



The ECHO

Evangelizing Children's Hearts in Omaha

Official voice of Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Omaha

September 2020

Community Good News Clubs are launched despite school shutdown



Good News Club is the primary tool CEF has for discipleship.

In August it became clear to the ministry that the Good News Club® (GNC®) program would not be able to continue as it normally does due to COVID-19. The chapter previously had 20 clubs in seven school districts, but as the start of the school year approached it became clear that every district had a different way of navigating COVID. All of the school districts were firm on one thing: No outside groups would be allowed to use their school buildings.

This information got the staff brainstorming alternatives. After all, CEF had been doing *Good News Club's* long before they ever took place in the schools. The result, after much prayer and brainstorming, was to contact our church partners with the hopes of launching community based clubs at the churches. We encouraged the churches to consider serving the kids dinner as an incentive to get them to attend.

On September 12, GNC team members gathered at the annual Kick-Off Rally. These leaders will launch nine community clubs, impacting nine of our existing schools and two new locations, with the hopes of at least three more to be launched within the next two months. (See page 4 for list of club locations.)

It is exciting that PowerPoint and technology is being implemented in almost all the clubs. Since most churches are already equipped with screens and projectors this was an easy thing to implement and something that the chapter has been hoping to test out. One highlight of doing clubs using PowerPoint is that the song videos that



Esther Beasley teaches using PowerPoint. This is being replicated in more clubs this fall.

CEF Inc. produces can be used in the clubs.

Many thanks to each person who is teaching a club this year. Please pray that these community clubs will allow us to reach even more children, due to clubs not being tied to a single school building.

Prayers are answered as 5-Day Clubs continued through pandemic



Kids enjoy listening to Caleb Dickey teach the Bible lesson at a 5-Day Club at the home of Pastor Gavin and Sarah Johnson

This summer God answered so many prayers as hundreds of kids attended 5-Day Club® and dozens chose to put their trust in Christ. 5-Day Clubs are held outdoors making it much easier to slow the spread of COVID. Kids were bored and excited to get out of the house to attend clubs. Several clubs had over 30 kids attend and one club in North Omaha attracted over 100 children.

A total of **74 clubs** were taught by **83 teens**. These clubs were held all over the Omaha metro area, Council Bluffs and Blair. Teams were sent to Henderson and St. Paul, NE and Worthington, MN. Together these clubs attracted over **1,100 children** with at least a dozen kids making a salvation decision.

Due to COVID there was much uncertainty going into summer ministry, but at each step you can see how God faithfully orchestrated every detail so that kids could be evangelized. Evangelism is the heart behind the 5-Day Club program.

It is such a joy and privilege to watch children respond to the Gospel. Thank you for praying for the ministry this summer! God was at work in a million little ways. To Him be the glory for everything that He accomplished this summer!



Kids enjoying playing Drip, Drip, Drench at a club at Karen Christian Revival Church

CEF of Omaha

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From My Front Porch - A Glimpse into My Heart

"You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light." (Psalm 16:28)



When it became evident that we would not be able to hold *GNC* like normal the first thing I thought was: *"God, I am tired of brainstorming?"* After having to change plans for *CYIA*™ so many times and coming off a busy summer I was tired. I knew that Brandon and Sarah would be in Missouri taking Children's Ministries Institute® which would leave us under staffed.

I told myself, this is the perfect excuse to just take it easy for a few months, or we can offer some extra training to build up our team members and do some other random projects around the office. Yet, I could not shake the burning desire God had given me to see kids reached with the Gospel.

My mind quickly recalled the verses in Jeremiah 20:9, *"If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot..."* I remember praying years ago, that God would give me a passion that was like that of Jeremiah and in that moment I knew He had answered that prayer.

Shortly after this revelation I went to *CEF* Headquarters to teach 11 classes that focused on reaching

kids who are at risk. As I taught about the tragic effects of broken families, divorce, sexual abuse and other traumatic events that children are facing today, I was again reminded of why what this ministry does is so vital.



"There is in my heart as it were a burning fire..."

Kids are literally hopeless, victims of a culture that has rejected everything Godly. How will they ever navigate life if they do not realize the truth of who God has created them to be? It is my calling and the vision of those who work with this ministry, to be in a position to reach every child in the Omaha metro area with the Gospel.

Kids are calling out for hope everywhere and my heart burns with a desire to reach them. No matter the number of kids or size of the obstacles facing us, we will not, and cannot, sit silently back.

New location announced for *CYIA* East 2021 to accommodate growth



A fun PLACE TO GET SERIOUS

Twin Lakes Bible Camp will be the new home of *CYIA* EAST.

