



# The ECHO

*Evangelizing Children's Hearts in Omaha*

Official voice of Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Omaha

October 2010

## Good News Clubs® now in 19 area elementary schools

“Are you going to tell us more about the man who died on the cross?” That was the question a boy asked recently at the end of a Good News Club at Fontenelle Elementary School.

Kimberly Hofer, a CEF staffer, had explained the Gospel during the lesson, but the child wanted more! She assured him he would learn a lot about Jesus in the weeks to come.

**Children are ready to hear and ready to respond to God’s message of salvation.** That is why it is so exciting our Good News Club ministry is growing.

This year the first lessons are about Moses, focusing on truths like trusting God in hard times, obeying Him when it isn’t easy, finding salvation through Jesus’ blood, and much more. Later on, the lessons will be on the life of Christ. Of course, the kids also sing, pray and enjoy snacks and games.

**Exposing unchurched children to the Word of God right in the public schools is a powerful and amazing opportunity.** But we still need more volunteers, both to help with existing clubs and for new ones we’d like to start.

Does your church know they can partner with CEF to host a Good News Club in a nearby school? Information on our Adopt-A-School program is on page three. Please consider how you can help us reach more children so they, too, can learn about “the man who died on the cross.”



Mariah Howard (left) is helping to lead one of our newest clubs at Disney Elem. School in Millard. The club has mostly boys attending!

*A Prayer Fellowship to focus on the Good News Club ministry is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 18. Please see page 4 for more details.*

Here are the schools we are in and the volunteers leading the clubs. Please pray for these important outreaches.

### Mondays:

- Boyd - Gayle, Rachel, Bethany and Kaitlyn Inge
- Carriage Hills Elem. - Scott and Kelly Hembert, Pam Albano, Mary and Brianna Hurtado, Jamie Spurlock
- Field Club - Stephen Stout, Renita Black, Kim Young, Ben Thorson
- Parkview Heights - Pastor Chris and Heather Evenson, Glenda Paswalk, Kathy Cheros, Lauren Cornic
- Springfield - Valerie and Tara Workman, Linda and Kara Siert, Sarah Cabell
- Westmont - Lyle and Leona Irvin, Kathy Tenney, Susan Hall
- Wildewood - Tim and Kris Melonis, P.K. Moran

### Tuesdays:

- Fontenelle - Pastor Michael Williams, Kimberly Hofer, Paige Harpe, Mary Ann, Maddie and Marcus Knipp
- Ft. Calhoun - Jim and Stephanie Winter, Lydia and Joe Stangl, Rachel and Betsy Grady
- Washington - Rhonda Myers, Lisa Paulson, Caleb Foote
- Louisville - Kathleen Gauthier, Keith and Kara Chase, Laurel and Caleb Reiss

### Wednesdays:

- Bancroft - Pat, Christa, Jana and Micah James
- Disney - Josiah and Mariah Howard, Jackie Weiss
- Florence - Anna, Esther and Philip Beasley, Jessica Miszuk
- Mockingbird - Pastor Daniel Bear, Mary Lou Meyers, Donna Hackett, Mary Taylor, Maria Tschetter, Hannah Klein, Trish Huempsner
- Montclair - Carolyn, Joelle, Abby and Ben Friesen

### Thursdays:

- Rohwer - Lori Schulz, Nate Schulz, Ben Schulz, Conor Curry, Mackenzie Curry, Grace Kelly
- Sunny Slope - Verne and Jan Johnson, Malinda Boeker, Carol Linda, Betty Masters
- Hoover (CB) - Kyle Gillett, Dawn Rittmiller, Glenda Andrew

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## TEAMWORK works!

Come join our Banquet Committee and help us put the puzzle together!

It has been said “*teamwork divides the tasks and multiplies the success.*” That’s why we are looking for help in two areas for our spring banquet. This annual event is an important one for us, raising not only needed funds but also new friends to partner with us in reaching children.

**First, we need Banquet Committee members.** The team will meet monthly starting in late October. The times are flexible, depending on members’ schedules. The team works together to plan the theme, table decorations, menu, silent auction and other details. They also assist at the banquet. Karen Matychuk, Rhonda Myers, Coleen Black and Jackie Weiss are current members. We are hoping for four or five more.

**Secondly, we need gifts or services for the Silent Auction.** Putting together a themed gift basket would be a great project for a Sunday School class or Bible study group. Or perhaps you know a person with a skill or resources who would be willing to make a donation if only asked.

Basket ideas could include: **Family Fun, Car Care, World of Coffee, Husker Fan, Pamper Yourself, Pet Care, Grill Master, Children’s Crafts or Gardener’s Goodies.** One of our most popular items last year was a candy basket! We would love to have some Husker football tickets to auction or a weekend at a vacation cabin.

Services could range from housecleaning to cake decorating to massages, from photography to car repairs.

