“Our campers can’t take home the playground equipment or the swimming pool. But they can take Jesus with them anywhere. We make that the focus of everything we do.” – Cheryl Calder

Being away from home for the first time can be scary – especially when you're only 4 years old. For Cheryl Calder, a director at our Camp CUMCITO Tot Lot for children ages 4 through 6, the key to easing the fears of our littlest campers is loving consistency. “Just knowing we’re going to do what we say we’re going to do makes them feel safer,” she says. “Because many of them don’t have that at home.”

With boys and girls so young and whose backgrounds are virtually unknown, it’s nearly impossible for volunteer staff like Cheryl to know what they’re feeling or the kind of nurturing and encouragement their tender hearts long for. “So a lot of times it calls for praying in the moment: ‘Lord, lead us to what these kids need,’” she says. “And we share the love of Christ through all of our actions.”

After watching the children blossom and grow throughout the week, one of the hardest experiences for volunteers like Cheryl is putting them back on the bus to return home. But they do so with faith that a seed has been planted. “If they can remember just a few little nuggets of truth – they are loved by God and He gave everything for them – that’s all they need,” she says. “They can take that back with them and be a light for their own families.”
Dear Friend,

If you’ve been around children any time at all, you know they ask a lot of questions – and sometimes the answers can be challenging! But perhaps the most difficult questions to address are the ones boys and girls tuck away in their hearts: Who am I? What is my purpose? Does anyone care about me? These answers shape a child’s life.

Many passages in the Bible reference “banners” as a visual display of a person’s allegiance. At our Camp CUMCITO – as well as through our City Camp and City Corp youth ministries – we help children answer the questions in their hearts by learning of Christ’s love for them and how to demonstrate His peace, hope and compassion through their own lives. They learn that as Jesus represented believers on the cross, we are now called to represent Him to those around us through our every thought, word, deed and prayer.

As a donor, you have an amazing opportunity to make this life-changing camping experience possible. Thank you for considering how you can be a banner of God’s love for children longing for the Truth.

For His glory,

Rev. Dan Doty
Executive Director

Executive Director Dan Doty and our Camp CUMCITO staff and volunteers help children learn of God’s love and His purpose for their lives.

One of our highest priorities is to be the best possible stewards of every dollar you donate. With that in mind, we are now providing an option that will allow online donors to cover the 3-percent fee charged to the Mission by the processing company for each credit and debit card transaction. For example, if you wish to make a $100 gift online, simply check the box at the bottom of the donation page that allows you to add an extra $3 to your contribution. That ensures the Mission will receive the full $100 gift you intended.

We are also changing the gift reply envelopes that accompany newsletters like this one and other correspondence you receive from the Mission. By including an envelope that requires you to affix your own stamp, instead of one using pre-paid postage, the Mission will save more than $15,000 each year. We’re grateful for your support and partnership as we incorporate these new practices that allow us to make the most of your every gift.
WHY DOES THE MISSION HAVE A SUMMER CAMP?

From time to time, we’re asked why a “homeless shelter” has a summer camping program for children – and we welcome the opportunity to explain! We believe by reaching children as they’re learning about life and envisioning their futures, we can help them overcome the cycle of poverty that may have entrapped their families for generations.

For one whole week, we can ensure boys and girls who attend Camp CUMCITO have plenty to eat, a safe place to sleep and activities that reveal their skills and talents. Most importantly, they’re nurtured by caring adults who introduce them to Jesus and expose them to opportunities that lead to a stable and godly life.

To encourage young campers to embrace their relationship with the Lord and their hope for the future, our counselors stay in touch with them through letters, phone calls, personal visits and camp-sponsored events. One of the most rewarding things we witness as campers return year after year is watching them become a “banner” in the lives of their families and those around them, making choices that represent God’s will.
During the summer months, our City Camp offers nine weeks of daily wholesome and constructive activities for as many as 130 boys and girls, ages 7 through 17. This year, the program has been restructured to provide more specialized attention and learning opportunities for two distinct groups of campers.

In the morning, as many as 30 school-age children staying in our Family Center will take part in devotions, recreation, and crafts. This program is designed to meet the needs of the homeless students in our shelter by introducing them to the Gospel while providing fun activities that also help them develop confidence and self-esteem.

