



**EPISCOPAL
CITY MISSION**
Providing Hope & Healing for Children in Detention

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2008



Parker Jane Allen enjoyed face painting at the 2008 Summer Solstice Festival. Parker is the daughter of Jodie and Chris Allen and the granddaughter of Mary Jane and Rick Kuhn.

THE LIGHT SHINES ON ECM

The annual Summer Solstice Festival raised a record \$6,000 to continue the ministry of Episcopal City Mission. The third annual Summer Solstice Festival was held on June 20, 2008 on the lawn of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Webster Groves, Mo. Being the longest day of the year, extra hours of sunlight provided prolonged fun, fellowship, and fundraising to benefit ECM and the work our chaplains do for children in detention.

About 200 people attended the event, enjoying music by The House of Bishops band, eating delicious food prepared by Mary Jane and Rick Kuhn and company, bidding on great auction items, and spending a summer evening with family and friends. Children 8 and younger played in the children's area and had their faces painted.

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Thank you to everyone who participated! Your continued support with your prayers, gifts, and time is greatly appreciated.

GOLF TOURNEY RAISES \$4,000

The Annual Golf Tournament held May 20, 2008 by Episcopal Church of the Advent raised \$4,000 in funds to further Episcopal City Mission's work. Held at Forest Park Golf Course, the 2008 event attracted more than 80 golfers from throughout the diocese to play on the links on a beautiful spring day. ECM would like to thank everyone who participated, sponsored and volunteered in order to make the event a success, especially Advent's Golf Tournament Chairmen, Vic Kremar and Dave Johnston.

If you were unable to attend this year's golf tournament, watch for our save-the-date announcement of the 2009 tournament date on our web site at www.ecitymission.org.



(left-right) Mike West, Eric Freisthler and Steve Freisthler mark their calendars early each year to enjoy the annual Golf Tourney.

2008 GOING GREAT!

A MESSAGE
FROM ECM'S BOARD CHAIR

The year is off to another great start. Our chaplains continue to offer hope and healing to children in detention, and with your financial support, ECM is now able to sponsor Christian rap artist events at the detention centers.

Special thanks goes to members of Church of the Advent in Crestwood for their sponsorship of a successful Golf Tournament. Also, a big thanks to Mary Jane Kuhn and the members of Emmanuel Church in Webster Groves for hosting the Summer Solstice event on a picture-perfect summer evening. Thanks to Mark Jordan for sponsoring luncheons with Rockwell Society members and to Betty Bowersox for sponsoring the Rockwell Society Recognition event. Further, our 2007 Annual Report has received many favorable comments. If you have not yet received a copy, please call the office at 314.436.3545.

I am deeply thankful for your prayers and financial support. Without your help, the ECM ministry and its continued progress this year would not be possible.

Jeff Klieve

Jeff Klieve
ECM Board Chair

A UNIQUE BLESSING

Episcopal City Mission is a unique entity in St. Louis' City and County Family Court Systems. Each year, ECM is invited to provide chaplain presence in the centers for the youth in detention. No one else is allowed this type of contact with the children unless employed by the courts.

The chaplains and ECM's Board of Directors are constantly searching for new ways to bring the message of a loving God to the children in detention. So, this year, in addition to the weekly chapel services, we've added quarterly Gospel Hip Hop Concerts in every center to better reach the youth.

"The kids in our centers are influenced by a commercial form of Hip Hop," said Rev. Dietra Wise from Lakeside Treatment Center. "Hip Hop always contained certain elements: rapping, dancing, DJing, graffiti. The commercial form at times can present damaging images to our youth. The Gospel Hip Hop concerts that ECM provides allow kids to experience both the creativity of their culture and a spiritual alternative. The concerts seem to get inside the kids and re-new their dreams." **continued on p. 3**



Gospel Hip Hop artists LeCrae from Memphis, Tenn., and J'son from St. Louis, Mo., entertain youth in detention.

WHAT YOUR DONATIONS ACCOMPLISH

Episcopal City Mission takes care to wisely use the funds you so generously provided to fund the presence of the chaplains in the detention centers. Your donations are used to purchase Bibles, Korans, and other sacred texts for the young people who request a copy. Plus, we challenge ourselves to find new ways to effectively speak to the children, such as offering quarterly Hip Hop Chapel Services that have proven tremendously successful in giving the kids a new way to listen to God's healing words. Dear to our hearts are the monthly birthday parties that give children a rare chance to celebrate their special day in a way that they may never have experienced.

ECM has been blessed with generous donations in the first half of 2008 that are allowing us to continue our mission of providing hope and healing to the children in detention. Our income through June 30, 2008 is \$116,000. If you have not yet made a donation, please use the attached envelope to send your support. And, we thank you for remembering us in your prayers.

Please Remember Us in your Will and Trust or consider donating stocks, which could result in a tax advantage for you. Please call the office at 314.436.3545 to discuss these and other donating opportunities with tax advantages.

