

POINTS *of* HOPE

The Newsletter of Building Together Ministries

July - August 2003

We had a wonderful year at Playing Together Preschool! We were blessed with 24 three and four year olds (17 boys! and 7 girls), most of whom would not be able to attend preschool without help in transportation. The Building Together Ministries van provides free transportation from Walnut Terrace, Chavis Heights, and Washington Terrace Public Housing Communities as well as in neighborhoods surrounding those communities.

Joyful Hearts Learning and Playing Together!

By Kathy Boos

One of our four year olds was struggling yet determined to learn how to write his long and difficult first name, which is composed of nine letters. Each day he would choose to sit at the writing table and practice writing a new letter each week. There were days when he became exasperated and overtired with the task. Several times his paper and pencil would go flying across the table and he would break down in tears. However, he would come back the next morning and try again. He persevered for months—then one day in early spring, he successfully wrote every single letter in his name in the correct order. What a triumph for

this preschooler! He was so proud of his work, and we were so impressed with his determination. Fortunately, I had a camera available to record the momentous occasion.



Traymaine Allen

Thank You

Greystone Baptist Church, for:

- Christmas and end-of-year gifts
- Monthly birthday parties
- Breakfast and lunch meals
- Financial support for scholarships

Magellan Charter School, for:

- 6th grade - knitted beautiful scarves for children
- 8th grade - created storybooks

Special Needs

- Individual, church, organization, and corporate sponsors at \$2,000 each for our 24 preschoolers for next school year (2003-2004)
- Toddler booster seats to safely transport more children



The Magellan Charter School's gift of winter scarves that they knitted for our preschoolers.



Genesis Jordan, birthday party with Greystone Baptist Church

Since July 2002, the after-school ministry at BTM has been committed to a strong discipleship focus: coordinating enrichment activities that provide opportunities for Christian character development. All activities were geared for elementary age students and open to students at Hope Elementary School and in the local community.

A daily snack, study materials, a safe place to meet, and senior staff support (for supervision, discipline and limited transportation) were provided. Parents had opportunity to choose between one or more of the following activities:

- Mentoring
- Small Group Bible Study
- Large Group Bible Study
- Prayer Partners
- Christian Arts Program
- Clubs In The City
- Reading Buddies
- Recreation Leaders
- Homework Lab
- Writing Workshop
- Drama Workshop

During the past two months, the after-school ministry served over 1/3 of the HES population. BTM is truly grateful for this partnership with Hope Elementary School.

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needs you to:

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building Together
MINISTRIES

Clubs In The City Brings the Arts to the BTM Afterschool Academy

By Sheri Bedsole

CITC recruits area Christian artists to share their gifts and talents with our children. All classes present the arts within a Biblical framework and combine discipleship with art. As teachers foster creativity and instill basic skills, they carefully select artistic material that will lend itself to the reinforcement of eternal truths in the children's lives. Children come to classes to dance, sing, act and draw, but find they learn much more. As truths about God are woven into warm-ups and cool-downs, exercises and works of arts, discussions and games, the children experience God as the fun, exciting and wondrous creator of all the universe who longs to be a part of their daily work and play. Classes are free, but students must attend all classes and must demonstrate the 3 R's (Respect for oneself, Respect for the teacher and Respect for other students) at all times in order to remain a part of the class.

CITC teachers take prayer seriously, asking God to be a part of the classes. They seek His guidance for the content of each course. Evidence of God's leading is clear in the following account. In a recent class, the children were asked to create a "group shape"—a sort of sculpture with their collective bodies. The shape they formed was one of an act of violence —

complete with God and angels that come to the scene. In this simple creative dance exercise, the Spirit of God began to reveal the widespread impact of violence upon the lives of children in the class. As the teacher discussed the exercise with the children, one after the other shared about acts of violence close to home, involving neighbors, friends or family. As a result of this experience, CITC has embraced the issues of healthy conflict resolution, forgiveness and peacemaking as primary themes. Other themes have included the person of Jesus, God's presence with us, parables of Jesus and God's creative works in nature.

Two performances were originally scheduled for this past session, but as the children became visible, the invitations kept coming. Among the hard work of demanding rehearsals and the bustle of costume changes and stage calls, the children proved their readiness to rise to greater levels of challenge. It is evident to all who see that these are promising young lives brimming with gifts and talent, ready to make a mark on the world.

For information about how you can get involved, contact Linda Riggins, Volunteer/Community Coordinator, 919-834-7626, ext. 13.

One parent enthusiastically shared these comments about her child's participation in dance classes this year: "It motivated my child to become more closer to Christ. I have seen my child pray more and discuss Christ and God within our home. I really felt great when my child stated that another child had hit them on the head, and she stated to the other student, 'I am going to do what Christ would do and not hit you back'...positive values were instilled within my child during dance, Good News Clubs, home and school."