Would you help us divide the tasks and multiply the success of our only fund-raising event? If so, please contact us. *Thank you.*

## Why give to CEF? For children's sake

Since CEF is a faith-based ministry, funds to employ our staff, buy teaching materials and manage our office are received entirely by donations from people who love children and CEF ministries. At the present time, giving is low. If the Lord would lay it upon your heart to do so, would you consider making gift to us this month?

We can assure you all gifts are used for God’s glory and to win children to Christ.

“*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*” (Matt. 6:20a, 21)

**eGiving**  
Supporting CEF was never easier!  
Visit our website to set up an account or call us for more details

## Getting to know the Local Committee

*Each CEF chapter is governed by a board of believers who who are concerned about the spiritual needs of children and believe in both the necessity and possibility of their coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.*



**Rhonda Myers**

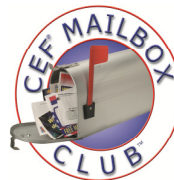
I grew up in a Christian home. However, it was not until I was age 23 that I asked Jesus to be my personal Savior.

I work at Omaha Mutual and am very involved with the children’s ministries at my church, Valley View Baptist in Council Bluffs where I live. I have helped with Sunday School, AWANA, Vacation Bible School and Children’s Choir.

It was during an AWANA training conference that I met Jackie Weiss about three years ago. She told me about a New Good News Club which had started at Hoover Elementary School in Council Bluffs which needed more helpers. I took CEF training and began to help with the club. The Lord has blessed over the years with several children trusting Christ.

I am especially excited about what the Lord has in store this coming year. A second GNC has started in Council Bluffs at Washington Elementary, and I am now volunteering there, while another team leads the Hoover Club.

CEF is a wonderful ministry that reaches kids in public school who would otherwise never hear the Gospel.



## Helping inmates’ children to break the prison cycle

Did you know that more than half of the 1.4 million adults incarcerated in state and federal prisons have minor children. *Who is reaching these children for Christ?* Some ministries have special events for these children but only bringing children to Christ and discipling them can help break the cycle of the children following their parents into prison.

CEF volunteers and staff go into prisons, distributing our *What Went Wrong?* booklets which explain the Gospel. The last page is an enrollment form for the Mailbox Club for both the inmates and their children.

Inmates are being positively affected by the lessons. They become better people and better parents. Upon their reentry into society, their relationship with their children is positively affected. It’s another way CEF is making a difference.

Of course, The Mailbox Club isn’t just for inmates and their kids. It’s great for any child! If you’d like information on how to enroll your child or grandchild, just give us a call.

The Mailbox Club is free except for postage.



## Jackie's Jottings - - From My Heart

*"Even so it is not the will of your Father that one of these little ones should perish."*

It is a blessing to get to know the people that God calls to work in the harvest fields of the public schools. We now have over 60 volunteers leading Good News Clubs! I'd like to



introduce you to a couple of them. **Pastor Chris Evenson** and his family came to Omaha to start TriPoint Baptist Church in Ralston. I met him when he called to see about ordering some children's materials. Our conversation eventually led to an opportunity for me to share CEF with his congregation. Now they have adopted Parkview Heights Elementary School, and Chris, his wife Heather, and a couple other individuals are leading the club.

The club is going great. *"It is encouraging to get calls about interest in coming,"* Pastor Chris said. He also noted that they're enjoying a good relationship with school officials. *"The teacher whose room we're using is very pleased with us, as is the principal."*

**Tim Melonis** got acquainted with CEF last year when a club was started at Sunny Slope Elem. where he worked as a security guard. This year he started a club at Wildewood Elem. where his granddaughter goes to school. He and his wife Kris lead the club along with a friend, P.K. Moran.

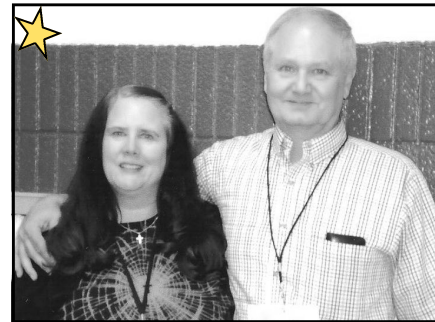
Tim and Kris attend Westside Church. Kris is a nurse with Interim Health Care and Tim is retired.

*"I think every public school ought to teach about the*

*Bible because it is part of our history. Our nation was set up with Christian leaders who followed the Bible,"* Tim said.



**Carol Lind** is now helping at Sunny Slope Elem. along with others from her church, Evangelical Bible.



Kris and Tim Melonis

*"I was saved when I was 9, and I have a real desire to reach kids for the Lord,"* she said. *"I think its wonderful to have this opening in the school. It's open now, but you never know when it will close. Even though I am busy in other areas, I felt the leading of the Lord and I knew it was important for me to become a part of this opportunity."*

Many others have joined Good News Club teams this year, and I call all the volunteers, who range from teenagers to grandparents, **shining stars** because Daniel 12:3 says, *"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."*

## CEF's Adopt-A-School program can strengthen local churches' outreach

A partnership between CEF and churches is a win-win situation! As churches look for ways to impact a community for Christ, CEF can help them **take their ministry right into a nearby school** to work with unchurched kids and families.