CEF of Omaha has been holding *CYIA* at Camp Mosses Merrill in Linwood, NE for 14 years. Throughout the years the chapter has seen hundreds of students challenged in their relationship with Jesus and equipped to

share the Gospel with children.

In 2005, Jackie Weiss started *CYIA* East with just 12 students. This number has continued to grow and in 2019, we saw 90 students attend the training. Praise God for continuing to grow this ministry! As the committee and staff looked forward to what was ahead for *CYIA*, we knew there was a need for more space.

In March, Miranda Rappley, led a search effort for a new facility where at least 15 different camps and campuses were considered. God clearly lead us to pursue Twin Lakes Bible Camp. Twin Lakes Bible Camp is located in Manson, Iowa and can easily accommodate large amounts of growth. **It is with great excitement that we announce this as the new site for *CYIA* East 2021.** Please pray as the ministry transitions to this new location and works to grow the *CYIA* training program.

CEF of Omaha expresses sincere thanks to Camp Mosses Merrill. The Lord truly blessed the partnership we have had with them over the years and we are sad to have outgrown their facility.

Office Admin has increased hours after taking social media training

Hannah Schafer has served as the office administrator for *CEF* of Omaha for 11 months. During this time Hannah has kept busy doing everything from opening the mail and running background checks to processing all the *CYIA* applications and organizing the church partnership kits for *Good News Club*. She brings strong organizational skills to the team and has been invaluable to the ministry.



Hannah Schafer

This summer the decision was made to hire Village Social to train Hannah in how to properly manage, market and use social media to grow and promote the ministry. Miranda Rappley also went through the training. As the staff went through training, it became evident that managing all forms of social media is a big job and more hours would be needed for Hannah to successfully incorporate the training received.

In August, Hannah began raising financial support so that her hours could be increased. Join us in praising the Lord for his provision. Hannah began working 32 hours per week on September 1. She continues to raise more support with the goal of working 40 hours per week.

**Find us on
@cefomaha**





CYIA FALL RETREAT

OCTOBER 9-10, 2020

Camp of the Good Shepherd

10312 Agnew Rd. Louisville, NE

CYIA Fall Retreat is for teens who have attended Christian Youth in Action® or want to learn more about CYIA, a leadership training camp that challenges students in their relationship with Jesus and equips them to share the Gospel with kids.

What Time? Arrive between 5:00-5:30 p.m. on Friday. Retreat ends at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

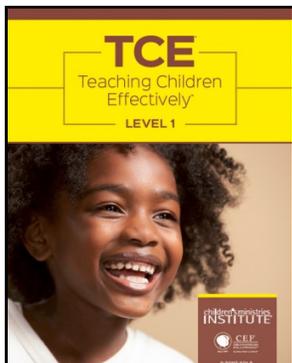
What to Bring? Sleeping bag, personal items and Bible. *(Anyone who did not attend CYIA must bring a signed notarized medical permission slip. This is available on our website or by calling our office.)*

Cost? Just \$30 at the door.

What's Happening? Chapel services and worship. Plus lots of great food, fun, games and fellowship.

Space is limited so call, Facebook or email us soon!

Training course will be offered in Jan.



Teaching Children Effectively Level 1

In January the chapter will be offering Teaching Children Effectively Level 1™ (TCE™) at the office. This course will meet on Tuesday or Thursday nights, depending on the schedule of those who sign up.

TCE is a 30 hour college accredited course for children's workers. It covers a variety of subjects including: *Sharing the Gospel with Kids, Counseling a Child for Salvation, Teaching a Bible Lesson, The Importance of*

Reaching Kids in the Community, Teaching Kids to Pray and so much more! Please let email us if you are interested in taking this course or have any questions.

New individual hired for internship

Katey is 19 years old and the youngest of four girls. She is the proud aunt to six nieces and nephews. She grew up in Oklahoma; where she was saved at age six. She moved to Omaha, almost seven years ago and started going to CYIA the summer after she moved, at age 13.



Katey Moore

Katey says: *"CYIA allowed me to feel confident sharing the Gospel not only to children, but also to adults! Whether it's the guy working at my nearest QT, the lady sitting next to me on a flight across the country, or the wide-eyed child at a club. CYIA taught me how to put into words the Gospel that we all hunger for. As my Grandma always says - 'Let souls be saved and lives be changed.' I believe this ministry is a big tool God uses to do that very thing - 'Save souls and change lives.'"*

Katey is excited to be the next intern for the ministry that gave her the confidence to share the Gospel. She began her internship on September 1 and will continue to work for the next 12-months. Upon completion, Katey will attend the Children's Ministries Institute® at CEF International Headquarters in Warrenton, Missouri.

