

## Bringing the Joy of Christ to the Neighborhood! by Laurie Hendrickson

The area known by the ZIP code “53206” is often dismissed as one of the poorest and most troubled neighborhoods in Milwaukee. **But God!** When we pour His Spirit into the people and ministries around us - God is glorified!

Thanks to all who prayed, contributed and served at the Adopt a Block Outreach hosted by New Testament Central City Church on 24th and Center. In the heart of 53206, we partnered with the people of God to share the love and good news of Jesus Christ in a community that needs it most.



Five ministries, multiple churches, and 100 volunteers partnered to do what BASICS does best - unite urban and suburban resources for the glory of God to serve over 500 people from the neighborhood and surrounding area.

According to Elder Bruce Hunter, NTCCC, “it was like a little bit of heaven, with black, white, brown and Asian, joined together sharing the love of Christ.”

In an area where people often feel threatened, we worked hard to provide a safe, fun environment for the community to come together. Thanks to His Banquet Ministries and Milwaukee Rescue Mission, neighbors were blessed to share a free cookout for the

neighborhood. Shalom Ministries provided their mobile stage and gospel-centered dramas, New Testament Central City Church provided Spirit-filled worship. African Dance and drumming was a highlight and showcased the immense cultural talents of the youth. The kids truly enjoyed the bounce house, face painting and games, all the while volunteers moved through the crowd connecting with guests, offering prayer and compassion.

One volunteer was deeply moved by this event. “As I was walking, I noticed a young woman who looked distraught. When I asked ‘you look like you are struggling, how can I help?’ she responded ‘my family is broken, I’ve lost my kids.’ We were able to pray together, and I was able to connect her with caring volunteers from the church to support her in ongoing needs.”

Several from the area commented “there’s something different going on here.” When asked “Why are you doing this?” it was easy to say simply “because the Lord loves you.”

*“May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people overflow, just as our love for you overflows. May He, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all His holy people. Amen.” 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 ■*



# SYIS Milwaukee 2018 by Deanna Ratz



Deanna Ratz

This past July, I was able to attend the week-long Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills (SYIS) Training. 25 people from around the country gathered to learn from 5 facilitators about topics like “Loving Listening”, “Confronting Well”, “Helping Others Manage Conflict”, “Managing Stress” and many more.

The lessons were taught in an interactive way. Each topic we covered was beneficial. Even in the areas that are already strengths for me, like listening, I learned some helpful ways to improve.

The days were long and intense, but with the interesting topics and structure of the lessons, the time passed quickly. Each topic’s lesson had a typical pattern. 2 facilitators spent time teaching about a concept. Then they demonstrated some of the techniques to help put the concept into practice. Finally they had us practice what we learned with each other. The practice time was the most challenging for me (it wasn’t easy for me to improvise scenarios and dialogues on the spot), but even though it was difficult, I saw the value in it to help us internalize and begin walking out what we were learning.

One of the biggest highlights of the week was the people in the class. It was such a fun mix of people. Many of them worked for mission organizations and had spent time on the mission field. They all had interesting perspectives to share, and by the end of the week, we felt like family. Going into the week, I didn’t anticipate feeling that level of connection with people, and that was an unexpected blessing!

One other blessing from the week: coincidentally my roommate was offered the opportunity to take it by one of her church leaders and decided to sign up for it. So during the week we were both able to process through what we were learning together.

**The next opportunity to go through SYIS in the Milwaukee area is April 28<sup>th</sup> - May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.**

I would strongly encourage anyone to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to grow in your relational skills. What we learned was applicable to all types of relationships – family, marriage, friendships and work – so it is very practical! Visit [www.relationshipskills.com](http://www.relationshipskills.com) for more information about SYIS and to find out how you can register for the 2019 Milwaukee session.



*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”*  
Colossians 3:12-14 ■

# Pop-Up Church Brings Jesus to the City by Dan Quakkelaar

**Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” – Matthew 19:21**



Frank Woods helping draw people in

“Pop-Up Church” is a new ministry effort undertaken by The Captive Project and Friend of Sinners Church. They have a schedule of Pop-Up Church events throughout the city at various locations. The idea is to hit the hood with the LOVE of Christ.

