

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 | October 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.



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CityLink Update

Building Momentum

As we move beyond legal issues to real development our big news is Darrick Dansby has joined the CityLink team full time as its Executive Director. We are so grateful to have his passion, experience and gifting driving our joint work. Darrick comes from a background of leadership, social service and community engagement - with strong results at United Way, Smart Money, and 3CDC.

Is This The Year?

By Mark Stecher

And he joins us not a moment too soon, as we are working more diligently with partners determining programming, preparing the facility for our future construction, forming the framework for the capital campaign, and beginning to focus on volunteer development to help across a number of projects and other partners. The next few months will be vital in organizing and pushing key objectives aggressively forward. Please join us in praying for short-term funding prior to our capital campaign and great wisdom as we work flow and design on the facility.

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Is This The Year?

by Mark Stecher - OneCity President

Suffering a life-time of fading Chicago Cubs teams every September and October for the past 40 years, this year promised to be different. First place all year and 35 games over .500-this was going to be our year. I found myself praying for them pretty often. I know, I know, this isn't high on God's important list-but still a comfort even though they were swept in the Play-Offs again! A scene in Bruce Almighty comes to mind with Jim Carey struggling to answer competing prayers-what happens when others are praying for the exact opposite outcome in these games?



Upon reflection, a few issues surfaced. First, why am I spending good prayer time on a team of athletes in Chicago and for the outcomes of these trivial contests? More importantly, what really matters to God? How do I choose where to put my energies?

A few weekends ago I had the chance to spend some time with a single mom who's had a long history of life "dealing her some bad hands". She is amazingly upbeat and a real fighter! I know my prayers would be better spent on her and her kids. For them, life's been hard. Yet, her approach to life is refreshing. She's amazingly upbeat -she "gets" that she makes a positive difference and chooses to focus on her roles (faith, kids, and friends), her calling, and the things that really matter.

The Cubs cannot make any real difference in my roles, my calling, and the real positives in life. When I place my heart and talents toward things that really matter, I am so much more fulfilled. We need a constant realignment to what matters to God. Ironically, it's in our best interest to allocate our time and resources to these things, because caring about what He cares about yields the most satisfaction.

Will the faithful believe they can actually win next year and go to the World Series? I really don't know and it doesn't really matter. This is the year to redirect my prayers from another Cub "win" to the bigger game God has for me.



The Outlet: A Community Within and Without Walls

City Gospel Mission, a OneCity partner, has a recreational ministry on Saturday mornings called The Outlet. It creates a safe space for homeless people in Cincinnati to have fun and celebrate life, share experiences, and be encouraged to make positive life changes. The Outlet is a place where volunteers and homeless guests "plug" into each other's lives in meaningful ways.

On a bright, sunny Saturday in August, the air was filled with the smell of fresh popcorn, the sounds of guests singing along with the "live" band and their R & B classics, and the excitement of raffle winners collecting their prizes! The Outlet hosted the first "Summer Fest" outdoors, which was open to the community. On a typical Saturday, The Outlet offers fun activities such as card games, board games, pool, ping pong, art projects and live music. In addition to the usual activities, Summer Fest had face painting for kids and a Corn Hole Tournament. It was a great time for all and many new community members were introduced to the encouraging mission of The Outlet.

The Outlet is a recreational program that provides a safe place for the homeless and neighborhood community to engage in activities such as games, music, and art while building positive friendships and connections. The Outlet has been open at City Gospel Mission on Saturday mornings from 9-12 pm for over 2 years growing from an average of 20 participants to 80 on any given weekend. Due to the interest and the long term vision to provide positive, fun, and safe activities throughout the week, the Outlet will be opening on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 12 - 3 pm beginning October 12th.

We invite you to consider your involvement in the variety of opportunities (available for Saturday and Sunday):

- Coffee Shop/Hospitality team
- Art team
- Special Event team
- Music team
- Sunday Onsite-leaders

To learn more about the Outlet, please contact Tricia Morris at tricia.m@onecity.org or 513-579-0555

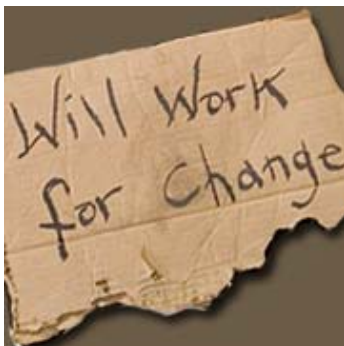
Breaking Free From the Past

On July 29, 2008, U.S. Congress passed House Resolution 194 otherwise titled "Apologizing for the enslavement and racial segregation of African-Americans." It is the first and only official apology for the sufferings of African-Americans by the government that allowed such atrocities and double-standards to exist in this the "Land of the Free." OneCity acknowledges and stands in agreement with House Resolution 194, which can be read in its entirety by clicking [this link](#).

We believe the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is what truly sets us free. Yet, we have not always behaved as if this is true-neither as the church nor as individual Christ followers. Furthermore, we recognize there have been times when we could have acted more with the character of Christ and failed. So, we'd like to take this opportunity to confess our sins against our African-American brothers and sisters in Christ. We are deeply sorry for any actions or words which may have been denigrating to the dignity of the African-American community.



We pray for healing for both the betrayed and the betrayer with the ultimate goal of mutual love, understanding and reconciliation between all races. To punctuate our public apology, we pray specifically for healing of issues related to the passage from House Resolution 194. We are committed to working within God's will to redeem the damage done and to work diligently with our OneCity partners to encourage freedom to ring throughout our city, now and forever.



Volunteer

**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.

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.

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.

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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.