

PROGRAMS

Elevate  
Buford Tutoring  
Walker Tutoring  
CHS Tutoring  
Johnson Tutoring  
Ladies of Quality Jr  
Ladies of Quallity Sr  
Intelligent Girls Club  
5/8 Club  
Fri. Afternoon Bible Club  
(6-9 year olds)  
Individual Development  
Accounts (IDA)  
Senior Solutions  
Hispanic Outreach  
Summer Camp  
Jump

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Page 4

☒ I would like to help support Charlottesville  
Abundant Life Ministries (CALM).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you pledge? \_\_\_\_\_ (amt. / month or year) \_\_\_\_\_

Give a one-time amount ? \_\_\_\_\_ (amt enclosed)

Volunteer ? \_\_\_\_\_ (preferred area of service?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Mail this form & gift to: Charlottesville Abundant Life,  
P.O. Box 3482  
Charlottesville, VA 22903

## Christmas Celebrations cont....

the children was reflected in the faces of the volunteers who faithfully dedicated their time to serve. Over 100 volunteers helped out this year to make Christmas Store a huge success. Volunteers kept kids entertained outside while they waited their turn to shop, helped kids select items for their family members, counted blue bucks, wrapped gifts, made hot cocoa for the workers, and much, much more. The volunteers were such a blessing to the children and to Abundant Life: from those who have been helping out for many years, to those who served with us for the first time that Saturday. Christmas Store could not have happened without the hard work of all the volunteers.

The children were also a great blessing to the volunteers. One volunteer said it was the highlight of her family's Christmas, and several others have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to serve and their desire to help out at future events. Christmas Store was a delight for all involved: the kids brought an abundance of joy to the volunteers, and the volunteers made Store a huge success for the kids. It's truly one of the most wonderful times of the year!§



# Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries

## NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

February 2010

On December 4th 2009, CALM hosted its 10th annual Abundant Life Christmas Banquet (ALCB). Students from UVa's University Intern Program – Adair Clayton, Anne Fowler, and Arin Noble – planned this year's banquet, which was the biggest one yet, with festivities held for the first time at the John Paul Jones Arena. Over 800 tutors, families, friends, and students attended this evening of celebration in honor of the children that CALM serves.

The schedule of events began with doors opening at 6 pm for viewing of the silent auction. Immediately before dinner was served, children from CALM's Johnson and Walker Elementary School's tutoring program were ushered in and greeted with a standing ovation and applause. The evening featured words from UVa professor Charles Marsh, ALCB founder Brett Gibson, tutor Jesse Anderson, CALM AmeriCorps member Drew Macklin, and past CALM participant Adrian Crawford. The new dance program for 5th and 6th grade girls, *Jump*, also made its debut at the banquet. A surprise visit from Santa Claus closed out the evening, with each child receiving a gift especially for him/her.

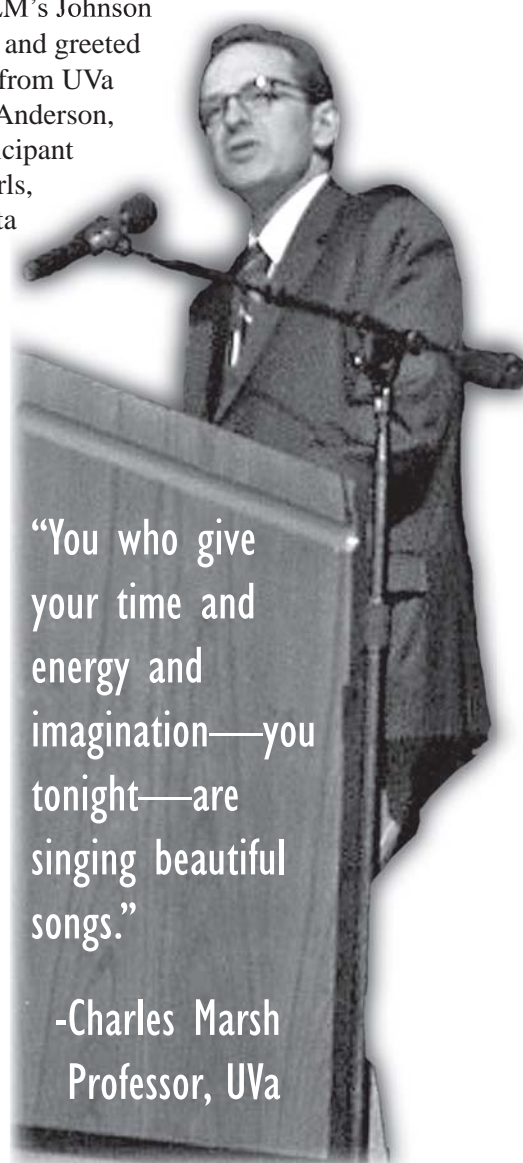
CALM would like to extend a thank you to all the businesses that donated to the auction and to the people who participated in it. You helped make this the most successful auction in CALM history.