That means bringing hot food, the gospel and opportunities for prayer to various locations in the city. While there is a carefully planned schedule for Pop-Up Church, most people would not have any idea where the church will pop-up next.

Intersections like 10<sup>th</sup> and Atkinson, 16<sup>th</sup> and Becher, and 22<sup>nd</sup> and Cherry all are on the schedule.

Those coming up to a Pop-Up Church location will discover Christians willing to provide drive-up prayer or deliver a meal to the hungry. This is indeed what the world should see about the Gospel. Faith doesn’t end with intellectual assent to the doctrines of the church. Those doctrines lay a foundation of understanding that, with the work of the Holy Spirit, motivate Christians to bring Biblical Mercy to the lost – not only in terms of the spiritual truth of the Word, but also the faith of believers worked out in physically manifested love for our neighbors.

If you would like to participate in this new movement, born in Milwaukee, or learn how your church can build your own Pop-Up Church ministry, you can contact The **Captive Project** for more information: **414-771-6000.** ■



# Busy Spring and Summer in The Woodlands by Neva Hill



Some of the other classes we currently offer for youth and adults include ESL, Homework help, Trauma, Cooking, Driver License recovery, Child Support help, Covenant, and Art.

We also had many activities and field trips for the youth to participate in this summer. In addition, we are currently host two boys Basketball Leagues.

None of this would be possible without the different churches and organizations that work together to serve the Woodlands. Some of them include Christian Faith Fellowship Church, Cross Way Church, Spirit Life, and Evangel Assembly of God.

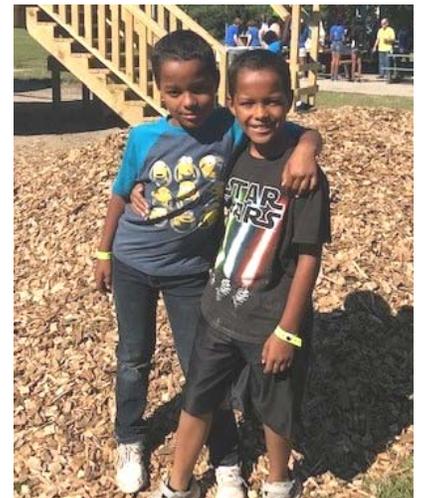
Next Step Ministries also served in the community for many weeks. Some examples of how Next Step blessed us this summer: they installed several fences for the residents including the Resource Center and Garden; they led a daily Bible Study; held a cook-out every Wednesday evening; and they spent a lot of time just engaging with the kids.

**S**pring and Summer of 2018 was a very productive and fruitful time in the Woodlands Community. Spring began with the BASICS prayer team hosting a prayer walk here. The prayer walk was very beneficial to support the many activities and events that followed during a very busy and exciting season. Without prayer it would've been impossible to sustain and stabilize the community for the Summer.

The team and I are rooted in the community and committed to change, which leads us to concentrate our efforts in several areas. One main area of focus is youth and adult employment. Woodlands Resource Center offers resume help, personal etiquette, and dress for success. With the help of some local businesses, we were able to assist several men find employment. We were also able to hire several youth for employment for eight weeks through Earn and Learn summer program offered through the City of Milwaukee. Many youth were given the opportunity to learn different life skills.

Many different organizations played a part in supporting the Woodlands during these past few months. It was so encouraging to see the Body of Christ coming together in the unity of His Spirit to minister to our community!

*“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord.”*  
**Zechariah 4:6 ■**



## BASICS Mini-Golf FUN-raiser a Success!



**O**n Thursday August 16th, we had our first ever Mini-Golf FUN-raiser at Tee-Aire Mini-Golf in Brookfield, and it was a blast! The forecast promised rain, but God was faithful to hold it

off until the moment we were just finishing packing up our cars!

about our ministry at each Tee Box, so each golfer was able to complete trivia questions based around those facts and turn in their sheet to receive a BASICS mug at the end of the evening.

