



CGM Life

common ground montgomery

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newsletter



Bryan Kelly
CGM Founder and
Executive Director

It has been a great year-end and new year at Common Ground Montgomery. We are back in full swing with our After School Program, basketball teams, bible studies, and discipleship groups after a few weeks off for the holidays!

Over the break, some of our High School kids went to Impact National Conference. It is an intensive training time focused on spiritual growth and urban community impact. It was a great experience for the young leaders and a great opportunity for Kevin and Nicole King and Chaquana Townsend to invest in them.

It also gave the staff a chance to recruit from thousands of college students attending for our Summer Resident Missionary positions. Each summer we look for 20 college students to come stay in the neighborhood, help us run our summer camp, and invest academically and

a quick update on CGM for 2014

spiritually in 100 of our neighborhood kids all summer long. The conference allowed us to recruit college kids and invest in our teenagers that are growing in leadership and who will serve alongside the college students as junior interns.

The After School Program is going full speed again. The elementary program, led by Dr. Leslie Cowell, starts off with an hour and a half of homework help and grade level skills instruction each day from our teachers and volunteers, and ends with bible study, various life skills training, and fun time as well. Some of our electives have focused on bullying prevention, arts, and even introduction to therapy dogs. Our bible studies have consisted of watching the Jesus storybook bible on DVD and then breaking up by age for small group discussion on "how every story whispers (Jesus') name." I LOVE this time as kids learn the narratives of the bible and we get to preach Jesus!

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The middle school program, led by Justin Hampton, is still partnering with Eat South and running a garden on our property. They participate in the gardening, packaging and sales of the produce, financial literacy training, cooking classes, and are holding each other accountable for their academic progress.

The High School program is led by Kevin King and partnered with the Urban SEED Xchange, led by Josh Conley. They are focused on entrepreneurship training, and currently planning their own program for leadership development, jobs training, and the junior internship for the summer camp. They are having a voice on where their program and development is headed. The high school students are also investigating mission trip opportunities as well with Josh for the summer.

Many of our teenage kids meet every Wednesday night for dinner together and then break up into discipleship groups in staff and volunteer homes. This past Wednesday night my group of 16-17 year old boys focused on 1 Peter 5:6,7 and the promise of God to give grace and lift up those who live humbly under His mighty hand. The pull of our neighborhood culture toward self exaltation and destructive disconnection from others was brought into direct confrontation with God's kingdom ethics and promises. These groups provide a great outlet for application of God's word together, and honest discussion of the pain and confusion of life.

Thank you for praying for us, and for loving our neighborhood so well. We could not be here without your personal and financial support.

Psalm 34:3,
Bryan Kelly

common ground montgomery





after school program volunteers

Leslie Cowell

At Common Ground, we are so dependent on volunteers. The power of an individual in our students' lives is priceless. In a program focusing on close to 100 children, our need for volunteer help is great. Our After School Program time is focused on academics each Monday through Thursday from 3:15-5:00. We are always grateful for those that are able to come work with a child or small group on homework or weak academic areas.

Another current need is our enrichment program on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00-6:00. During this time, our goal is provide the students with opportunities to learn in areas in which they are interested. Past offerings have been art, music, karate, sewing, and dance. If you have an area that you are passionate about, we'd love to have you share that with our students either Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. Our plan is to have 7-10 children in each enrichment class.

We also love providing the children with a fun day on Fridays. We are currently looking for church or volunteer groups that would arrange activities for our elementary students on Fridays from 3:30-6:00. This could be organized crafts, sports, or games. Our staff will be there to help with anything planned.

The difference you can make in a child's life is tremendous! Please consider working with us, if only an hour a week. Come walk with us as we live and serve with this community. If we can answer any questions regarding volunteer opportunities, please email Ava Conley at ava@cgmlife.org or myself Leslie Cowell at leslie@cgmlife.org.

christmas store pictures

Since we've yet to show you some pictures from December's Christmas Store, we're including them here!



more christmas store pictures



did you know?

We now have the ability to accept donations of vehicles. Please consider donating your used car, truck, motorcycle, or boat to Common Ground Montgomery and get a tax credit while helping us serve the Washington Park & Gibbs Village community.

welcome summer williams



Summer joined our staff team as Director of Development at the end of 2013 after seven months of volunteering to tutor kids.

As we got to know Summer we learned that she has a lot of gifting and experience in development and grant writing. She volunteered her time in our office and writing grants at the end of the year for our programs. God led us to hire her and she is an amazing teammate and laborer.

Come by and meet Summer one afternoon and let her tell you her story.

community development partners

We are currently formalizing the criteria for a network of partners that have committed to the vision and philosophy of Common Ground Montgomery in the Washington Park community.

This month we highlight House to House Community Development Corporation. Mike Bunce leads House to House (H2H), and lives in our community. They are on their 19th home and having an amazing impact for the glory of God.

Though they are constructing homes, they say their actual ministry is making disciples in the context of homeownership and financial literacy classes and mentoring relationships. Every Tuesday night some amazing fellowship takes place. Over 25 folks come together to share life, share faith, and cross cultural barriers together for a year at a time. It's one of the ministry tools H2H uses to build Christian community and develop adult leaders.

