



common ground montgomery

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[www.cgm.life](http://www.cgm.life)



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newsletter



We had several groups come this spring to volunteer from various states, including some on alternative winter and spring break trips, campus ministry trips, and church trips.





# summer camp

The CGM Summer Camp is just around the corner, and we need your help to make it happen! Every year CGM hosts a summer camp for eight weeks. Our goal is to have 120 children this summer.

The children will be with us for seven hours a day, five days a week.

We want to provide these children a chance to get off the streets for the summer, be surrounded by Christian men and women that love them in paradigm shattering ways, teach them the Gospel, and provide an amazing summer of fun.

Along with the staff, we bring in 10-20 college interns to help run the camp.

We budget \$400 per child in our camp for grades 1st - 8th. The high school students are budgeted at \$500 per child because they go on college tours and mission trips.



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Here is a breakdown of what a \$400 sponsorship will provide.

*\$150 - a weeklong visit to a camp outside of the neighborhood*

*\$70 - seven Fun Friday adventures @ \$10 each (skating rink, swimming, bowling, etc)*

*\$50 - specialized instructors*

*\$40 - food and snacks for eight weeks (this number is low thanks to the support of the YMCA and Montgomery Area Food Bank)*

*\$30 - provides gas needed to go on field trips and mission trips*

*\$25 - a day trip to the McWane Science Center in Birmingham*

*\$25 - provides electricity and air conditioning to our classrooms*

Visit **[www.cgm.life/donate](http://www.cgm.life/donate)** and specify **Summer Camp** under Fund when you donate.



# summer interns

If you would like to help in other ways during the summer, our Summer Resident Mission interns have some needs as well. These are the interns who will run the Summer Camp along with the staff.

The SRM interns are responsible for raising money for their own costs, and though some are able to raise the entirety before they arrive, some are still raising money throughout the summer. If you would like to help them, simply choose **Summer Resident Mission Program** in the fund category when you donate online.

[www.cgm.life/donate](http://www.cgm.life/donate)



## take them a meal

Our SRM interns will be quite hungry during the summer, and that's why we find ways to help them get food (thus reducing the overall costs for them to attend). Our take-them-a-meal sign up sheet is live and linked on our website, where you can sign up for one of many lunch or dinner meals during the summer.

The shortcut URL is: [www.cgm.life/meals](http://www.cgm.life/meals)



# after school program



   @cgmlife

As we prepare to enter into the summer months, I have taken some time to reflect on the opportunity we have before us and how we have grown over the years in our perspective and impact.

This will be the tenth summer that we have held summer camps with kids in our community. Kevin and I realized after being around the neighborhood the first year that crime and gun violence spiked in the summer for many



bryan kelly

## a summer with us

reasons. We decided to try to get as many kids off the streets as we could in an effort to keep them from physical threat.

One young man literally ran to our van one morning while running away from a drive-by shooting! I will never forget his face when he jumped in.

We wanted to not only get kids off the street, we also wanted to invest in their lives. So we started a summer camp that included 30 boys and 9 girls that lived within a few blocks of our homes. Kevin and I, 30 boys, a van, and an old Ford Excursion. (Yes, the math doesn't work out per seatbelt and seat ratio, I realize.) Then the girls mainly spent time with Nicole and Delta at the King's house with a few field trips.

We had no buildings or consistent use of any facility that summer. So, we made our camp mobile. We took the boys to the park, went bowling, swimming, and anywhere that would allow us to come hang out (church gyms, people's homes, farms) - anywhere that we could take the boys to enjoy time with them and get them out to have fun. Our days consisted of bible study, activities, lunch, and community service.

We also created a weeklong baseball camp and took the boys to North Carolina for a weeklong camping trip in the mountains. Two nights into the trip the boys began to freak out

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from being away from their moms. I mean - freaked out! There was weeping, they were begging us to take them home, there were a few panic attacks; it was wild.

We didn't realize until we got there that they had never been away from their moms, let alone out of the city, or even the neighborhood. But by day three, they had settled down and got to enjoy the camp itself, and the spiritual and personal investment that many of the adults lovingly gave at Camp Arrowhead.

It was a powerful summer indeed; eye-opening for both Kevin and me as we got to know the boys and saw some of them come to know Jesus as well. The time spent doing this camp, coupled with the time spent moving in and getting to know our neighbors, was foundational for where we are today.

The current CGM Summer Camp has now grown to not only include 120 kids, as projected this summer, but we have also developed a college internship (the Summer Resident Mission program) where college students come and help run the camp. Incidentally, the SRM was started after the first camp when Kevin and I realized that what we were doing wasn't sustainable with so few of us! The interns live together in a house in our community for the summer, and they tutor kids, lead bible studies, and mentor the kids in small discipleship groups.

The interns do bible study with us, as well, exploring racial justice and unity with intentionality, as well as learning about God's heart for the poor, for justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

The experience has transformed many young men and women. One young man is even starting a Common Ground plant in North Alabama this August (more to come on that soon!). One of the young men who had participated in the first summer camp (and all subsequent ones since then) is now a 19 year-old intern at CGM and is leading the SRM team this year!

We are really excited about this summer as we anticipate 15 college interns, hundreds of visiting teams and volunteers, and the opportunity to share our faith and mentor 120 kids.

Thank you for helping us love our community and share the gift of God together.