

Neighborhood Action Center

Offering Homework Help to Children at Autumn Woods

As a result of the Christmas Eve Offering in 2007, Fellowship began an initiative in partnership with EACS which became known as The Neighborhood Action Center (NAC) at Autumn Woods apartments near South Anthony and Paulding. The NAC is an effort to help close the educational achievement gap that many Harding area students face by placing educational resources in the poverty impacted areas where the students live. Several FMCers continue to be involved in this effort as homework helpers. Students (mostly Burmese refugees) line up outside the NAC apartment almost everyday waiting for a caring adult to help assist them with their homework lessons.

Here are the details for involvement:

1. Homework Help is available for students at the NAC Monday through Thursday from 2:30-6pm.
2. The homework help time is divided by grades.
 - 2:30--4pm Kindergarten through 2nd grade
 - 4pm-5pm 3rd-5th grade
 - 5pm-6pm middle school and high school
3. An application and background check is required by the NAC of all volunteers

Volunteers who will serve as homework helpers for all age levels are needed. However one of the greatest needs currently is for those who can assist middle and high school students with math. If you feel moved to serve these students in the name of Jesus, please sign up at the GO Day counter in the Atrium and speak to other volunteers about their experience.

To learn more about opportunities to serve at the Neighborhood Action Center, contact Joe Johns at 447.3578 or jjohns@fmcfw.org.



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Helping to Bridge the
Educational Gap of Young
People in SE Fort Wayne

BRIDGE MAKERS mentoring students from Harding High School

BridgeMakers is a program in partnership with East Allen County Schools that provides mentors for 21st Century Scholars from Paul Harding High School.

A Little Background

For months now, the future of Paul Harding High School has been in the news. Recently East Allen County Schools announced the decision to close Harding with the intention of reopening the school as an academy. All students from Harding will be required to transition to a new school in the fall of 2011. This time of transition carries all kinds of challenges and bears the potential for cultural, personal and academic conflict. Since Paul Harding High School is just down the road from FMC, we began to ask ourselves what God would have us do to love our neighbors well and to make a difference in the lives of young people in SE Fort Wayne.

After much prayer, discussion and planning, Fellowship applied for a grant that would allow us to create an intentional mentoring program to come alongside a group of students to assist them during this time of transition, helping them succeed in their education and training in high school and beyond. We are amazed and excited that Fellowship Missionary Church was chosen to be one of only 8 organizations in the state of Indiana to receive this grant. BridgeMakers, under the leadership of Karen Matitu, is the result of this incredible opportunity.

What's a 21st Century Scholar?

The 21st Century Scholars Program began in 1990, providing tuition to Indiana state colleges and universities to students from lower to moderate income families. These students pledge to maintain certain academic and personal standards. FMC elder, Martin Murphy, is the Parent Coordinator for the northeast Indiana 21st Century Scholar Program.

You can be a BridgeMaker!

You can influence the lives of our future policemen, teachers, grocery store managers, scientists, recording artists, even mayor, by responding to God's call to see these young people as He does.

There are three levels of involvement in the BridgeMakers Program.

Pray

Sign up to be a BridgeMakers Prayer Partner. Pray for the kids in the program. Pray for their mentors. Pray for other agencies implementing mentoring programs at Harding such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Pray for diverse volunteers to step forward within FMC. Pray the Kingdom will be advanced.

Give

BridgeMakers needs businesses and individuals to step into some of the financial needs not covered by the grant, such as tuition for PSAT assistance or tickets to a sporting event for the mentor and mentoree to attend together.

Serve

Mentor a 21st Century Scholar from Harding in a one-to-one relationship. This is a one year commitment requiring about 4 hours of your time each month participating in individual and group activities designed to support the student. Mentors will be screened and trained.

What's it take to be a Mentor?

You have to:

1. have a heart for young people (meaning you have to like kids!) Experience working with youth is helpful.
2. believe in education as a means to create pathways of opportunity.
3. have time to commit.

To sign up for BridgeMakers or to learn more, stop by the counter in the Atrium or contact Karen Matitu at 447.3578 or kmatitu@fmcfw.org.

