



City Impact

from the inside out



How Your Support Brings Inside Out Transformation

June 2011
cityimpact.org

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FINISHING STRONG

by Rachel Hiser
City Impact Intern, 2011 NE Wesleyan University Graduate



Have you been running from one graduation party to another? Or, perhaps you competed in your first (or tenth) marathon and are still on a runners' high, reaping the rewards of all those months of training.

In any case, you know the meaning of "finishing strong." It's what parents hope for their children. It's what we hope to do whenever we start something significant in our lives.

This edition is dedicated to graduates, runners and all the rest of us who desire to finish strong in whatever endeavor of which we are a part...to the glory of God.



Congratulations to our high school graduates, Patty & Annissa!

Both girls graduated from Lincoln North Star High School.

Patty plans to attend Concordia University in Seward, NE & Annissa plans to attend Southeast Community College in Lincoln.



JUNE 2011

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 higher standard.
A higher purpose.



...a supporter of the
Impact Reading Center

“The time for my departure is near...”

As Paul wrote his final letter to his beloved friend and mentee Timothy, he was preparing for the end of his earthly ministry. For Paul, this ending meant the possible loss of his life, as well as the end of many relationships and experiences that had been so valuable, both to him personally, and to the kingdom of God.



Congratulations to Marlenia Thornton on her graduation from UNL's College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Here at City Impact, many of our students are also preparing for endings. A few weeks ago, Marlenia Thornton graduated from UNL. While this is an exciting time for Marlenia, graduation also means the end of a chapter in her life of valuable relationships and experiences.

Paul's time in ministry was not always easy, and Marlenia's time in school has also been difficult at times. Says Marlenia: *“I've been tried, tested, kicked down, beat up, and spit on during this college thing.”*

However, Paul's final instructions to Timothy are not filled with regret that his own ministry is coming to an end or self-pity at the challenges he faced. Rather, filled with the same holy conviction, hope and spiritual focus that were characteristic of his ministry, Paul looks back on the past years of his life and says:

*“I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.”*

Like Paul, Marlenia has a positive outlook on the ending of her college career; *“I've finished strong by never giving up. I've learned the importance of seeing it through.”* For Marlenia, learning to never give up started when she was in elementary school. At Bible Club, she learned the importance of hard work and having a servant's heart. Just as she has taken that lesson and applied it to her successful college experience, the lessons she has learned in college about wisdom, strength, and knowing herself will prepare her for her future and challenge her to keep learning about herself, her relationship with others, and her relationship with God.

*“Now there is in store for me
the crown of righteousness...”*

Paul knew that no matter when or how his earthly ministry ended, the work that God does never ends and continues building the Kingdom. Paul's ministry did not cease with the ending of his life; his ministry continued because he was not doing it on his own. In the same way, Marlenia, though unsure about her future, knows that as long as she keeps looking heavenward and building her kingdom there, God will use her to impact the community, world and eternity.

This time of year, we are all dealing with endings. Perhaps like Marlenia, we are receiving diplomas and heading on to the next stage of our lives; or maybe we are like Paul, coming to grips with the end of a ministry. Some of us are Timothy, watching a loved one approach an ending and reflecting on how their absence will affect us all. No matter what situation we find ourselves in, we can all, like Paul and Marlenia, look to our heavenly Father and know that because of His Son, we are part of an eternal Kingdom and fellowship that will never end.

Mentoring Now to Finish Str

One way to ensure our local urban youth “finish strong” is to walk alongside them and help them paint a picture of their future. This is why City Impact developed **Strengths for Life (SFL) Mentoring**.

In our last newsletter, we introduced you to Patty & TT, one of our first mentoring matches. TT is a City Impact teen who has a SFL Mentor, Patty. They started out sharing an interest in playing the keyboard. Patty taught TT the basics of playing and TT continues to be so grateful that door was opened for her. **And TT's story continues ...**

TT is now taking piano lessons every other week, thanks to Patty's encouragement. Now, Patty is focusing on career mentoring, accompanying TT on career site visits and visiting with TT about college. This is the beauty of a flexible mentoring program that can grow right along with the mentees and

mentors involved. God just continues to strengthen this bond as Patty & TT walk down the road of life together, right through all the twists and turns!

Kenneth is a City Impact teen who has an interest mentor, Yinka. Yinka and Kenneth have formed a strong relationship over the last several months.

“This is my first try at a mentoring program and I had so many unanswered questions going into it. “Do I really have anything to offer?” “What if my mentee does not like me?” All that being said, I'm the youngest of five boys in my family and I've always wanted a younger brother. Through this program I've learned that “mentor” is just another word for “friend” or “brother”. Kenneth is such an impressive young man. Always smiling and full of life. He reminds me to enjoy the simple things in life. Like Soccer and Chipotle. It is extremely rewarding to observe and hopefully play a small part in the life of an individual that will surely do great things.” - Yinka, SFL Mentor



Kenneth and Yinka

... Sharing Interests, Sharing Life!

ONG

Jonah is a City Impact teen who has a career mentor, Mike. Together, they visit our business partners to explore various future careers to give Jonah some real-life experiences.

