models walk alongside our young people. None of this is surprising when youth are told what they CAN accomplish in life as opposed to what they lack or need. However, we often see well-intended people and organizations spending time and energy on fixing problems or viewing people solely through the lens of needs. Research indicates this approach is not as effective as an assets-based approach.

At City Impact, our volunteer-driven core programs go beyond the obvious. With a focus on the assets and strengths of Lincoln's urban youth, the results are eternal!

Bible Club – an elementary-age weekly program that incorporates Biblical teaching in a fun setting, with a meal and urban worship.

Impact Leadership Academy – a weekly teen program that incorporates Biblical teaching, leadership teams, a meal and urban worship.

Strengths for Life Mentoring – a monthly Christ-centered mentoring program for youth in third grade through high school. Mentors can meet with the students (who already attend the weekly programs above) any time, any place.



Leaders making an impact now.



Teaching and mentoring ... the rewards are eternal.

People who serve in our faith programs often receive much more than they give with their investments of time and talent. See Join In on page 7 to make an impact!

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

Hopes & Dreams

Benefit Dinner & Auction



Rachel Hiser is a Nebraska Wesleyan senior, majoring in English. After volunteering at the Impact Reading Center, she sought out an educational internship at City Impact, assisting with Public Relations.

As I reflect back on City Impact's 2010 Hopes & Dreams Benefit Dinner, I am tempted to tell you that over 500 people attended the event and that the proceeds were over \$100,000. I am tempted to tell you that the meal was delicious and the centerpieces were beautiful. However, I would rather give you a behind-the-scenes look at everything God did that evening and in the months leading up to the event. I feel this perspective is even more powerful than the event itself.

When I started as an intern in August, preparations for Hopes & Dreams were already well under way. I had no idea the amount of time and planning an event like this required, but **what struck me was the amount of time given by the caring hearts of volunteers.** People gave sacrificially of their time, above and beyond work hours or family time, for weeks and months leading up to this special evening.

This year's record-setting attendance and giving were memorable, and we are so grateful for your faithful partnership. However, as I think back on this year's event, I will always remember the faces, not just the numbers. Toward the end of the evening, City Impact Program Director Todd Bowman invited several teens from the Impact Leadership Academy up on stage and introduced them each by name. As one attendee said, "To actually have a face and a name for where your efforts go was the best part of the evening." **God's continual faithfulness and provision through the obedient service and giving of partners like you make it possible for each of those individual teens, and many others like them, to be transformed from the inside out.**



Patty

At the event, we viewed a video about Patty, a City Impact teen, who is a living testament to all God has done through City Impact. I watched the video from the back of the room, near the table where Patty was seated, and although I had seen the video before, I still became emotional as I watched Patty watch herself talking about all God had done in her life through City Impact. I had the privilege of watching the filming of both of the videos shown at the event, and the passion, motivation, humility, and gratitude of everyone involved was absolutely incredible. **Everyone was so excited to talk about what God was doing through City Impact. Hours and hours of video interviews brought out raw emotion and stories that were on the hearts of all involved, and to witness that was a blessing!**



Todd Bowman, City Impact Program Director, introduces some of the students involved in the Impact Leadership Academy. These students have demonstrated sacrificial love and great leadership abilities each week.



A crowd of 500+ was inspired and blessed.



Some special ladies enjoyed a special evening.

Photos courtesy of Curt Brinkmann

The Role of Relationships



Wendy has been a close friend to Marlenia for 15+ years!



One of City Impact's Core Values is Relationships! And few relationships have spanned the length and depth of Wendy Bowman and Marlenia Thornton. Wendy met Marlenia when Marlenia was only 5 years old. Over the years, Wendy has walked alongside Marlenia, teaching her at Bible Club and spending much time with her on her own, taking the relationship from that of mentor to very close friend. Marlenia is now a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and will graduate in May with a degree in Broadcast Journalism. We are so blessed to have been able to watch their relationship continue all these years and we are excited for Marlenia as she will be the first college graduate in her family!

Making an Impact with Dignity

"Gifts of Love"™ Community Christmas Store

Sleigh bells ring. Are you listening?

Not quite ready for that? Each year, many of us find ourselves promising that this year, it will be different. This year, we will enjoy the Christmas season for what it really is and not get caught up in the "stuff." This year, we will experience peace and joy.

Sounds almost too good to be true, but it can be done. City Impact may be able to help.

