

**“And when you welcome one of these children because of me, you welcome me.”**

**Matthew 18:5**

## Helping Urban Youth Grow in Mind, Body, and Spirit

### Urban Ministry Provides a Healthy, Positive, and Consistent After-school Program for Children and Youth

We have begun our after-school program this year with almost all of our former students continuing from the summer, two new students, and a growing waiting list. Our students are coming to us from 16 different schools!

Urban Kids has become so important as a second home for them that they and their parents are going to great lengths to get here the best way that they can. Transportation and family instability are constant challenges in the lives of many of our kids. One of our fourth graders has been to a different school every year since kindergarten and has lived in even more different apartments.

Despite the many successes of this program, we continue to need funding for enrichment experiences and adequate staffing. We need consistent volunteers for mentoring and tutoring. And we need to improve the facility for the safety and comfort of our children.

Becky Wadley, director of programs for children and youth, says, “As I study and teach about the effects of poverty on children, I come back to basic ideas for intervention — providing a stable group of mentors, building positive relational and academic skills, and exposing them to the widest possible range of experiences that enhance their view of themselves as being capable and comfortable in the world.”

### Shine: Urban Kids Summer Day Camp Offered Enriching Activities that Gave Children a Place in the World

Our Urban Kids met daily for seven weeks of fun and recreation during June and July. Here are some of the highlights:

- Classes in African dance presented by Umbadu Dance Company.
- Music and Arts Camp at First UMC, Birmingham.
- Children’s Mission Week that included service projects and a field trip to Servants in Faith and Technology with children from Vestavia Hills UMC.
- Field trip to Spirit of Hope Youth Ranch, an organization that allows children the opportunity to work with horses that have been rescued from abuse and neglect.
- Art museum tours and visits from musicians.
- Work in West End Community Garden and preparation of food from the garden.
- Hands-on art experiences.
- Exploring the ways talents can be used to impact the world through literature and daily writing.
- Visits from professionals in various walks of life to learn how they use their gifts.

- Swimming and recreational opportunities.
- A week of overnight summer camp at Camp Sumatanga.
- Numerous volunteers, church groups and individuals who came forward to shower our Urban Kids with daily lunches, positive attention, and help with academic skills.

**“God’s light has shined on me this week. I saw horses on Tuesday. I went to camp every day. I met new friends. I had the best week of my life.” 4th Grade Day Camp Participant**

Becky Wadley lists the greatest outcomes of our summer:

- The youth and children had a consistent, positive, healthy place to be for the majority of their summer weeks.
- Having had opportunities to be equal participants in programs with children and

youth from all walks of life — Music and Arts Camp at First United Methodist Church, Mission Kids Week with Vestavia Hills UMC, and Elementary and Junior High Camps and Sumatanga — our students experienced a sense of belonging in a wider community. On the last day of summer camp, I asked them if they felt that they belonged just to their school or their neighborhood, or if they had a place in the world. The immediate and very loud reply was, “we have a place in the world!”

## Join With Us — Return This Today

YES! I am a supporter of compassion and wholeness. I pledge the following support:

I pledge the following financial support to Urban Ministry each month:

\$5    \$10    \$25    \$50    \$100    Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am not able to make a monthly pledge at this time, but I have enclosed a one-time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I wish to volunteer! Call me! \_\_\_\_\_

If the information on the back is incorrect, please make changes below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Urban Ministry, Inc. • 1229 Cotton Ave. SW • Birmingham, AL 35211 • (205) 781-0517 • www.urban-ministry.com

## Urban Kids: How You Can Help

At Urban Kids, a mission of Urban Ministry, Inc., we provide after-school enrichment and summer day camp for twenty-five 3rd-8th graders in the West End area of Birmingham. We work closely with families, schools, churches, and community resources to surround our students with support, encouragement, and a far-reaching view of their place the world. We invite you to become a part of the caring community of Urban Kids by supporting the program in the following ways:

- **Be a tutor/mentor.**

Come sit side-by-side with our Urban Kids an hour or two a week to help them through homework, listen to them read, or tutor them in a basic skill.

- **Provide furnishings for our after-school space.**

School tables  
Molded plastic stack chairs  
Cabinets  
Sofas or love seats  
Sturdy shelves

- **Sponsor a field trip.**

Help widen our Urban Kids' horizons by helping with a fun and educational field trip to the Birmingham Zoo, Ruffner Mountain, or McWane Center, for example. This might include entrance fees, transportation, and even some companionship for the trip.

- **Be a prayer partner for a child.**

Pray for one of our Urban Kids daily and encourage them through notes or emails.

- **Consider a financial gift.**

A donation to Urban Ministry on behalf of our children is an investment in the future of our community — and in the Kingdom of God!

- **Host a 'Special Event' at Urban Kids or at your church:**

Friday afternoon art experience  
Thanksgiving feast  
Music fest

**The mission of Urban Kids is to help urban youth grow in mind, body, and spirit through**

**Creative Arts • Outdoor Education • Academic Support • Caring Community**

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## Advent of Hope Banquet

Helping Urban Ministry Bring Hope and Help to Our Community for Another Year

Fall has arrived, and it's time to look ahead to the holiday season and begin planning for the coming year.

It's appropriate to end this year with a celebration of our ministry, as we raise money and lay the groundwork for another year of bringing hope and help to those in need.

We invite you to join us for our Advent of Hope Banquet on November 19. Enjoy listening to the North Birmingham Male Chorus while you mingle with friends from all over the Birmingham area.

Celebrate all that Urban Ministry means to West End, and help us begin 2010 with the funds we need for continued success:

**Advent of Hope Banquet**

**Thursday, November 19th • 6:00 p.m**

**Vestavia Hills UMC**

**Entertainment: New North Birmingham Male Chorus**

**Cost: \$125.00 per seat; \$1,000.00 per table**

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