

Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries

P.O. Box 3482
Charlottesville, VA 22903
www.charlottesvilleabundantlife.org

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PROGRAMS

- Elevate
- Buford Tutoring
- Walker Tutoring
- CHS Tutoring
- Johnson Tutoring
- Ladies of Quality Jr
- Ladies of Quality 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

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Volunteers Needed!!! Summer Camp!

July 26-31

Contact:
Abundant@charlottesvilleabundantlife.org
(434) 970-2077

How do you say..., Continued

out. Each week we had a handful of Johnson teachers come help with the parents, which was such a blessing. We also had many tutors and a few church groups come and play with the kids. For these contributions, we are so grateful.

Our group of families was so diverse and it was a true joy to see kids from all backgrounds playing together outside and parents sharing jokes and helping each other learn a new language. It was a truly beautiful thing. The families we were able to serve expressed much gratitude and seeing them each week really helped foster the relationship that we value so much here at Abundant Life. Everyone involved felt so blessed to be a part of it and we look forward to continuing similar programs next year!

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

Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries



NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

June 2009 Kortney Slaughter with her tutor, Rose Merritt

What a Privilege It Is...

By Rose Merritt

I can hear them before I can see them. As I walk down the sidewalk, the playground outside of Johnson Elementary comes into view and the happy sight of children playing accompanies the sound of laughter. There is a joyful energy as kids play tag and basketball and see who can swing the highest or run the fastest. I scan the crowd for the familiar faces of kids I have come to know, in particular for the second grader that I tutor each week, Kortney. When I find her, I am greeted with an excited smile as she exclaims, "Ms. Rose!" It is a wonderful way to begin our time together at tutoring.

The first time I stepped onto this playground, I'm pretty sure these sounds were more overwhelming than joyful and welcoming. Having just arrived in Charlottesville for Trinity's fellows program, I had my hesitations about tutoring. It wasn't that I didn't want to do it; rather, I worried about my own inadequacies. What if I wasn't good at explaining fractions? What if my child didn't like me or wouldn't listen to me? Thankfully, though, because I was a fellow, tutoring was not an optional activity. I knew I would be there faithfully each week. And after a few short weeks of being there, I realized that the most important thing was just that: being there. The more I was there, the more I got to know the child I tutored. And as our relationship developed, it became easier to face the other obstacles; fractions and beyond.

I'm now in my second year of tutoring, and my hesitations have been replaced with other thoughts. On Wednesday mornings, for example, I find myself looking forward to playing word bingo with Kortney, even though she will probably beat me again. I walk past the Discovery Museum and think, "I bet Kortney would like that. Maybe we can come here together this summer." Tutoring is not just some abstract, impersonal thing I do each week to fulfill volunteering obligations; rather, it is a time where I get to pour time into this sweet child that I have come to care for deeply and see her grow and excel. I get to hear about her nephew's birthday party and the family trip to Red



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Laura Stocke

Asia Jefferies

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Executive Director

What a Privilege It Is, Continued

Lobster. I get to see her class assignments posted on the hallway outside her classroom. I get to help her study for her spelling bee and I get to celebrate her academic successes with her. I get to be a part of all this!

This past Wednesday was my last day of tutoring for this school year. We finished up assessments to measure how much the students have learned this year, and I could not help but think that this has been just as much of a learning experience for me as it has been for them. We headed back out to the playground and the laughter and running resumed until the bus arrived to take the children home. It is sad to think that I won't step back onto that playground for a while, but I'm already looking forward to next fall when those sweet sounds return and I get to be there again, investing and sharing, teaching and learning. What a privilege it is.

Financial Report by Susan Prindle

In the current economy, many have asked about CALM's financial status. First, we say great thanks to those who made gifts at the end of last year and to all who have given during the first 5 months of 2009. We praise God for His provision through you that allows us to continue to pay our staff and ministry costs!

We do have to report that giving has been down this year. We have been notified by some of our individual and church supporters that they must reduce their giving to CALM this year. With this in mind the Board has challenged our staff to reduce costs wherever possible but we are trying to avoid drastic measures or lay-offs while we seek God's direction and renew our efforts to raise operating funds.

Please consider the role God might want you to play. We would love to welcome new members onto the CALM support team. Of course, single gifts of any size are greatly appreciated but regular giving is even better. It is very helpful to receive gifts that come with a faith promise to continue regular giving on a monthly, quarterly or semi-annual basis as the Lord provides. If you are so led, please consider this opportunity to let us know of your continued commitment to the ministry.