Nothing warms the soul like giving to others. And, when there is love involved, it just gets better. "Gifts of Love"™ is City Impact's annual Christmas store, where love abounds and the giving is done in a dignified manner. New, donated gift items are displayed for the shopping pleasure of Lincoln's low-income families, with prices marked 70% off retail. Last year, over \$85,000 in new items were purchased and 400+ Bibles and Christian DVDs were freely received by the families!

Obviously, it feels good to serve and give, especially during the holidays. But, what often results is a life-changing experience that can truly lead to a more peaceful, joyous Christmas. When you help someone feel a sense of dignity, you have just given and received one of the greatest gifts of all.

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

The Impact ...

"Prayer, encouragement and making Christmas affordable. City Impact has always been a blessing." - 2009 Shopper



You can help us stock the shelves with great items for Lincoln's low-income children and families this Christmas!



Gifts of Love™

How You Can Help ...

- **Donate new gift items through December 9, preferably those of \$20-40 value.** Suggested ideas may be found at cityimpact.org.
- Offer a **tax-deductible cash investment.**
- **Sign up to serve** as an individual, family, small group or service organization **December 8-15.** Sign up at www.cityimpact.org beginning Nov. 1.
- **Host a gift collection site** at your church or business now and help spread the word.
- Let any Lincoln family you know who may qualify to shop that registration will be held at the City Impact office Nov 8-12 (9 AM - 4 PM).

JOIN IN

Bible Club & Impact Leadership Academy

Interested in serving in one of our weekly faith-based programs on Sunday or Tuesday evenings? Contact Jo for more information at jsheets@cityimpact.org or 477.8080.

Part-Time Job Openings

Substitute Teacher & Van Driver for Bible Club

The Substitute Teacher would be available to assist or lead when key volunteers or staff are absent. Responsibilities include a clear understanding of classroom procedures, teaching lessons without much planning, learning multiple roles & responsibilities, and having a passion for youth. This position also includes driving a City Impact van to pick up youth Grades 1-12 at home and transport them to and from Bible Club each Tuesday. Training is provided.

The hours are Tuesday 5:00-9:00pm (4.00 hours/week). Applicants must be 21 years old and hourly pay is \$10.25-\$11.25, based on experience & education.

Front Door Coordinator

The Front Door Coordinator will greet and assist staff, parents, volunteers, and students as they enter and leave the building and provide a minimal security presence by being observant of adults entering the building. The Front Door Coordinator will also assist in the set up and tear down of program resources.

The hours are Tuesday from 4:30-9:00pm and Sunday from 5:00-9:30pm (9 hours/week). Hourly pay is \$10.25-\$11.25, based on experience & education.

For an application for either of these positions, please contact Todd at tbowman@cityimpact.org.



Winter-Spring 2011 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 one of Lincoln's low-income neighborhood schools is a **weekly 40-minute commitment for a school semester**. For such a small investment of time, it changes lives forever.

New training begins in January!

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

Strengths for Life (SFL) Mentoring Program

Interested in being a SFL mentor? Contact Natalie Byford at 477-8080 or nbyford@cityimpact.org.

The next SFL Mentor Orientation will be Monday, Nov 8th, 6-8 pm. It will be held at Southwood Lutheran Church.



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

Making an Impact on Your Family ...

Helping Adult Children Honor God with Money

God calls parents to teach, encourage, and faithfully guide their children. They have been given a special trust to serve as stewards or managers of their children. Yet even with the biblical challenge of teaching and training children, parents are not responsible for the decisions their adult children make - each person is held accountable individually. Parents are accountable, however, for the guidance they provide to their children. There are several things you as a parent or even grandparent can do to help your adult children honor God with the money He has ultimately given them and you to manage.

First, you can help adult children understand God's principles and you can continue to offer appropriate guidance. Second, you must be willing to allow your adult children to fail. Third and arguably most beneficial to them, you can help your children be dependent on God (rather than you as their parents). Fourth, you can walk the talk and model the generosity you desire to see in them. And finally, you can provide financial assistance with encouragement, ensuring you allow ample room for God to lead them in a manner that will not thwart His purposes for their lives.

This information is broadly educational in nature. Please consult your own advisors.

For a FREE copy of "Questions and Answers about Giving to Children" simply check the box on the enclosed reply card or contact Mike Friend, Resource Ministry Director at 402-477-8080 or askmike@cityimpact.org.

"But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." - Deuteronomy 8:18



Passing along family values is a lifelong process that impacts generations.



Giving Made Simple ...

City Impact's exciting, new website will roll live in November. Not only will updated program information and stories be available, but our online giving section will be easier than ever for you to use. On it you'll be able to offer special gifts or set up monthly investments! Please contact Andrea Persampieri at apersampieri@cityimpact.org if you have any questions.