Our afternoon session will be community-based, welcoming students who take part in our City Corp after-school program, as well as other boys and girls from the neighborhood and targeted public schools. Nearly 50 students will participate in daily devotions, recreation, team-building exercises, field trips, swimming and other activities. Our Vanderburg Youth Center serves as the hub for our City Camp, which runs weekdays June 6 through August 4, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Mission’s Vanderberg Youth Center is also home to City Corps, our daily after-school program for students in our shelter, the surrounding neighborhoods and targeted public schools. Many of the boys and girls who attend are also Camp CUMCITO or City Camp participants, and this outreach is one of the many ways our staff maintains and strengthens the bonds they established with the campers over the summer.

Open to children ages 7 through 17, City Corps helps boys and girls grow spiritually, educationally, physically and socially through a variety of structured activities. Tutors assist students with their homework and adult mentors model important life skills. Recreational activities and sports provide an outlet for the kids, while they learn teamwork and sportsmanship. Field trips – including college visits – open young minds to a world of possibilities. And devotions and scripture memorization help children learn of God’s love and promise for their lives.

The holistic foundation of the program is designed to foster relationships between students, their families and their schools and to give students every opportunity to reach their life goals.
In addition to your financial gifts, hundreds of helping hands are needed to provide a Camp CUMCITO experience for all children who want to attend. In fact, as many as 285 boys and girls were on our standby list at some point last summer due to lack of staff and volunteers!

To ensure no camper is left out this year, consider filling one of our many volunteer roles for one or more of our six week-long sessions. We need cabin counselors and assistance in food service, housekeeping and office administration. Lifeguards are also on the list, as well as bus monitors and attendants to assist children departing to camp from the city and returning home again.

If you or your group can volunteer your hearts and hands, visit cityunionmission.org for a list of all the opportunities yet to be filled!

Last summer, our amazing volunteers dedicated over 60,000 hours of compassionate care to our young campers!

**SPECIAL CAMP NEEDS**

**Can you help?**

Our extra contribution to help cover these specific Camp CUMCITO costs will relieve the Mission’s general budget, making more funding available for our services to assist families and their children year round. If you can help, please contact Chief Development Officer Dennis Chapman at (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476. Our campers will be so grateful for your extra measure of love and support!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Craft supplies for Tot Lot</th>
<th>$640</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craft supplies for Big Camp</td>
<td>$2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp T-shirts (memory awards)</td>
<td>$2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen supplies</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry expenses</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housekeeping supplies</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Corresponding with our friends and partners via email allows us to communicate in a timely manner about special needs, as well as prayer and praise requests – and to do so without incurring the costs of paper, postage or telephone charges. You can be sure the Mission will not sell or share your email address with any other organization.

Simply provide your current email address where indicated on the enclosed reply card and watch your inbox for a message from us. You’ll begin hearing from us soon with Camp CUMCITO updates, from urgent needs to moving stories about our young campers.

We need your email address!
Offer a Banner of Encouragement & Hope...

Sponsor a Child for Camp!

When you sponsor a child for our residential Camp CUMCITO and our City Camp day program here in Kansas City, you'll feel good knowing a boy or girl who might sometimes go hungry will get three meals a day. Children who feel alone or forgotten will be showered with attention. And youngsters fighting negative influences will grow in faith that, with Jesus’ love and by following His Word, they can grow into the godly men and women He intends for them to be.

Because the families of our young campers often struggle financially, we charge only a $5 registration fee for each child who attends. We rely on friends like you to provide the remaining balance of the funding.

Your sponsorship gift will provide a banner of encouragement and hope for deserving children in our community! Please send your contribution today in the envelope provided. God bless you.

**$468** provides a week of Camp CUMCITO for one boy or girl
**$281** covers one week of City Camp for one child
**$156** helps with two days of Camp CUMCITO

**Did You Know?**

Up to 628 children can attend Camp CUMCITO each year.

Nearly 13,000 meals (plus snacks) are served during the six week-long camping sessions.

Last year, volunteers donated more than 59,000 hours of love and guidance to young campers.

Dozens of boys and girls each year dedicate their lives to Christ at Camp CUMCITO.

In 2016, 218 children attended camp for the very first time.

Combined with the time spent at City Camp and in Vanderberg Youth Center activities, a Camp CUMCITO camper will receive 800 hours worth of opportunities to learn and grow through our year-round youth programs.

Last Year’s Campers Say “Thank You”