The total amount that was raised was \$9,600 to benefit BASICS ministry in the city. We are so grateful for everyone who attended and helped make our first Mini-Golf event a success, to our sponsors and our friends, both old and new; and special thanks to Alisa Novak of ABC Fundraising With Alisa who did an amazing job helping to organize and plan this event for us, as well as the many other volunteers and staff who served that night!

We had dinner and a time of fellowship, Bart and Kim Helmbreck led us in worship, then we shared about the ministry of BASICS, including testimonies of how God has been working in Milwaukee from BASICS Board member Roy Cambronero and Adrienne Hunter, CEO/President of Servant Manor.



*“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”*  
**2 Corinthians 9:8 ■**

There were special putting contests and a raffle, followed by a fun time of Mini-Golf! While they were golfing, the attendees also had a chance to learn more about BASICS. We had posted facts

# Presidents' Corner



When I was a kid I loved watching the cartoon Popeye. When pushed to the extreme Popeye the Sailor Man would say “That’s all I can standz, I can’t standz no more.” Then he downs a can of spinach to receive super human strength to physically make things right. In Christian terms this has been called a moment of “Holy Discontent.”

Milwaukee is known as a city divided. Politicians have blamed one another for decades. Crime and open racism are exploding in front of our eyes. Hope is dwindling.

Good thing we have our lifeline connected to HOPE! Jesus is our Rock! I believe Christ and his Church are the answer to our world as He works in and through us to love His kids.

*“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*  
Galatians 6:10

Over the past 4 years, Laurie & I have been attending a predominantly African-American congregation on 24<sup>th</sup> and Center. Here, we are the minority.

Earlier this year, we had dinner with a wonderful African-American pastoral couple. After asking about their experiences living in a predominantly white culture and hearing some really hard stories of their experiences with racism, I was challenged: “If you’re really serious about racial reconciliation, watch the documentary “13th” on Netflix. As with all documentaries, they tend to be slanted toward their cause, yet the realities of generational racism become evident. “13th” is about our 13th

by Gary and Laurie Hendrickson

Amendment, which was ratified on **Dec 6, 1865**. Section 1 outlawed personal slavery and involuntary servitude (*except as punishment for a crime*).

In the years following, the South reestablished many of the provisions of the black codes in the form of “Jim Crow laws”. These were restrictive laws designed to limit the freedom of African-Americans and ensure their availability as a cheap labor force after slavery was abolished during the Civil War. These remained firmly in place for *almost a century* but were finally abolished with the passage of the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**.

*For evil men to accomplish their purpose it is only necessary that good men should do nothing.* E. Burke

After watching the movie, my “Holy Discontent” was triggered. How can we be Brothers and Sisters in CHRIST Serving together (BASICS) when I’m unaware and clueless to my brothers and sisters? I asked God “How can BASICS be part of restoring Your family?”

## Front Row Seat

We are looking for folks who experience a similar sense of “I need to do something.” Here’s the plan: Hosted by a church, 4 chairs of (white male/female) facing 4 chairs of black brothers & sisters. 2 facilitator couples, an audience to experience it and offer feedback at the end.

One of the participants expresses why they came. After that we’ll see what the Holy Spirit wants to happen! No other agenda!

Recently, God unexpectedly had us trial Front Row Seat. As people shared honest dialog, it was amazing what God did to solidify relationships. That is a significant step to unity. ■



Join us and be a part of the Reconciliation:

- Watch the documentary
- As God stirs up new insights
- Call BASICS 414.372.7200
- Attend the next Front Row Seat Dialog

*“Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.” Psalms 106:3*

Find us on: **facebook.**

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## Donate to BASICS

BASICS is Brothers and Sisters in Christ Serving Together in Prayer, Care, Share and Prepare to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to Milwaukee.

If you would like to support BASICS’ ministry work or a specific Minister-to-Milwaukeee:

(Designate cause, program or Minister-to-Milwaukeee on the memo line) and send to:

### Make check payable to:

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