

Urban Connections

Connecting with Christ... Connecting with People
Developing Our Community Together



Updates

Our efforts in the neighborhood have continued. We were proud to bring in several of you to serve alongside our block watch to do neighborhood cleanup. Three pickup trucks full of branches and logs and countless bags of trash were dealt with. It made a visible improvement in our alleys and a few neighbors even spotted us and came out to help. Each of the block watch members as well as the other neighbors that came out commented to me afterward about the difference it made, both visibly and to have people care enough to help. If you came to help us, please know that we are praising God for each of you.

Other neighborhood happenings:

- the community garden manager is starting a 4-H club! Kids are excited to learn about sewing, gardening and other projects. If you have talents you can share with a student please let us know.
- We've started a letter writing campaign to get a neglected, caving in, abandoned Main Street building torn down.
- Our first 2012 block party will be in June - we are looking forward to meeting more neighbors to party with!

In March, Athletes in Action sent students, staff and professional athletes to UC for the second year in a row. They shared in the elementary school classes about topics like leadership, the importance of education, determination and teamwork. We also partnered with a charter middle school for a college-prep night where the college students shared about securing financial aid.

After school we were free to share our faith. Through a craft, small groups times, games and a main speaker, over 150 kids heard and were given an invitation to participate in the good news of Jesus.

This year the leadership also expressed the desire to spend time hearing from community members. At the beginning of the week they heard stories from a local long-term business owner and also from a block watch leader, followed by a service project cleaning up the neighborhood.

We are grateful to God for AIA, Jamie Borchik and Cory Kovanda and all the leadership and students that participated. We also praise God for the school staff that allow us to partner with them and all the volunteers that helped us share the faith story with the students.

J o i n U s i n P r a y e r

First we want to offer praise. The Columbus Foundation funded a grant called "Building Pride on the Near East Side" which will allow UC, Central Community House, and Leap of Faith to have celebrations in our neighborhood such as weekly block parties, community dinners and culminating in the expansion of the Columbus Children's Parade! We are so excited to be part of what God has planned in our community.

Pray for our interns - we will have THREE this summer and fall. We long for them to grow in their faith and their understanding of ministry to the under-resourced. We are asking God to work in their lives and also use them in the community this summer!

Pray for our outreach in the neighborhood in the coming months. With Kidz Camps and beginning to have monthly worship services we are trusting God to increase his kingdom and build community.

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Urgent Needs:

UC still needs a mission team (youth group, small group, etc) to serve during the week of Kidz Camps June 18th.

We also need people to provide 50 sack lunches one day between June 11-14 or June 18-21 for our Kidz Camp.

If you can help in one of these ways, please contact Burt as soon as possible.

Calendar of Events:

May 19: Volunteer Training
KidZone Outing
June 2: Block Party
June 8: 6pm Worship Service at UC
June 11-22: Kidz Camps
July 28: Block Party
August 25: Block Party
September 8: Columbus Children's Parade

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