

Word on the Street

Volume I, Issue IV, October 2005 Here's Life Inner City in New York City Matt and Anna Shenk

Tech Bridges Milestone: First Computer Lab Ready to Go



We are excited to report that Matt's ministry, Tech Bridges, installed its first computer lab at a church-based after-school program just before we headed south in September.

The five computers for the lab were donated by a Manhattan nonprofit. Matt picked up the computers and brought them back to the Here's Life Inner City office in Queens where he refurbished them and installed the Microsoft Windows operating system along with other software applications. The cost of installing Windows was a mere \$5 per computer through a partnership Tech Bridges and Here's Life has established with Microsoft. The cost of one license is normally \$100

per computer!

Once the computers were ready to go, they were distributed to one of the Here's Life partner churches that runs an after-school program. Matt worked with the program's director to identify a member of the church's congregation that will provide ongoing technical support to the computer lab. This volunteer is critical to the success of the lab as he will work to make sure the computers are well maintained.

When Matt returns to New York, he'll go one step further and work with the after-school program to provide training and curriculum to the church so that they can maximize this new resource. He'll also work to bring in volunteers to teach special computer courses.

Now Matt can't wait to finish raising financial support so he can get back to New York and create more centers!

Hurricane Katrina Assistance

Here's Life Inner City is working hard to come alongside churches that are ministering to the evacuees from Hurricane Katrina, particularly those assisting families that have been living in poverty for generations. In addition to providing truckloads of basic needs like food and blankets, Here's Life is providing churches with training and curriculum on how to help the evacuees wisely manage the funds provided by FEMA and other sources. This is a great opportunity for the church to come alongside families and help them overcome poverty. Please be praying for all the churches who are heeding God's call to look after the poor, that he would equip them for this work. If you would like more information on how Here's Life is helping to bring hope to those in the Gulf Coast States, visit www.hlic.org. Donations to Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts can also be made on the site.

Saying Goodbye: Ice Cream Social in Crown Heights



fellowship all around.

Open the doors of a city church and the people will come, especially if there's free ice cream!

It was hard to say goodbye to all our friends in New York at the beginning of September, but we were blessed to have a great going away party – an ice cream social at our new church in Brooklyn.

It was a neat opportunity to bring together our friends and supporters from The Village Church in Manhattan and our new friends at Greater Restoration Baptist in Brooklyn. A number of folks from the Here's Life team were also in attendance and it was a great time of

The event was also a great lesson in urban ministry. Before the party even officially began, the word was out among the kids in the community that there was free ice cream at the church. We went through over 10 gallons of ice cream in two hours! Both kids and adults who had never visited the church before set foot inside and were introduced to the loving community at Greater Restoration.

Thanks to Sounds of Restoration, our church's band, for providing music during the event and Pastor Ken Bogen for leading a prayer for us as we head down South to meet with potential ministry partners for the next few months.

Thanks!

Thank you so much for partnering with us in ministry! We truly could not do this without your prayers and support.

We are so thankful to all our friends in Brooklyn that let us housesit this summer. We were blown away by how God orchestrated four family's vacations so that we would have a place to stay after our lease ended June 30th. Thanks to Matt's parents for giving us some much needed rest and relaxation at their beach house in North Carolina and thanks to Anna's parents for letting us stay with them for an extended period of time in Richmond.

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