

WORD ON THE STREET

South Street Ministries
April 2020 Newsletter

A RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Coronavirus -- it has changed so much for all of us.

In under a month South Street Ministries (and everyone else) went from full programming and ministry to full stop. RICH KIDS has pivoted to grocery support and virtual tutoring. The Reentry team is making calls and writing letters. And the Front Porch Cafe is closed until further notice. This is a season to support and pray for South Street Ministries -- we are actively asking God how to minister in such a time as this.

We are striving to listen to community needs and respond in grace, love, and safety. This has been a challenging season for the ministry -- with changes, loss, and uncertainty. For South Street, this is a time to assess how the next few months and coming years will look as a ministry and organization.

We are thankful for an anonymous gift that was successfully matched thanks to your generosity, and I am excited to share some stories below of your generosity in action. This month's newsletter was originally themed around the youth programming of South Street Ministries. We will highlight some of the changes we have made during this pandemic and invite you into prayer for continued ministry.

Lastly, please continue in giving. In these uncertain times, we ask for your prayer and support to continue in Christian service and love in and with our communities.

For any questions, concerns, or simply to pray with and for us -- please reach out to the ministry at 330-761-1992 or to Joe Tucker at joe@southstreetministries.org. We need each other in these times.



OPEN GYM 2020

Written by David Shahata

While in the midst of social distancing and quarantining, South Street's Open Gym Program has been an aspect of connection with our youth that I have so genuinely missed. We still connect with youth and families through technology, which is a blessing. However, through the social-distance I have a new appreciation for simple things as I reflect upon our current pandemic, ministry, and Open Gym.

First, I appreciate the everyday ministry and relationships that occurred so naturally. We can miss the blessing in what seems to be the simple, everyday rhythms. I do not know when this will all be over, but my prayer is that when it does we have a renewed appreciation for the blessings in the simple. Those simple interactions I took for granted a couple months ago, I now long for.

Christ can work radically in what seems to be the simple. (continued on back page)



OPEN GYM 2020- continued

Second, I appreciate the connection that sports naturally bring. Though this pandemic is much bigger than sports, as a coach, I cannot help but notice. Sports has a way of accelerating the process of bonding and trust. This has been a felt blessing to us at Open Gym. With Open Gym's end date in May, we will not have the opportunity to do programming this season of Open Gym. But those relationships are not gone, rather the foundation we have through our connection at Open Gym allows us to step into our youth's lives beyond the confines of Open Gym itself. We have created relationships which transcends a program or a space!

Christ desires a relationship with us that transcends program, place, or circumstance. With summer coming, we are still preparing for whatever ministry is next. We invite your prayer, support, and service. E-mail Jocelyn Grant at jgrant@southstreetministries to inquire about serving with RICH Kids and Bike Shop this summer.

#AdjustTheCrown

Written by Jocelyn Grant

There is an opportunity in uncertain times -- we get a chance to choose between worry or rest, hope or doubt, skepticism or trust in God. The global moment that we currently share is full of fear, tears, unrest and death; we cannot ignore that truth. We make our choice with each dawn. My prayer for us all is that we choose life. The mere thought of life brings hope, joy, faith, trust and rest in knowing that, despite despair, Christ has been touched by the pains of life, and is with us in every experience. I stress this idea to the young ladies participating in #AdjustTheCrown. We have gone virtual in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, using Zoom as a means to communicate.

This season we have been using the principles of the Nguzo Saba as a guide for self-development. Our most recent principle was Ujamaa - "Cooperative Economics." The ladies have developed personal business plans to build careers for themselves -- what may start off as a small and easy way to make money for fun activities, could supplement or even shape the educational and career trajectories of these young ladies. By building avenues for multiple streams of income, these ladies are working to erase

statistical, social and economic barriers that have existed much longer than they have. In this, they are changing the narrative for their lives, and the lives of the family and friends they influence. Even more, most of the ladies have developed business plans that incorporate direct services for the community. They understand the impact that their developing skill sets can have on their families, peers, community and generations that follow them. In the spirit of Ujamaa they want to give away what they have been given-- knowledge, care and time.

As they think and work to build their today to change their tomorrow, pray for these young ladies. Please pray for me, and the South Street Staff as we pour into our youth. Your care, prayers, and support are appreciated!



The Front Porch

One of the most challenging facets of the Coronavirus for South Street Ministries, has been the closure of the Front Porch. As a place of gathering, social distancing has required a cessation of meetings, direct support, and meals. South Street leadership and Board of Directors are actively praying and planning through the sustainable and strategic steps for the Front Porch and Front Porch Cafe.

Stay connected to South Street's website and Facebook for updates and continue in prayer for wisdom, support, ministry, and grace as we discern forward steps for the Front Porch Cafe.

www.southstreetministries.org

