

“Royal Treatment” for Foster Kids by Lisa Bly



In Milwaukee County, there are approximately 2,000 children in foster care. Royal Family KIDS Milwaukee is a ministry focused specifically on creating positive memories for foster children, ages 7-11. Our mission is to help transform communities by interrupting the cycle of abuse, neglect and abandonment. One way we accomplish this is by treating kids **ROYALLY!**



Our program includes a week-long overnight camp experience where kids can “just be kids.” We also have special events such “Everybody’s Birthday Party,” a Tea Party with Grandma and Grandpa, and a talent show. Our interactive Bible curriculum uses songs

and drama to help kids learn how much God loves them. Following camp, there is an eight-month mentoring program which allows the kids to continue building relationships with loving, adult role-models.

Royal Family KIDS (RFK) Milwaukee is part of a national organization that serves 200 camps across the country. This past year, our Milwaukee camp enlisted help from 100 volunteers, representing at least 16 different churches, who worked together to create an unforgettable week for our 61 kids. It’s a picture of the body of Christ, extending loving arms to the “least of these.”

RFK is really a mission trip close to home. Our population can be challenging. You might wonder why someone would volunteer for a week, often sacrificing vacation time and knowing that success is sometimes hard to measure. The story of one little girl might give you some insight into how we can impact kids’ lives in unexpected ways.

One nine-year old girl was struggling with defiance. We had pulled her aside to discuss expectations and possible consequences. She told us we didn’t care... we just were there because we got paid to be there. We told her everyone at camp was a volunteer. She was taken aback and asked why we would do that. We told her how much God loves all of us, and how that motivates us to want to show that love to kids like her. When the tears started to flow, we asked her why she was sad, which was a dramatic change from her previous angry demeanor. She said that at home, when she makes a mistake or disobeys, she gets punched. We assured her that nothing like that would ever happen at camp. Camp would always be a safe place, even if you made mistakes.

One of our mottos in Royal Family is to “make moments matter.” For that little girl, and for many other RFK kids, those small moments can make a life-changing difference. In just 100 hours, you can change the trajectory of their lives. You can help them understand just how much their heavenly Father loves them, and that they are indeed **ROYALTY!**



If you are interested in making an impact in the lives of these children, please contact Lisa Bly, RFK Milwaukee Director at milwrfkc@yahoo.com or 414-614-0674, milwaukee.royalfamilykids.org. ■

Our generous donors help BASICS send Staff and foster kids to camp to learn about God’s love for them! See below to find out how you can give a gift today to help BASICS continue to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to Milwaukee.

Giving is Easy!

BASICS is Brothers And Sisters In Christ Serving together uniting city and suburban churches to share the hope of Jesus Christ in Milwaukee.

To support BASICS’ ministry work or a specific Minister-to-Milwaukee:

Make check payable to:

BASICS in Milwaukee, Inc.
2224 W. Kilbourn Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1614

OR



You can designate BASICS in Milwaukee as the recipient of your donation via the “write-in option” with the United Way.

Are you utilizing tax advantages?

For those of you who are 70½ or older and have required minimum distribution (RMD) IRA funds to draw down:

To find out how to use your RMD to your best advantage, visit www.basicsinmke.org/rmd-giving



Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills – A Unique Experience

by Kirsten Johnson

Kirsten is Director of Connections & Small Groups at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa. This is her perspective after participating in a Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills workshop earlier this year.



It is not all that often that I find myself regularly reflecting upon or actively utilizing tactics learned in workshops or seminars. Life is busy, old habits are hard to break, and the events themselves have not always been as innovative as promised.

My “Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills” experience was truly unique. From the time I registered to the end of the last session, no detail was left uncovered. Prior to the week-long commitment of SYIS, participants were readied for the week with upbeat communication and advance reading. Upon arrival we were met warmly and enthusiastically as well as given the opportunity to spend time getting to know the participants prior to diving into the work of the week.

Certainly, the success of any program is dependent upon the effort put forth by the participant. But the professionalism and engagement of the facilitators, the program layout, and the learning environment are significant factors. SYIS has thought of everything!