All in all, the banquet was a huge success thanks to those businesses and individuals that donated their time, energy, and money, and also to those who attended that evening. The funds raised from the event go towards CALM programming.

Throughout the semester, the kids in the Johnson and Walker tutoring programs saved up their "blue bucks" (reward points for good behavior) in order to buy gifts for their family members and for themselves at the annual CALM Christmas Store that occurred the following Saturday. As the day of Store got closer, the kids made "wish lists" of what they wanted to be able to buy. Staff and volunteers went out in the week before Store to try to find the items on the children's wish lists. Volunteers also helped price the items and set up displays at the CALM house, 834 Prospect Ave. Long hours went into preparing for Store, but seeing the kids' faces light up on Saturday morning made all the work worthwhile.

On the day of Store, the kids arrived full of smiles, anxious to select their gifts. Their excitement was contagious, and the joy of

## Christmas Celebrations April Biser and Martha Montague



"You who give  
your time and  
energy and  
imagination—you  
tonight—are  
singing beautiful  
songs."

-Charles Marsh  
Professor, UVa

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cont. pg. 4

Page 1



Ministry Needs...

Meals made for evening clubs Tuesday (25-30 people) and Thursday (approx. 15 people).

Leaders for Ladies of Quality Jr. Club (7th & 8th grade girls) 7:30pm-8:45pm Tuesdays

Leaders for Intelligent Girls Club (5th & 6th grade girls) 6:00pm-7:15pm Tuesdays

Volunteers for K-4th grade tutoring programs Mon.-Thurs. 3:30pm-5:00pm.



Reflections Drew Macklin

Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries is revved up and running at top-speed this year: we’ve recruited and trained an impressive number of volunteers, and expanded our tutoring and mentoring programs to serve an unprecedented number of Fifeville’s children. Plans for the development of our new property on Prospect Ave. are moving quickly from the realm of imagination into the world of blueprints and zoning board hearings. U.Va.’s John Paul Jones Arena hosted the 10th Anniversary of the Abundant Life Christmas Banquet, and an audacious alumni fundraising effort has already reaped dividends.

As an undergraduate volunteer, I rarely had any perspective of the scope of Abundant Life’s work. Now, however, as an AmeriCorps State member with diverse responsibilities and an inside view of the challenges associated with each facet of Abundant Life’s ministry, I have a newfound appreciation for the depth and intensity of CALM’s passion for Prospect and its people.

This background view of the organization has led me to think back on my own story of service. I started volunteering during my first year at UVa. At the time, 1st-4th grade tutoring took place at the Abundant Life center in Blue Ridge Commons, a housing development just off Prospect Ave.

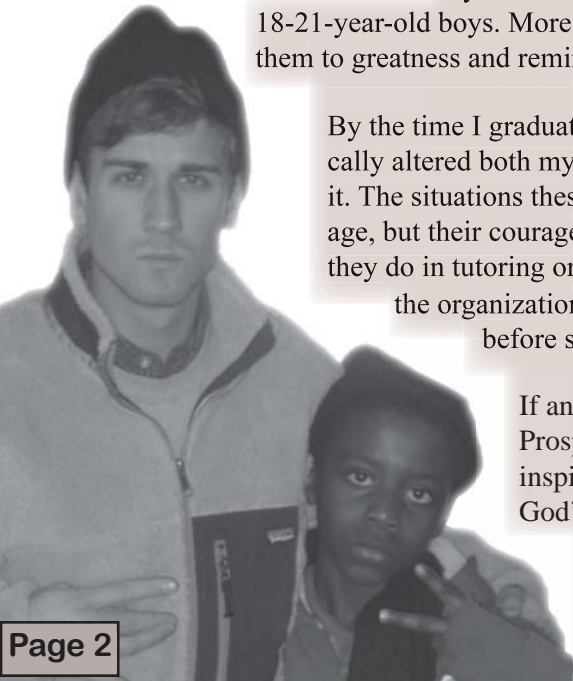
I was assigned to tutor a second-grader named Treyzah, and the experience shook the foundations of my life up to that point. Prospect’s brokenness and poverty are readily visible—and our plans for its transformation are rewarded infrequently and usually only faintly—but I encountered them first through the eyes of an 8-year-old boy who viewed them with a resigned hopelessness that overwhelmed me.

