

Word on the Street

June 2011

Here's Life Inner City in New York City

Matt and Anna Shenk

A Year of Serving At-Risk Youth Nationwide- Matt



I want to share some great news about our S.A.Y. Yes! after-school programs from around the country:

- We now have 186 active after-school programs and mentoring centers in the U.S.
- Over 4,500 youth and families are being served through this ministry
- Over 1,800 kids indicated that they received Christ as their Lord and Savior in this past year
- Over 41,000 volunteer hours were given by church members and others
- The ministries have widely reported kids' grades improving, showing positive emotional growth, and growing spiritually

On a personal note, Anna and I have been encouraged on a local level by the number of youth from the S.A.Y. Yes! program in Crown Heights where we served who have not only graduated from high school but that now are attending college! We've also been encouraged to see several of them passionately pursuing the Lord.

It was one year ago, I agreed to step up and commit to serve the Here's Life Inner City National Youth Development team for a year. With my experience on the YouthDev team and with my background in the corporate world, I offered to take on the role of the National YouthDev Operations Manager. I was to fill a lot of administrative responsibilities, but I was really excited about the strategic opportunities I would have to impact the ministry. I love finding areas that may not be running as well as they could be and finding ways to add some "grease" to increase ministry effectiveness.

Before I ended my year in this role, I wanted to create a nationwide survey that would give us the most clear picture of our ministry that we've had as well as provide us clear and actionable information on how we could improve the impact we are having on the lives of inner-city youth and their families. The findings above are just a glimpse of the data we collected. It is only because of your partnership that I was able to fill this role. Together, we can see some of the impact that we had this past year. Thank you!

Keep an eye out for a letter from us next month with an exciting ministry update!

(And don't miss the update on the back of this newsletter!)

Prayer and Praise

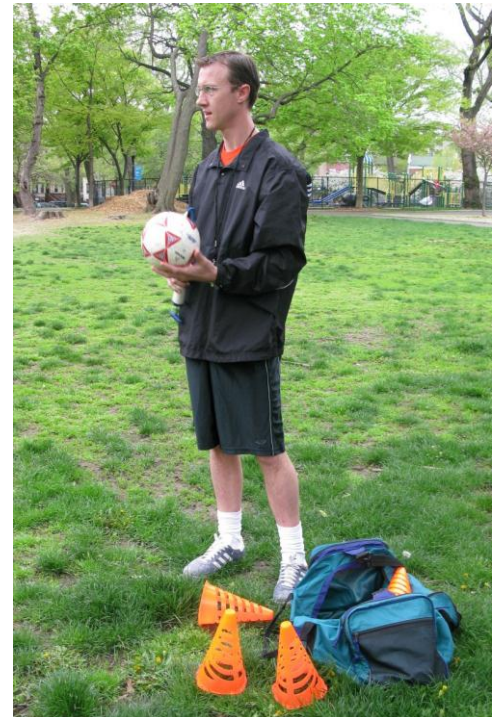
- **Soccer** – We just wrapped up a great seven week run of soccer for neighborhood youth! We had about a dozen kids come out to play and we made lots of new connections with neighbors. We hope to do something similar in the fall. Pray that we would be able to continue these new relationships.
- **Safety** – We praise God for the growing safety on our block and the way that criminal elements no longer keep us from playing on our little playground. We just celebrated Thomas' fourth birthday at the park and were praising God for this progress. Pray that this would continue in the summer months!
- **New Neighbors** – Praise God for our new next door neighbors, Aubrey and Andrea and their two kids! They are friends of ours from church and we're excited to see what God has in store for us as we live out our lives together in such close proximity!
- **Small Group Bible Study** – We feel that now is the time to start a new bible study group in our home. There are so many new Christians and those interested in learning about Christ in the community that we sense that God wants us to meet this need in Crown Heights. Pray that God would be assembling the people He wants involved and that no barriers would keep us from starting this in the fall.
- **Travel** – We praise God for a generous financial gift that will cover the costs of our attendance at the Campus Crusade for Christ staff conference in Colorado in mid-July. Pray that it would be a fruitful time for us and all involved.
- **Provision** – We praise God for His faithful provision for our family. And we praise Him for partners like you. As we enter a season of support raising, pray that we would constantly be reminded of His faithfulness.



Thomas celebrating his 4th birthday



Trinity enjoying birthday cake



“Coach Shenk” preparing for soccer