Here are some other ways you might help. Introduce your friends to CALM and invite them to participate in our programs and/or financial support. Give us names of those who would like to receive our newsletter. Perhaps you could arrange for us to meet with the leaders of your church or organization about the possibility of their support. We need key volunteers to assist with outreach in many local churches. There are also opportunities to help with fund-raising like attending the Father's Day Festival and bidding in the silent auction or volunteering to assist with other events. Maybe your group could hold a yard sale to benefit CALM. If your group has other ideas for a fund-raising event for CALM, talk with us.

And whether you can give or not, we covet your prayer support as we know that we must rely on the Lord or all our efforts are in vain.

In 2008 the ministry cost just over \$500,000, not counting a down payment for purchase of the Prospect property. Individual givers, including small businesses and personal charities, provided 28% of the money and are critical to the ministry's future. Additional support came from churches (20%), City and City Schools for Tutoring (33%) and other sources including United Way, etc. (19%). In 2009, we must rely on even more support from individuals and churches. Is now a time for you to become a regular CALM giver?

Mail gifts to CALM at PO Box 3482, Charlottesville, VA 22903, or contact us about ways you can help to support this ministry at 434-970-2077 or e-mail us at Main@charlottesvilleabundantlife.org. Thank you!

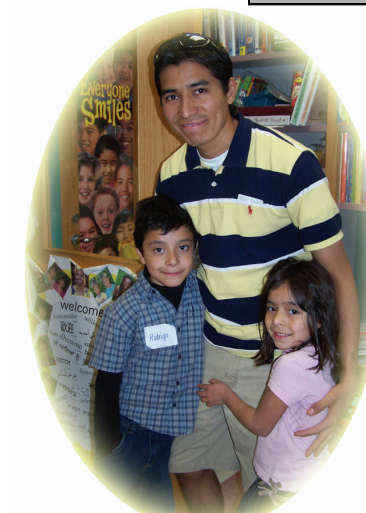
How do you say... by Claire Moore

For the past six weeks Abundant Life has had the privilege of co-sponsoring a family night at Johnson Elementary for the ESL students and their families. The program was a partnership between Abundant Life, the Adult Learning Center and Johnson Elementary School. Each Thursday night, April Hoffman, an ESL teacher at Johnson, various volunteers and I jumped in our respective vehicles and drove all over Fifeville picking up families of all shapes, sizes and backgrounds; Burmese, Mexican, Congolese, Thai, Salvadoran, and Burundian. April did a fantastic job of reminding kids to bring families and as the weeks went by, parents and kids waited excitedly for us to pull up with the big purple van to take them to class.

Each evening included two classes for the adults, playtime for the kids and a dinner for all the families to come share together. When the families arrived, the kids were taken outside with dedicated, high-energy volunteers and the parents were taken to the ESL classroom for class. The first part of class was dedicated to explaining and teaching parents how to do specific, important tasks like filling out an application, addressing an envelope, understanding appointment cards, and using a map and giving directions. After class, we brought the kids in from the playground to meet up with their families where we all ate dinner together in the cafeteria. The food we served mostly came from local businesses that generously donated delicious platters and trays of food. Dinners were always a fun time of meeting new people and chatting while kids enjoyed the food, their families, and played with each other. After dinner, the kids were excited and ready to go back outside as their parents returned to class for another 45 minutes or so. During the second class time, each adult was given a children's book that our instructor from the Adult Learning Center, Pepper Boyer, read to them aloud. After going through the book together, the class broke into smaller groups and each adult read through the book with a volunteer helping them along. We strived to give parents more confidence when reading so they could keep reading with their kids at home and be a bigger part of their child's education.

Because these events required a lot of work and coordination, we felt extremely blessed to have so many people pitch in and help.

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The Reyes Family

Father's Day Festival!

June 20th 12pm-8pm

VOLUNTEERS Needed!!

Help us celebrate Fatherhood by donating your time! Each shift is 2 1/2 hours and are:

11:30am-2pm

2pm-4:30pm

4:30pm-7pm

Contact Claire Moore at:

Email: Claire@charlottesvilleabundantlife.org

or call (434) 970-2016

To donate items for the silent auction or funds for the event, contact:

April Biser

Email: April@charlottesvilleabundantlife.org

Phone: (434) 970-2016