Occasional Wendy’s dinners with Treyzah opened my eyes most of all to the hurt and helplessness associated with masculinity in Prospect. For all their hardness and bluster—indeed, in spite of their posturing and aggressive overconfidence—Prospect’s boys feel a deep sense of inadequacy and hopelessness.

They assume that their futures are bleak, that joy is fleeting, and that their worth is determined solely through the respect they earn and the fear they inspire. As I’ve grown to know them, I’ve sensed, lurking beneath their poor grades and behavioral problems, a desire to be loved and valued that has been twisted and dismissed by the mores and habits of their peers and role models. For the rest of college, I poured myself into the lives of Prospect’s boys. I became a leader for Boys’ Bible Club and Elevate, two Abundant Life mentoring programs for 1st-4th grade and 18-21-year-old boys. More than multiplication help or phonics assistance, these boys need men who will inspire them to greatness and remind them that they are fully known and, nevertheless, still fully loved by God.

By the time I graduated, the hours I’d spent in Prospect and the relationships I’d formed there had radically altered both my view of our broken world and my understanding of the God whose Son died to heal it. The situations these boys confront every day are unlike any I could have imagined when I was their age, but their courage in the face of these circumstances—their reckless and hopeful insistence that what they do in tutoring or Bible Club counts—has inspired me and caused me to look with admiration on the organization that has carried the Cross even into the dark and terrible corners of Prospect since before some of the boys were born.

If anything, my recent education in the entirety of CALM’s complex and trying work in Prospect has reminded me that the thing that drives our staff is the same thing that first inspired me as a naïve and occasional volunteer. The Cross of Christ—that symbol of God’s willful and gratuitous reconciliation of our shattered world to himself—undergirds all we do. In the midst of joblessness and crime, broken families and fatherless children, wasted opportunities and inexplicable loss, it is our last and greatest source of hope.§



Celebrating the Dream Annie Yoder

“We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. And you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the way God’s universe is made; this is the way it is structured.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

On Jan. 18, 2010, the Fifeville/Prospect Ave. community saw a piece of this garment of destiny as they celebrated with Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries (CALM) at the 8th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day community celebration. Together, a diverse group gathered throughout the day to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision of a beloved community.

The day began with a health fair at 834 Prospect Ave. where adults and children alike could find helpful information on healthy practices. For example, adults could take their blood pressure, gain useful information about over-the-counter medicines, learn more about those at risk for having a stroke, and get free pedometers provided by State Farm Insurance. As the health fair was wrapping up, many gathered for a community chili and pizza lunch. CALM would like to thank Papa John’s pizza for their help in making this lunch possible.

After the lunch, the National Day of Service motto, “A Day On and Not a Day Off,” was realized as many gathered to serve and pick up trash throughout the neighborhood. This was followed by a myriad of activities for all ages, including a college guide program for high school students, a music and rhythm workshop for 5th-8th grade boys, Martin Luther King Jr. documentary discussion for middle school boys, book discussion on The Help by Kathryn Stockett, adult discussion led by Rod Grimes from the NAACP, banner/t-shirt making for 5th -8th grade girls and a recycling and craft activity for K-4th grade children. In addition to these activities, from 3:30-5 P.M, free H1N1 vaccinations were offered at Buford Middle School from the Health Department. CALM is incredibly thankful to all those who made these activities possible by donating their time, resources, and incredible ideas.

The evening’s celebrations began with a candlelit march throughout the neighborhood in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.’s life and the amazing light he brought to our country’s work toward equal rights. Directly afterward, many from the community gathered at the Buford Middle School auditorium to celebrate at the annual MLK Day ceremony. The Bridge band led those attending in joyful song and many were recognized for their service to the community. This included, Tony Kenney and Lamika Essex both receiving Outstanding Parent awards, Jasmine Martin for Outstanding Student, Jessica Maslaney from the YMCA for the Community Involvement Award, and Rebecca Goodwin and Lindsay Finnegan for the Beloved Community Award.

The evening ended wonderfully with a time of fellowship open to all where many gathered for a community meal in the Buford Middle School cafeteria. This was yet another amazing image of the garment of destiny that Martin Luther King Jr. spoke about in his dream for a beloved community. A diverse group from many different places and backgrounds gathered together to eat, laugh, and enjoy each other’s fellowship. This was certainly an image of celebrating the dream and this dream being realized in our world today.§

