

10th Annual

Christmas Banquet

Friday Dec. 4

invitation on back...

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

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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

Abundant Life Ministries presents...

10th Annual

Christmas Banquet

Friday December 4, 2009

John Paul Jones Arena

Doors open at 6pm, Dinner is served at 7pm

\$25 per ticket, \$175 per table
(Must be paid before Nov. 30th to reserve a seat.)

Evening includes...

Dinner, Abundant Life Student Performances,
Special Guest Speaker, and a Silent Auction (on-line posting pre-event for early bidding)

*If you have any items you would like to donate for the silent auction, please contact April Biser:
(434) 970-2016 or
April@charlottesvilleabundantlife.org

Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries

NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

November 2009



Branching Out
by: Andrew Morrissett

STAFF
Rydell Payne
Rebecca Goodwin
Lindsay Finnegan
Mary Wilson
Kerra Thurston
Melville Krebs
Carrie Yoder
Richard Feero
AmeriCorps
Andrew Morrissett
Jeannie Adler
Martha Montague
Claire Moore
April Biser
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Adrian Crawford
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Annie Yoder
Ashley Romanias
Drew Macklin
Rashawnda James

BOARD
Lois Zollinhofer
Chair
Bob Luck
Susan Prindle
Edward Botchwey
Dave Phillips
Alec Kean
Rydell Payne
Executive Director

CALM
P.O. Box 3482,
Charlottesville, VA 22903
Tel: 434-970-2016
or 434-970-2077
FAX: 434-220-4955
Main@charlottesvilleabundantlife.org
www.charlottesvilleabundantlife.org

Branching Out
by: Andrew Morrissett

It's already November, which means that the tutoring programs for kids at Johnson Elementary School are in full swing! We're off to a great start by recruiting volunteer tutors faster than ever, enabling us to continue the tradition of 1:1 tutoring. What a picture of God's Kingdom to see University students, adult volunteers, community members, Trinity Church Fellows and others coming together to love kids on an individual level. The group includes many kids who speak English as a second language. "Over a third of our children are ESL children. It's increased since last year, even more languages. It has created [increased] collaboration with the ESL teacher [at Johnson Elementary]; it's a wonderful collaboration," says Melville Krebs, lesson plan coordinator at CALM's Johnson tutoring program.

But the K-4th grade program has never been just about academics... we like to have fun too! On Oct. 9th as a treat for the kids who are with us on Fridays, we took a busload up to Carter's Mountain Apple Orchard for some hayrides and apple picking! It was a beautiful fall day and the kids truly enjoyed their time.

As exciting as that is, a report of Johnson School activities alone would ignore some awesome new additions to the K-4 tutoring program. We're back in the neighborhood! We have been blessed this year with the expansion of the program beyond the walls of the school to our 834 Prospect Avenue property as well as the Blue Ridge Commons (BRC) Neighborhood Center. The program at 834 Prospect Ave. includes sports, games, homework, tutoring, arts and crafts, cooking, and more. It has been a great way to care for kids who aren't at Johnson everyday and to serve working parents who need childcare until 5 pm. An exciting aspect of the 834 property has been the emergence of CALM as a neighborhood fixture. Our ministry is visible to every car that drives by and sees volunteers and community members loving neighborhood kids and offering them a safe place to be.

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Having fun at 834 Prospect tutoring



Learning to Jump

By: Ashley Romanias

Before a child can jump, she must find her footing. On September 22, Abundant Life launched a theatre and dance program for 5th and 6th grade girls called Jump.

The program blends expressive dance, forms of exercise and the use of fine arts to create a critical perspective of the world and provide insight into the self. Each girl is given the chance to look inside herself. Every Thursday at 3:30 pm at Walker Upper Elementary School, nine girls board the Abundant Life bus and are taken to Christ Episcopal Church. They begin each class with five minutes of free drawing where they are encouraged to think about their thoughts, feelings and their day as they work.

The girls then move through a series of warm-up exercises and enter the dance portion of class. During this time, they may learn a new dance, create an expression of their own, or practice an existing combination. This time also gives them the opportunity to be instructed by a guest artist on a specialized form of dance (i.e. swing or salsa, step or break). Starting Nov. 1, however, the girls will be hard at work on a routine to perform at the annual Abundant Life Christmas banquet. They will collaborate to create costumes, select music, and develop choreography.

In many cultures, art is called upon to serve as an agent of beauty, an outlet for creativity and a source of entertainment. These functions can enrich the self. Jump aims to use the enriching power of the arts to

help each girl understand herself, respect those around her, and get to know the world in which she lives.

Part of Abundant Life's mission is to provide holistic programming. This approach considers the total needs of each child. In addition to academic, spiritual, and social needs, Jump provides artistic and physical outlets for children.

Jump also puts children in a place where they can question, learn, and discover together. During one class, the group got together and discussed inappropriate dancing; what it is, why it happens, and where it can lead. The girls were quick to challenge one another, but eager to find a consensus.

Each child that jumps has her own story. Lanasia wants to be a fashion designer. Carleesha enjoys being in the neighborhood. Wesli loves to look at magazines. At Jump, passions and dreams are key commodities. Thoughts are explored, stories are shared, and dreams are discovered. How else could a young girl find the courage to jump?

Abundant Life's Christmas Store!

On **Dec. 12th**, Abundant Life kids will be able to buy gifts for themselves and their families with "Blue Bucks" they've earned throughout the tutoring year for good behavior. It takes many volunteers and donors to make store happen, whether by praying, donating gifts or money, baking items, or volunteering!

Call (434) 970-2077 and (434) 970-2016 or
email Abundant@charlottesvilleabundantlife.org
for more information.



Ten Years of Leadership Honored

By: Susan Prindle

This September marked the tenth anniversary of Rydell Payne's assuming leadership of Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries. The Board of Directors pulled off a successful surprise reception to celebrate the milestone on September 8th. Rydell thought he was attending a short meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church before leaving for the monthly Board meeting, but instead he walked into a room

filled with food and friends and decorated with balloons and a banner that paid tribute to all the roles he has played over the years. Rydell's wife, Hope, who has been an equal partner with her husband in this ministry also was honored.

A number of former Board members were able to attend or send greetings as were some of those whom Rydell has considered to be his mentors over the years. Representatives of the Prospect Community and volunteers attended along with many current and former staff. Many were able to share their appreciation of Rydell's work. Former Board Chair, Dave Phillips, told of the vision and service he had seen Rydell exhibit over his seven years of co-laboring with him. Former volunteer and staff member, Brett Ferrell, spoke of all he learned about true selfless service from working with and observing Rydell. Ministry founder, Amy Sherman, told how she and others had identified Rydell as the right man to lead the then three year-old ministry more than ten years ago and how they had prayed and worked to pursue him. Mrs. Yvonne Shackelford shared how Rydell talked her into starting what is now known as the neighborhood Senior Solutions ministry. Vaughn Yountz read a poem he composed for the event. The evening's program ended with everyone singing one of Rydell's favorite hymns, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing", followed by a time of thankful prayer for the last ten years and for continued blessings for the Payne family and CALM. §

Branching Out (cont.)...

In addition to being richly blessed with the Prospect house, we have entered into a partnership with the BRC Neighborhood Center and its after school program. This allows CALM staff to reach kids who aren't in our programs as well as modeling Christ by going to where kids are to care for them. This partnership is also an awesome way to better our witness to families in the area, especially families that live in BRC housing.

Suffice it to say that the year is off to a great start for our K-4th graders! We have been blessed so much thus far and look forward to how God will provide for these kids over the rest of the year. §

