

Redeemer Community Partnership Building Better Neighborhoods

South Central Los Angeles

December 2008



Nights in our neighborhood are dangerous. We limit our trips out and do not walk the streets after dark. In the dark of night, one week before Halloween, a young man shot another in the chest. The crime occurred just a few yards west of the intersection we planned to close for our annual Harvest Carnival. The possibility of retaliation hung heavy in the air. So five days before the event, I started knocking on my own neighbors' doors, collecting signatures to close off Brighton Avenue, two blocks away. These events made the scene on Halloween night all the more remarkable.

An amazing army of volunteers and neighbors began the work of transformation. Barricades blocked traffic from both ends of the street. Giant diesel powered lights were raised high. A Christian rap group performed on a large stage. Kids filled jumpers like exploding popcorn kernels. Hundreds of costumed children with parents in tow formed lines at simple carnival games on each side of the wide street. Families filled in the center eating tamales and taquitos around tables. More than 400 neighbors participated.

As I guided our sons, Jordan and Isaiah, from game to jumper and back again, I met neighbors on our block, some for the first time. Many remarked on how encouraged they were to see our community come together. At an information table more than 20 neighbors expressed interest in a personal Bible study, 20 signed up to join a new neighborhood watch group, and 30 women expressed interest in a moms' club. In addition, a dozen youth signed up for our REEL Joy film outreach scheduled to start the following Wednesday. It was an amazing night, a beautiful reminder of God's desire to redeem the dark and broken places in our communities.

I have been indulging in Christmas music a little earlier than usual this year. As we enter Advent, I am so grateful that, "In thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light!

Richard



Come & See!

Come and see some of the remarkable changes in our neighborhood over the last 16 years. You will be encouraged and inspired to take Jesus' call to neighboring back to your own community.

Saturday, January 24
from 10:00 to noon

at Redeemer Community
Partnership's tutoring center,
1438 W. Jefferson Blvd., 90018.

R.S.V.P. to Richard Parks at
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Adventures Ahead Summer Program

There were many new adventures in store for us this past July. For the first time we extended our afternoon tutoring program to an all-day summer enrichment program. From 9am to 3pm every day, 30 kids gathered at Adventures Ahead for math, reading, science, and computer instruction taught by 6 interns from Cal State Fullerton. Our interns also led the children in weekly Bible stories, songs, mini-field trips, and playtime at a local park. What a joy to see kids laughing, learning, building new friendships, and learning more about God during those five weeks. And what a joy and privilege for all who have given of their resources and time to share in good works that God prepared in advance for us.



THANK YOU!

- * Thank you to all the cell groups and individuals of **Church of the Redeemer** who provided lunches for our summer program each day!
- * Thank you to **Pasadena Covenant Church** who fixed the roof, renovated, organized, and cleaned the tutoring center during a week-long service project in the neighborhood!
- * Thank you to the great teachers of **Port O'Connor Elementary School** for all the wonderful resource materials!
- * Thank you to everyone at the **Center for Student Missions** who provided us with volunteer support the entire summer!
- * Thank you to **Rich and Ellen Hume** for providing us a much needed air conditioner to combat the summer heat!
- * And a very special thank you to **Mia, Will, Chelsea, Nicole, Stephanie, and Phoebe** for leading our summer classes and sharing life with us!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED!

Donations

digital camera
vacuum cleaner
school supplies
prizes for our prize
shelf

Volunteer

Become a Reading
Buddy and read
weekly with an
Adventures Ahead
student.

Contact Lauren at:

(323) 733-6173
lauren@redeemercp.org



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