CEF works with school officials to set up the club and provides necessary tools, such as liability insurance, background checks and training for volunteers, and a well-organized, evangelistic plan and curriculum. CEF staff also serves as an ongoing resource for each club.

The church provides prayer warriors and volunteers and covers the cost of curriculum, snacks and prizes.

A Good News Club can help a church:

- Provide mission opportunities for members of all ages;
- Develop new children's workers and train them, not only for service in Good News Clubs but for within the church;
- Have visibility in the community;
- Cast and maintain a vision for the lost before the congregation as they see the needs of the children, hear praise reports and prayer requests.

CEF wants children we reach to find refuge in a Bible-believing church. **That could be your church.** Please call us for more details about our Adopt-A-School program.

**Have you checked out our website lately?**

[www.ceofomaha.org](http://www.ceofomaha.org)

### Strategic Praying

*"We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties." (Oswald Chambers)*

**Pray that Good News Clubs** will attract many children. Pray that all of the clubs will grow and be effective. Pray for a good working relationship with school officials.

**Pray for more volunteers** to join some of the smaller Good News Club teams so no one is overwhelmed.

**Please pray that plans for our 2011 Annual Banquet** will begin to come together soon.

**Pray for the financial needs** of our ministry and other CEF chapters across the state. Giving is down, but our God has no lack of resources.

**Pray for the new director** in Scottsbluff, Renee Galvin, and for a new CEF chapter being formed in Columbus.

Prayer Alerts are emailed each week.

Let us know if you want to receive these brief updates.

## We're praising the Lord for a ***SUPER*** summer ministry to kids!

Different words come to our mind when we think about our 2010 5-Day Club ministry — words like . . .

**Exciting!** We had 62 clubs and over 1,100 kids came and heard the Gospel. Many knew next to nothing about God or His Word, but they were so interested in listening.

**Noisy!** The children enjoyed singing “7 Most Important Things in the World” with its stomps and ‘whoos’ and a clapping, echoing version of “Jesus Loves Me.” Shouting out the “Word UP!” reinforced the teaching throughout club.

**Colorful!** The huge, bright parachutes and giant beach balls really made a splash in neighborhoods and parks.

**Opportunity!** CYIA'er **Ben Friesen** described the clubs with this word. He led several children to the Lord. Altogether, more than 60 children prayed to trust Christ as Savior, including two brothers from an unchurched home. When one of them found out he didn't get the quiet seat prize, he said, “That's okay. I don't have any sins anymore!”

**Effective!** Hostess **Beth Kempkes** noted that a child who came to faith in Christ during her club has “really been obeying her mom as one of her ways of following Jesus Christ.”

**Fun!** Kids loved coming to her club, said hostess **Karyn Olson**. “They liked getting the prizes for learning their verses. They loved playing the games. Lots of fun!”



Taylor Smithson won a bike at a club by bringing the most friends. The cool prize was donated to hostess Leona Irvin by a friend to help build excitement and attendance.

**Impressive!** Hostess **Joni Fast** said the summer missionaries who taught her club were prompt, prepared and well-trained. “I love their commitment to this. My own kids have been playing 5-Day Club since then!” Another hostess, **Rachel Wassenaar**, wrote, “This was so nice. I hope you do it again. Thank you so much.”

We will do it again. We're already looking forward to next summer, but we want to make it even better and we need your help. If you have a club each year or are interested in hosting one in 2011, **we are asking that you please think ahead and call us to schedule it by May 1.**

We are also asking that more people host clubs in June and early July. This will allow us to ‘save’ the later weeks for hostesses who are recruited as the summer goes on.

Why not make one week of your summer next year extra **exciting, noisy, colorful, effective, fun and just full of opportunity?** Call us for more information.

## CYIA EAST FALL RETREAT



Register 5-6 p.m. Oct. 15 - Over at 2 p.m. Oct. 16  
Camp of the Good Shepherd, Louisville

*For anyone who has been to CYIA East or is interested in attending next year. **CYIA'ers, bring a friend!***

Speakers: Pastor Michael Williams  
Youth Pastor Neal Gilsdorff

*Come for a time of reunion,  
refreshment, and refocusing on  
how God wants to live through us  
from the inside out!*

**Just \$15**

(\$3 discount for more teens from same family)

**Register by contacting us by Oct. 13**

Those who have not been to CYIA must bring a notarized medical permission form.  
Call us for details on how to get this form!

(402) 342-9272

## Prayer Fellowship Evening

Monday, Oct. 18, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Risen Son Baptist Church  
4932 Ohio St., Omaha

We will be sharing prayer requests from the ministry before breaking into groups to ask God to work mightily in our organization and in the hearts of children for His glory. Refreshments will be served.

*God  
Answers  
Prayer*

***Please join us!***