

You are very important to us!

That's why we love to keep you updated with all that is happening at OneCity.

To ensure that OneCity messages continue to arrive in your INBOX safely, please add erika.b@onecity.org to your e-mail address book or Safe Sender list.



Inside the City | OneCity Newsletter | June 2008

About OneCity

OneCity is an outreach-focused development team that works to help the big "C" Church in Cincinnati multiply its impact by...

Making Connections

We work for each church, but more importantly we work for all churches collectively...the Church.

Research & Development

We work to explore, create, and pilot new ways for the Church to work together as one.

Volunteer Mobilization

We rally people to share the love of Christ in meaningful, everyday ways.



Inside

One Need...

Brad Johansen Golf Tournament Supports OneCity

One Love...

Climbing Toward Hope
By Mark Stecher

One Life...

Whiz Kids Volunteer
Advocates

One City...

Are You Ready to
Work For Change?

Connect...

Contact Us

One Need...

Brad Johansen Golf Tournament Supports OneCity

The 4th Annual Brad Johansen Celebrity Golf Classic again blessed OneCity in ways only the Lord could have engineered. We had a great party and auction Thursday May 29th at the Cincinnati Sports Club, and a fabulous day of golf with beautiful weather on Friday at Shaker Run Golf Course. The theme was "Get in the Game" calling participants, sponsors and volunteers to continue to help bring change in our city by getting their "jerseys dirty."

Brad and Colleen Johansen's generous and tireless efforts helped bring great awareness and needed financial support to OneCity. Four years in a row, these selfless leaders have offered to use their gifting in a way we couldn't replace -- and we are immensely grateful. Special thanks to announcer and former Bengal Dave Lapham, along with new Bengal Ben Utecht, for jumping in to help Brad with the live auction at the banquet.

OneCity churches and volunteers have doubled in each of the last two years which could not be possible were it not for Brad and Colleen's leadership in helping raise more than a third of OneCity's budget. Because of incredible sponsors like Procter and Gamble, Prasco, Huntington Bank, McSwain Carpets & Floors, and the Montgomery Inn, even more people have opportunity to get involved in changing our city. Thanks for the efforts of all involved in organizing and promoting this event!

"True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

One Love...

Climbing Toward Hope

by Mark Stecher - OneCity President

A friend told me about an experiment conducted on monkeys who were placed in a room with a vertical pole leading to a bunch of bananas. As hungry monkey after hungry monkey climbed up the pole, the researchers doused them with cold water. Eventually, the monkeys gave up.

Researchers then replaced one of the monkeys in the group, but when it tried to climb up the pole to reach the bananas, the other three pulled it down repeatedly. Eventually all the original monkeys were replaced one at a time, but each new monkey was pulled down as it tried to climb the pole. Monkeys who never even witnessed or received the cold surge of water still pulled down new members -- even though none of them knew why.

Sometimes this same dynamic occurs with the people we work with -- in which their surrounding systems continually pull them down. Many need a lot of help to try to climb out, but when they finally try, there is usually something or someone working against them. Sure, many of the issues they face are due to personal mistakes. Many are not. Whatever their circumstances, whether it's loss, lack of education, poverty, drugs, or some other problem, the issues are complex and usually systemic. In trying to help, half the battle is helping them overcome the long-term effects of discouragement and loss of hope.

Hope doesn't come cheap. We can only hope for what is not seen, not what is seen; for why does one hope for what he already sees? (Romans 8:24) In order for people to climb out of the situation they're in, they need better expectations, a restructured system and sustained hope. They need people working for them and not against them. They need the hope that comes from trusted friendships and sustained positive relationships. We need you. Thanks for your investment and connection with OneCity.



One Life...

Whiz Kids Volunteer Advocates

In addition to being tutors, mentors and site coordinators, some Whiz Kids volunteers have added a new role -- advocates.

Examples of this have been prevalent in recent months:

- Price Hill Whiz Kid Paul can now see better, thanks to a collaborative effort between Dr. Phillip Apfel of Oakley Square Eye Associates, tutor/mentor Jerry Simmons, the student's family and the Whiz Kids/CityCURE staff. In December, Dr. Apfel called CityCURE's office, asking if he could volunteer

his services. Unaware of Dr. Apfel's gesture, Jerry asked a Whiz Kids staff member three days later if there was a way to get cousins Paul and Gavine's eyes checked.

On Feb. 2, Jerry took Paul and Gavine to Dr. Apfel's office. Paul needed glasses, and he received them about a week later.

Dr. Apfel did everything free of charge. But there certainly has been a big payoff.

"Paul's reading has taken off," said Jerry, who predicted that would happen if Paul could see better.

- At one site, tutors helped identify five students who seemed to have special needs. The tutors met with classroom teachers from each grade. "The tutors got to hear how that student behaves at school and how that teacher perceives that student," Whiz Kids educational coordinator Stephanie Downs said. "And teachers got to hear how that student behaves at Whiz Kids and how the tutor perceives that student. It was a collaborative effort to work more effectively with those children."
- There was an instance where a tutor kept asking the teacher if her student could get tested, because the tutor suspected the child had significant learning problems. The teacher repeatedly said the student was at the bottom of the list to be tested. But the tutor was diligent in requesting that testing be done, and even approached the school psychologist. And within a few weeks, a multi-factored evaluation was performed, and the student was put on an Individual Education Plan. The student now spends 20-60 percent of her school day working one-on-one with a specialist or in a small group.

--From CityCURE'S Whiz Kids newsletter

One City...

OneCity is Powered by Volunteers Sharing Christ's Love
Are You Ready to Work for Change?

OneCity believes that people "working for change" in the city will in fact, see change. OneCity mobilizes volunteers to engage in both life-on-life and professional/skill-based opportunities in order to challenge some of the city's biggest issues.

Below are a few high priority volunteer opportunities for you to consider.

Professional

1. **Communications Team** - Use your skills as a copywriter, graphic & web designer, and/or photographer, to develop/design OneCity materials.
2. **Research Team** - Use your analytical skills to help answer questions to city-wide problems.
3. **Trainers** – Help with Culture of Poverty and program trainings, 1 evening a month.
4. **Outlet Site Coordinators** – Lead at the Outlet one Saturday morning a month.
5. **Administrative Support** - Assist OneCity staff with office tasks and projects.
6. **Operations Director** – 4-8 hours per week – location flexible – oversees support services for OneCity.

Life-on-Life

TEAM WORKS job mentoring provides members of Cincinnati Works with professional mentors in order to support job placement, retention and financial self-sufficiency.



Connect...

Contact Us

If we can help your church, your organization, or you individually get involved in serving our city in any way, please contact us.

OneCity

1947 Auburn Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45219

OUTLET is a place where we build relationships through games and recreation with the homeless, providing a friendly environment that makes it easy to meet and engage with positive people.

Intern positions – 2 paid - 20 hour per week positions working in program development or volunteer/church mobilization starting in August/September 2008.

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