We are very satisfied with the mentoring program because it gives our kids a sense of guidance from someone experienced in this area. We know our kids feel more comfortable with their mentors walking along side them, knowing that their parents did NOT attend college. I can also see in my children that they now believe college IS attainable because someone else is taking their time to spend with them. They feel if a stranger believes in them, then they "DEFINITELY" can and will be able to achieve this as a goal. We are so grateful this mentoring program exists. 'Thank you Lord for the mentoring program and all the hard work people have sewed to create/present this. This is a true and timely blessing to our family. You ALWAYS know what we need and you TRULY provide' - Ken & Angela, City Impact Parents

Mentoring in Motion



Carlos and his mentor Linn had a blazing good time learning from chef Nader at Billy's Restuarant!



Taylor & his career mentor, Rich, have had fun exploring some career opportunities, including what it takes to be a State Patrol Officer. Looks like it's a perfect fit for Taylor!

Interested in being a SFL Mentor?

Faith-based monthly mentoring, done according to your schedule! You choose the type of mentoring (shared interest activities, business site visits or college prep) and age of youth. **A two-hour orientation session will be held on June 20th, from 6-8pm at Southwood Lutheran Church.**



Contact Natalie Byford at nbyford@cityimpact.org or 402-477-8080 to sign up!



Finishing Strong for Your Family

*C*an you relate with comedian Billy Crystal's speech to his son's class in the movie "City Slickers"? He makes the case that life passes by very quickly.

When you're a teenager, he explains, you think you can do anything. In your forties, you grow a little pot belly and complain that the music is getting too loud. In your sixties, the music is still too loud, but it doesn't matter because you can't hear it anyway. In your seventies, you retire to Fort Lauderdale and wander around malls looking for the ultimate soft-serve yogurt and eating dinner at 2:00 in the afternoon.

Christians understand that there is so much more to life - now and later. In *Living in the Light of Eternity*, author K.P. Yohannan asks readers to examine their lives in the light of God's Word and reflect on what will matter one hundred years from now. How about you? Have you considered what kind of legacy you will leave? An up-to-date Will is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to have a lasting impact on the people you love. And a bequest to a ministry such as City Impact can also be an effective way to not only lessen the burden of taxes on your family and on your estate, but also to make a lasting difference and finish strong for the cause of Christ.

What will matter 100 years from now?

For a FREE copy of our special bulletin "6 Keys to Protecting your Family's Future" write '6 Keys' on the enclosed reply card or contact Mike Friend at 402-477-8080 or askmike@cityimpact.org.



LET'S BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE

Hopes & Dreams

City Impact's Annual
Benefit Dinner & Auction

Monday, Sept. 19

6:00 – 8:30 pm

Embassy Suites Hotel

City Impact

And primary sponsor,

Bowman and Krieger Attorneys at Law

and Honorary Chair

Nebraska First Lady, Sally Ganem

invite you to join us in supporting the hopes
& dreams of Lincoln's urban youth and families.

**Come for a great evening of fun,
and hear how Lincoln can build for the
future...from the inside out.**

Tickets

\$50 per person / \$500 per table of 10

Please RSVP by August 31, 2011

For more information,

please call 402.477.8080

or visit www.cityimpact.org to register.



Join Nebraska's First Lady,
Sally Ganem, for a great event!



join in

Special Event Thanks



More than 400 people came out to celebrate City Impact at a Charity Home Tour hosted by Ron & Jenny Anderson and Pride Homes on a beautiful Saturday afternoon March 19th.



More than \$10,000 was raised during the home tour to directly benefit the youth of City Impact. Impact Leadership Academy teens were on hand to visit with guests and original art, created by City Impact youth, made a beautiful auction display.



City Impact is so grateful to God for the Anderson's and Pride Homes for their caring hearts and focus on mission!

Photos Courtesy of Aaron Babcock, General Manager Huskers Illustrated

Thanks, also, to **Sheridan Lutheran Church** for hosting a pasta dinner on April 27th to benefit City Impact.

Sponsored by the Sheridan Runners, the public was invited to join in for a high-carb feast, prior to the Lincoln Marathon. Runners wore "Make an Impact!" shirts to raise awareness for City Impact.



The graduating All-Stars also held a talent show. Brad Bryan, City Impact Executive Director, addressed the congregation by explaining how we see gifts and talents being cultivated at City Impact just as all the young people shared their talents at Sheridan Lutheran. Thanks to all of you who attended the "Make an Impact" dinner. We were told it was one of the best turnouts they have had for this type of event. What a blessed evening!



2011 Opportunities

Fall 2011 semester reading tutors needed! Tutor a child at Elliott Elementary (25th & N) for 40 minutes one day per week for a school semester. Daytime and after school/work time slots available. **Great way to invest little time, but reap great rewards!**

Training will be held in late August. Call Stacy at 402.477.8080 or serve@cityimpact.org to receive information as time draws near.



Faith Program Volunteer Needs

We currently have the following needs for volunteers to serve in our Faith-based Programs

Bible Club (PreK-5th Grade)

PreK-K Small Group Leaders (2 needed)
Elementary-Age Small Group Leaders (13 needed)

Impact Leadership Academy (6th-12th Grade)

Girls Small Group Leader (1 needed)
Boys Small Group Leader (3 needed)
Philanthropy Team Assistant (1 needed)
Writing Team Assistant (1 needed)

Strengths for Life Mentoring (3rd-12th Grade)

Career Mentors (53 needed)
College Mentors (3 needed)
Interest Mentors (63 needed)