A Unique Blessing continued

Rev. Julie Jennings from St. Louis County added, “The enthusiasm and honesty of the artists inspires the kids in our centers to see alternatives to their current situations and imagine the possibilities that await them. They are energized and excited by the music, but also deeply moved by the messages the music contains. Kids will talk about the concerts for days afterwards, and I usually get a few requests for a journal so kids can explore their own creativity. The concerts are also refreshing events for staff, who often find new ‘talking points’ for their ongoing work with the kids.”

Rev. Mickey Hassler from St. Louis City discusses another unique arrangement. “As the chaplain,” said Hassler, “I’ve been asked to take part in some of the youth staffing conferences where the status of the youth is discussed. These meetings include supervisors, a representative of psychological services, and someone from the superintendent’s office. This is an opportunity for the chaplain and youth to set goals and it also provides the framework for the chaplain to offer additional services to the youth. The chaplaincy presence lends support to the staff as well as to the youth. ECM is considered a vital part of the City Detention Center.”

Your gifts and prayers sustain Episcopal City Mission as we offer this unique ministry to the children in detention. We appreciate your support and are very thankful for your belief in our work.

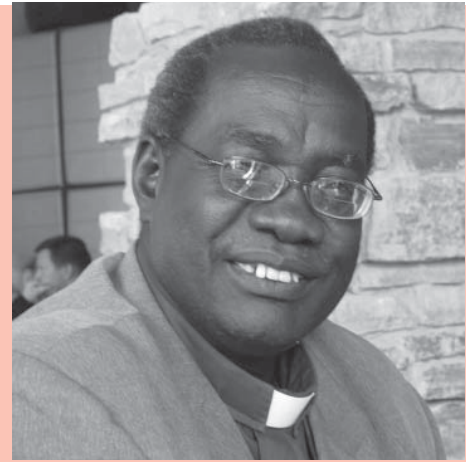
Sincerely,

Mary Kay Digby

Mary Kay Digby
Executive Director

ARCHBISHOP OF SUDAN VISITS CITY DETENTION CENTER

By Deb Goldfeder



“Is your picture on the money?” asked one young man. “No,” said the Archbishop with a laugh. “What does the money look like?” The Archbishop explained the money in Sudan is called pounds, like in England. On May 2, 2008, Rev. Daniel Deng Bul Yak, the Archbishop of Sudan, gave the children at St. Louis City Youth Detention something more valuable than pounds of money — he gave them his presence and attention. As a result, young people too cool to ask questions suddenly leaned forward and stretched their hands up to be recognized by the Archbishop. So, the Archbishop recognized them. Then, something remarkable happened. The tiniest child in the class, an 11-year-old boy, raised his hand and asked, “How do you become a man in your country?”

I wondered if this child felt obliged to do something to be thought a man and ended up here in detention. I listened as the Archbishop told how boys his age would be taken out by the men of the tribe to a place away from the community and told the things they needed to know. Then, they would be given a stick to put under their arm and a spear to carry. After that, all would know him to be a man with a man’s responsibilities and honor.

“What happens if you do something wrong?” asked another child. The Archbishop explained that they were taught not to bring dishonor to their families or tribes. “Are there gangs in Sudan?” No, but you always had the other boys your age who had become men with you.

The Archbishop spoke about families and depending on each other. I stood stunned thinking of children who probably had not grown up in families with fathers. The children in Sudan who lost their fathers to war were taken into larger extended families. Single-parent families do not exist in Sudan like they do here. You need families to live!

I was in a daze when Rev. Mickey Hassler penetrated my fog. “What is it about grief and these kids?” I asked. Grief, he said, is the basic emotion these children struggle with—loss of family, belongings, friends, school, home. They never learn to cope and must act like men, though they don’t know how to become men! Fortunately, ECM and the Chaplains provide the means for these children to deal with loss and other issues.

MOMENT IN TIME V SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Celebrate the ministry of Episcopal City Mission at the 5th Annual Moment In Time Gala on Sept. 10, 2008. ECM proudly welcomes Gerald Early, Ph.D., a noted author, essayist, and Director of the Center for Humanities at Washington University. Dr. Early will speak on this year's theme "How Do We Mend a Broken Heart?" Once again, the annual theme is inspired by a piece of artwork crafted by a St. Louis youth in detention while working on an ECM chaplain-sponsored project.

Your attendance and support at this annual function is vital to ECM's ability to provide chaplains to youth in detention. Tickets to Moment In Time include dinner, libations and the opportunity to be with a community of people who support our mission. The Just In Time ensemble will provide music during the cocktail reception, and pianist Roy Pennington will entertain us during dinner. There will also be a live auction to raise additional funds, including a raffle for a custom pendant.

WWW.ECITYMISSION.ORG



**EPISCOPAL
CITY MISSION**

Providing Hope & Healing for Children in Detention

1210 Locust St., Suite 310
St. Louis, MO 63103

SAVE THE DATE

MOMENT IN TIME V SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

WWW.ECITYMISSION.ORG

**6pm at the Starlight Room
in the Chase Park Plaza**
Purchase Tickets Today
by calling ECM at 314.436.3545.

Raffle Tickets \$10 each or 3 for \$25



A yellow sapphire sits at the core of this custom, heart-shaped pendant made of 14K rose and white gold banded with 18K gold accents on a 14K rose and white gold chain.

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