“Nothing out there can separate us from God’s love because of what Christ has done in our lives.”

Who am I? Do I matter? Does anyone love me? What’s my purpose in life? Questions like those lie deep in the hearts of boys and girls in our city’s urban core. Many lack the boundaries of kinship and interpersonal families—struggle to leave right from wrong—and even find their lives in danger from the culture that surrounds them. Sadly, but also often they talk when they can’t run away from where they are.

Young people, especially today, need to know that God created them, loves them, values them—and they have the potential to break the pattern of self-loathing in the wider world. That’s why we’re making our offer to boys and girls at Camp CUMCITO and City Camp and rewarding year-round through our Vanderberg Youth Center. Imagine what God can do in and through the lives of these precious creatures as they learn to follow Him!

City Camp
City Union Mission’s summer City Camp serves as a “bridge” from school year to school year, ensuring boys and girls get the attention they need to grow and don’t have people in their lives who pay attention to them.

“Mr. Steve helped me to not be afraid of giving my life to God,” says Javan, a former coworker, our ministry has been central to his family’s life.

Changes Hearts . . . How Quickly God can mold it very quickly!”

Imagine what God can do in and through the lives of His precious creations as they learn to follow Him!

Finding Their Identity in Christ

A Legacy of Camping and Compassion . . .

The Guillaume Family

Senator Kemper Guillaume’s first introduction to the Mission was as a former counselor, his ministry has been central to his family’s life. After working as a Family Center facilities coordinator, his three daughters—now 13, 22 and 25—have been involved with the Mission and have given up their own lives to their family. The entire family volunteer in many capacities, including at Camp CUMCITO where Senator Kemper helps call to help guide and encourage and at the Vanderberg Youth Center.

Sponsor a Camper!

As you read this newsletter, deserving boys and girls across the city are counting the days until our Camp CUMCITO and City Camp begin. Because their families often struggle to make ends meet, we change only $475 registration fee for each child who attends. The total cost for Camp CUMCITO is $811. For the week of City Camp it is $815. These amounts cover everything that’s needed for a safe, fun-filled and life-changing experience. Friends like you provide the funding to make these opportunities available to deserving boys and girls. $550 covers up to two weeks of City Camp; $551.25 covers one week of City Camp; $552 covers one week of Camp CUMCITO. Each day includes a nutritious breakfast, lunch and snacks.

For six fun-filled days, campers ages 4 to 16—more than 650 in all—will experience the lifesaving, safe and loving environment where children can mold it very quickly. “How can we deny someone the opportunity to know what Jesus has done for her?” asks Lauren, a former coworker. “Mr. Steve helped me to not be afraid of giving my life to God.”

The Mission’s CUMCITO hosts five one-week sessions each summer for young campers plus one week of family camp for Mission families. Families in the Mission’s low-income program and children in the Mission’s youth programs may receive a partial scholarship.

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Vanderberg Youth Center

While our camping programs provide an opportunity to touch the lives of hundreds of kids each summer, our Vanderberg Youth Center (VYC) allows us to build on the relationships we’ve established with boys and girls in our shelter and New Life Program—and from the surrounding community—throughout the school year. After-school and weekend activities such as Bible studies, tutoring, organized sports, crafts and drama empower children ages 7 to 17 to prosper academically, socially and spiritually, laying a foundation for their futures.

This year we’ve broadened the scope of our involvement with the children to include the home, school and church life of each boy and girl. We’ve also added a discipleship component to our curriculum. And any young person who attends our summer camping program is invited to weekly chapel services as a way for us to stay in touch and identify potential challenges or needs. These and all of our youth programs focus on uplifting a child’s sense of self-worth and reinforce their unshakable value to God.

Winning Isn’t Measured by the Score!

As a coach in our Vanderberg Youth Center basketball program, Eddie Wright teaches young players that God can shine through them even on the court. “We talk to them about demonstrating character in all aspects of their lives,” Eddie says. “They can be a testament to those they compete with and have fun too.” As in any sport, frustrations simmer and tempers flare, “But being in a Christ-centered environment, we can stop and talk about the lack of respect arguing represents and how to encourage one another, even the opposing team,” he explains. “The boys have grown in ways not shown on the scoreboard,” Eddie adds. “They’re focused not on winning, but on getting better with every game.”

A teacher in an area high school, Eddie works with children whose backgrounds are similar to those he meets at the VYC—from homeless or broken families or environments where they’re exposed to a variety of negative influences. “At the Mission, it’s about more than academics,” Eddie says. “We’re influencing the children, they’ve have had an impact on him too. “You can’t be engaged with the Mission and walk away unchanged.”

We Need Your Helping Hands . . .

Providing a life-changing camp experience for over 650 children requires countless hands and compassionate hearts. If the Mission had to rely on staff alone, it would be nearly impossible. That’s why we’re grateful for our community of volunteers.

For this year’s sessions we need responsible adults to accompany the children on their bus rides to Camp CUMCITO and back to the city. Dates for departures from the Family Center parking lot (1310 Wabash) are Mondays, June 23 and 30, and July 7, 14, 21 and 28. The bus leaves at 7:30 a.m. and volunteers are returned to the Mission by 3 p.m. On Saturdays, June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26 and August 2, volunteers leave the Family Center at 7 a.m. to ride the bus to camp and return with the children by 1 p.m. Along the way, you’ll have an opportunity to talk with the children, witness their excitement and hear heartwarming stories of camp!

Save the Date!

AI Newell Volunteer Management Seminar
October 1 – 2
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Graceland
5460 Blue Ridge Cutoff,
Raytown, Missouri
$125 per person - $150 after July 31
(includes seminar, book, lunch and snacks)
City Union Mission is pleased to present this seminar that offers churches and other ministries an effective and proven model for recruiting screening, training and leading high-impact volunteers.

For more information or to register, visit www.cityunionmission.org.

Your Compassion by the Numbers
January – March 2014

- Meals Served (daily avg.) - 788
- Homeless Sleeping Overnight (daily avg.) - 488
- Patients Seen (for medical issues) - 1,817
- Chapel Service Attendance (daily avg.) - 325
- Salutations and Rededications - 125

Financial Update:
FY 2014 Budget
$10,545,130

Amount Raised
As of April 14, 2014
$7,672,650

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