

LETTER FROM A PARTICIPANT

Periodically, we receive words of encouragement from community members who have used our technology center to successfully find jobs, to pay bills, to research scholarships for school, or to simply check email. But, recently, one of our regular technology center users took the time to write out her thanks and has offered it up for us to share with you.

I would like to take this time to thank you for embracing my community, in doing so, you have been very influential in changing the mind set of a people who may very well have perished because they had no vision, or through difficult trial their vision was steadily diminishing because their hope was leaving them. The computer center allows for God's people to come in and explore not just the internet, but also explore the great dreams in themselves that have been marred. The center offers so much more than just internet, which in and of its own is life-changing, but the real change occurs when the people's hearts melt because of the compassion of the pastor and leaders that work sight unseen through fasting and petitioning the Lord for a center to educate with little or no cost to the participants.



I have experienced Galatians 5:22-23—the fruits of the Spirit—every single time I have come in ...I just wanted to acknowledge Brother Lue as a diligent laborer who puts his all into assisting the people and their needs while in the computer lab...

May God continue to turn His hand favorably on all that labor in this field of hope for those who otherwise would have no hope...

Thank You, Priscilla Green



WATCH THE SUMMER UNFOLD WITH



Fifty youth packed their bags and their bug spray, caught a bus, and headed to residential camp. Another 50 elementary school kids took part in our 6-week summer day camp, filled with games, arts n' crafts, drama, Bible study, and academic review. Our young men have been a part of Chicago's summer Miracle League basketball team and scored big. As you read this, many of these same men are headed to Montana or a special time of discipleship.

WE KNOW LOTS OF KIDS THAT HAD BIG SUMMER PLANS & THANKS TO YOU THOSE PLANS WERE MET!

Here is proof. All this and more is pictured on our running Flickr slideshow. Check it out at: www.flickr.com/photos/sunshinegospel

REBECCA'S JOURNEY

Bridge Builders is growing, recruiting more groups from outside Illinois with our group sizes increasing in number. Spring break and summer are peak Bridge Builders' seasons. Bringing interns onto our team was a logical next-step, benefiting the visiting groups, the intern, and our organization as together we strive to understand how to love those who are economically poor around us. Here is one intern's story.

My name is Rebecca Hurley. I attend Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, but was raised in Atlanta, Georgia. From a young age missions has been a strong calling on my life and the more mature I became in Christ, the more He revealed the direction He wanted for my life. My first year at Furman, I was introduced to the Urban Young Life team—a team I now volunteer with. We have adopted a few different high schools, with the specific goal of reaching under-resourced student body, who would normally not have an opportunity to attend church. Through Young Life, God has been able to use me in a relational ministry and helped me overcome the cultural differences I experienced there. So, when the Reformed University Fellowship minister on campus told the group that our Spring Break mission trip was going to Chicago, I got really excited to go to a bigger city and see the opportunities God has for His Kingdom there.



Excited, for sure. But, I was also unsure of what to expect. In the past, the mission trips I have been on included some form of teaching, but the majority of time was spent in service of various kinds. This was not so with Bridge Builders. The focus was flipped; the program emphasized learning first about God's heart for the poor as an explanation of how and why we are called as Christians to serve the poor in the city. Thus, not only did we serve the community, but more importantly, we got to know it personally (going beyond what I've heard termed as "Christian tourism"), understanding with greater depth the purpose of our work. The Bridge Builders experience was especially helpful and relevant to me when I returned to Atlanta as I applied the lessons to mentoring young girls who are part of Young Life.

When I got back from Chicago, I immediately applied to do the Bridge Builders internship. Waiting to hear back from Sunshine taught me patience, since I was completely sold that working in urban ministry *in* Chicago was where God wanted to be. I was accepted. Now, I am here; I feel like I am in paradise. The week spent being a Bridge Builders' participant created a spark, that has only been fueled into a fire and passion for long-term urban ministry as the summer has progressed. It seems all the previous teaching I received was in preparation to serve God and others here at Sunshine. The Bridge Builders program helped to equip and direct God's plan for my life and it is so special for me to be leading it now.



**STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
EVANGELICAL MINISTRIES & LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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www.missionbackpack.org/WMBI