CEF of Omaha is thrilled to have Katey as a part of the team. She has already been a huge asset as she assists with helping launch community based *Good News Clubs*.

Strategic Praying

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

- **Fundraising Dinner**

- Praise the Lord that we are able to still hold the Fundraising Dinner.
- Pray for many people who are unfamiliar with the ministry to attend the event.
- Pray for 20 more tables hosts to agree to invite more individuals to attend.
- Pray that we can raise \$50,000.

- **Good News Club**

- Praise the Lord for giving direction on how to conduct Good News Club this fall.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will be at work in the hearts and lives of the children who attend clubs.
- Pray the children who come to club will begin attending a church with their families.
- Pray we will be able to partner with new churches and go into more schools.

- **Staff**

- Pray for energy and focus as we work to fulfill the vision of CEF of Omaha.
- Pray for Sarah and Brandon as they study at Children's Ministry Institute this fall.

Community Based Good News Club Locations

MONDAY

Bartsch Home — Emily Bartsch, Jonah Slininger and Elena Fast

TUESDAY

Esther Beasley's Home — Esther Beasley (*Additional team members needed*)

Irvin Home — Lyle and Leona Irvin, Abby Barton, and Jan Glover

Louisville Efree — Ryan, Joy, Sydney, and Isaiah Folken, Ella, Emmaline, Ezra and Elise Starkjohn and Anne Pankonin

WEDNESDAY

Abiding Faith — Theresa, Michael and Naomi Stangl

Community Bible Church. — Sierra and Tristan Shippy Seth Guthrie, Roxy Kuipers and Katey Moore

Faith Bible Church — Stephen, Jane and Emily Stout, Nina and Larissa Kock

Keystone Bible Chapel — Hannah Schafer, Malinda and Jessica Boeker, Gayle Inge, Zane, Pierce and Faithful Will, Kaitlyn VanVoorst and Naomi Mattox

THURSDAY

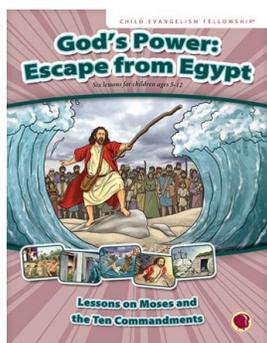
Mission Church — Esther Beasley, Sha Roh, Ehmoora and additional team members from Mission Church

POSSIBLE LOCATIONS

Millard Alliance — Miranda Rappley with team members from Millard Alliance

Open Door Mission — *Team needs to be arranged*

Iglesia Agua Viva — Details in progress



Please save the date!
Good News Club Workshops

Tuesday October 27th
 6:30-8 p.m.

or

Wednesday October 28th
 10-11:30 a.m.

Featuring:

Teaching and other ideas for the next curriculum series
God's Power: Escape from Egypt

Fundraising Dinner to be held on two nights in compliance with guidelines



Fundraising Dinner invitation cover that depicts the mission of CEF to evangelize, disciple and establish kids

Six months ago the decision was made to postpone the Fundraising Dinner with the hope of holding it this fall. It is with great anticipation that plans are being made for the dinner to be held on two consecutive nights.

This event will be held at **Emmanuel Fellowship on October 22 and 23, at 6:30 p.m.** The same program will be offered on both nights to enable us to stay within half capacity and be in compliance with state guidelines. More table hosts are still needed to invite guests. A table host attends the dinner and invites others to join them. There is no cost to attend the dinner. If you're interested in being a table host please email: esther@cefomaha.org.

CEF of Omaha extends heartfelt thanks to Keith and Lisa Strasser for their willingness to cook for both nights and to the event sponsors listed below:



The **Bill Black Team** is proud to support CEF of Omaha. Their Diamond level sponsorship makes it possible for every donation given during the event to go right toward reaching children.

Austin and Devina Griffith, owners of **Homebound Coffee**, have graciously provided all of the coffee for our event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 9-10 - CYIA Fall Retreat, *Camp of the Good Shepherd*
- Oct. 22 or 23 - Fundraising Dinner, *Emmanuel Fellowship*
- Oct. 27 or 28 - Good News Club Workshops, *CEF office*
- Nov. 6 - CMI Graduation, *Warrenton Missouri*
- May 30-June 5 - CYIA 2021, *Twin Lakes Bible Camp*