Weaving together hard work, lightheartedness and fellowship, SYIS seamlessly brings those previously unknown to each other into an inviting and safe environment. Based upon the purpose of growing in our knowledge, attitudes and skills in how we relate to one another in love and what God’s Word says about our relation-

ships allows for a rich environment in which to apply those skills to our own situations.

Covering topics such as loving listening, building trust, advice and problem solving, conflict resolution, moral purity, stress and margin management, and even grief, SYIS is an investment appropriate for even the most seasoned participant. There is not a team, corporation, church, school, or family that could not benefit from the interpersonal skill work that occurs during this workshop. Learning and practicing biblically-based interpersonal skills is what is going to change this world!

The workshop allowed appropriate time for self-reflection. The facilitators were adept at incorporating tools to ensure the skills that were honed during the week would be useful as we graduated back into “real life.” The workbook that was provided has become a valued reference tool, remaining within easy reach and I have referenced it many times in any given week. The time I invested in SYIS has changed my thinking style, allowing me to better manage the emotional environment of both my personal and professional life.

SYIS is returning to Milwaukee in 2020! Workshops will be taking place **April 26th – May 1st** and **July 12th – 17th**. Contact deanna@basicsinmke.org for more info.

“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is complete in us.”

1 John 4:11-12 ■



Mini-Golf FUN-Raiser – A Night of Encouragement and Fellowship

On July 23rd, BASICS held our 2nd annual Mini-Golf FUN-raiser. This year’s event was at Helman’s Driving Range in Menomonee Falls.

Dinner was generously provided by Cousins Subs. During the program, we heard testimonies about BASICS work in Milwaukee, including one from Pastor Bobby Sinclair of Community of Grace Baptist Church.

The program also included a raffle drawing and Ball Toss and Longest Putt contests. Some of the exciting prizes for the raffle and contests included Bartolotta restaurant gift certificates, Fiserv Forum gift cards and a gift certificate to Apple Tree Lane Bed and Breakfast in Waupun!

After the program, everyone enjoyed the challenging mini-golf course at Helman’s, playing with friends, new and old.

It was an evening of fellowship, encouragement and fun. Nearly \$5,000 was brought in by our generous donors! Generous gifts of our BASICS family support ministries of racial reconciliation and practical skills for healthy relationships. ■



Christ in the Community

In the midst of the music and fun, the woman stood away to the side, isolated in the crowd. Everything she owned was in that shopping cart. Time and story were written into her face.



What happens when God calls 80+ volunteers, urban and suburban to celebrate Him in an at-risk neighborhood? The community is encouraged. The gospel is shared. Lives are changed. Warm weather is a time for block parties,

and this Block Party for Jesus was no exception!

Hosted by New Testament Central City Church, BASICS partnered with amazing servant volunteers from Southbrook in Franklin WI, Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Child Evangelism Fellowship and more! Free food, music, fun and games filled the street of 24th and Center.

Neighbors showed up - over 700 shared a meal and received gift bags of toiletries and household items that were generously provided by the Milwaukee Rescue Mission!

As sometimes happens in life, just one week prior to the Outreach, several who had planned to participate in music and dance had to back out. So God filled the stage that day including a family of worship dancers from Central Wisconsin, the New Testament Central City Church Worship team, two powerful pieces of gospel rap and a 16 year old who preached the gospel, sharing God's love and redemption.

As a result, at least 21 children and 3 adults put their trust in Christ. A couple brought their grandson, he stayed, and then returned for church the next day! During a follow up visit, coordinators Charles and Dee Mingo spent time with one of the families who had attended, sitting with them to answer questions they had about God's story, and His love for them. 6 women responded to the sign offering prayer. A mom rededicated her life to Christ, along with her three children, a niece and a nephew!

And the woman from the beginning of the story? She was treated with dignity and the love of Christ, as a beloved daughter made in the image of the Father. A volunteer stayed with her cart so she could enjoy a meal, got her a soft chair so that she could sit to hear the message and enjoy the day. She was treated with the tenderness and respect she deserved. That's Christ in the community. ■



MPD Chaplains Providing Support to Officers by George Papachristou



George Papachristou

It is no secret that police officers suffer from a list of risk factors such as exposure to violence, suicide and other job-related stressors, depression, anxiety, or other mental illness, substance abuse, domestic abuse, access to means to kill oneself and poor physical health. The profession has seen the importance of acting to prevent suicide and promote ongoing mental wellness.

For prevention efforts to be successful, agencies must also address cultural and environmental barriers to prevention at all levels, specifically the still-pervasive stigma that discourages at-risk officers from seeking help for fear of negative peer reactions or career ramifications, lack of comprehensive suicide prevention policies and insufficient training for officers or health care providers.

The Milwaukee Police Department and the Milwaukee Police Association are at the forefront of this initiative. Both organizations understand that care for officers' mental and emotional health is equally as important as the training given for officer street survival and physical health. This has led to the creation of the "Mental Wellness Team" (MWT) by the Milwaukee Police

Department. The MPD Chaplaincy Program is embedded in the Mental Wellness Team as a key component with much more of a role in addressing officer mental health and wellbeing issues than is normally found in other agencies with chaplaincy programs.

I serve as lead chaplain with Andrew Stallworth and Ted Jansen serving as my assistants. All of us are former MPD officers and members of the International Conference of Police Chaplains. The chaplains work with the 1800 officers of the department and their families regardless of rank or religious belief. They provide spiritual guidance or counseling at the request of individuals and visit the various police districts offering support and when asked, pastoral care. They also ride along with officers as they perform their duties to form relationships and offer support.

Over the past two years I have been privileged to officiate at the weddings of four officers, and sadly the funerals of six officers, three of whom died in the performance of their duties. The aftermath of the line of duty deaths has caused many officers to question the purpose of their profession and their spiritual faith. I have initiated a Bible study group for the men and women of law enforcement to assist them with these doubts.

Please pray for us in our roles as chaplains with the MPD – and continue to pray for the safety of all law enforcement officers. ■

Baptism from Heaven! by Mark Mallwitz

On Sunday, July 28th, a group of about 50 saints came to observe the gift of baptism of four saints at Ottawa Lake State Park. These brave, committed brothers and sister in Christ publicly proclaimed their love of Jesus Christ to a very crowded and public beach all for His Glory!



Worship before the baptisms

BASICS aims to direct disciples of Jesus Christ to their local churches, and not to compete with the church. Yet, BASICS had the privilege of baptizing these dear people with the Body of Christ coming together including pastors, ministry leaders, family and friends to proclaim what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and to obey His message and example to be baptized.

It was an absolute joy to watch the Body of Christ come together, where the only focus was praising Jesus Christ, exhorting our brothers and sisters in the Lord to go forward in their declaration of their love for Him, and to enjoy sweet fellowship together for a heavenly afternoon with the family of God!

Here are several quotes from these saints on why they were baptized:

“The Lord allowed me to go the ends of myself, until I had nothing else but Him.”

“I want others to know that He changed my life completely and each day He is continuing to work on and mold me into His image.”

“I want people to understand that this baptism is not about me but about Jesus”

“The day I accepted You as Lord and Savior, You rescued me, revealed Yourself to me, and that was the greatest day of my life!”

One exciting testimony was of a father who was playing out in the lake with his children and was quite a distance from the baptism.

As the baptism continued, the Holy Spirit drew him, first to stop playing with his children, then to physically come closer to the baptism group, and by the end of the baptism, he was listening intently and hearing beautiful testimonies of changed lives.

We will probably never know what the Lord was doing in this man’s heart, but we saw a glimpse of God’s amazing love, power and grace being extended to everyone, and this father was being drawn to his Heavenly Father!

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” Romans 12:10-11 ■



Mark and the 4 saints baptized in Ottawa lake



<https://www.facebook.com/ServingMilwaukee>

EMAIL VALERIE at:

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with any events or announcements you’d like shared on our Facebook site.



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“Good News” Newsletter is published quarterly by BASICS in Milwaukee, Inc. 2224 W. Kilbourn Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53233-1614

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