

Intern Spotlight: Grace Walker

Streets is pleased to have Grace Walker as our newest intern this summer. Grace is currently a junior at Crichton College majoring in humanities and urban studies where, this upcoming fall, she will serve as Public Relations Chair for the Student Government Association and perform with the school's dance team. Although Grace considers Memphis her home, she has lived in eight cities and attended eleven different schools before graduating from high school in 2003. While in high school, Grace was heavily involved in Young Life and was a graduate of their leadership training program in 2005. During this time, she became familiar with Streets Ministries through Antonio Burks, who played basketball at Hiwassee College where her father was a coach.

Grace is excited to be learning more about urban ministry as she continues to work with elementary age students at Streets this summer. So if you see her, please join us in making her feel welcome.



Grace (center) takes a Flav-O-Ice break with the kids.

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Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 82:3-4

STREETS - BETWEEN THE LINES

JULY - AUGUST, 2006

What's New... Still The Same Old Gas

Do you remember the old Esso gas stations? When the name was changed to Exxon, everyone asked if the product would be the same. In response to the public outcry, Exxon started a memorable campaign ad. It basically said that "our name has changed, but we're still the same old gas."

In September of this year, STREETS will start its twentieth year in the Cleaborn and Foote Homes community. It seems like only yesterday that I was rolling through the community in the old gray van and meeting kids and their families. Our first home was at Mt. Olive CME Church. We occupied the third floor that had not been used in over twenty years. We then purchased 769 Vance and moved into the former turntable factory in 1990. When Walk Body Shop became available next door in 1993, we bought it. The buildings became one, and became a home to over three hundred kids on a weekly basis.

We were very content with our facility at 769 Vance when God surprised us with an opportunity to build from the ground up. After much prayer and human research, we decided to take the plunge and build our present day 34,500 square foot facility directly across from Foote Homes. It is exactly seven tenths of a mile away from our old site.

As you well know, we held an open house recently for our supporters and the community. Many of the people who passed through asked the same question. "What will you do differently?" Each time I replied, "Nothing!"

Obviously, we sit in a bigger space with some enviable bells and whistles. We have a state of the art outreach room, game room and teen lounge for kids just looking for a safe place to hang out. The homework lab is incredible and the educational wing is a dream come true. The gymnasium is one of the finest in the city. We dream new dreams everyday. However, we are still the "same old gas."

The foundation of STREETS will always be about building relationships with young people and their families in order to share the Gospel and give them educational tools to take the next step in life. There are no shortcuts to this process. A new facility will never take the place of hanging out on the corner of Vance and Fourth and sharing the hope of Christ. The new center will never take the place of being on the school campuses daily to serve the faculty and cheer at ball games or honors programs. The new building can not take the place of sitting in a Cleaborn Homes housing unit and ministering to a mother that has just lost a child to a stray bullet.

Please don't get me wrong. We know that God has led us to this new place and we will use it for new ventures that bring glory to Him and change lives forever. However, we remain committed to going out and engaging with the community on their turf and on their terms and giving them a relational reason to step into this new facility. You see, when it is all said and done, STREETS remains dedicated to being the **same old gas**.

Your Brother in Christ,
Ken



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Summer Camp: by John Cowherd

On June 18th, Jenny and I took 30 Middle School students to summer camp for a six day stay at Memphis Leadership Foundation's *For the Kingdom* camp in Raleigh. Making this year's trip even more special was the fact that Booker T. Washington and Streets alums, Cleo and Chantelle, made the trip for the first time as part-time staff members.

As in year's past, the kids enjoyed canoeing, swimming, mountain biking, climbing the rock wall and ropes courses. Team competitions like volleyball, kickball and basketball were also big hits. In the evenings, we sang songs and heard a nightly Gospel presentation from guest camp speakers. These messages were further digested through cabin time. There, multiple questions were raised about how to be a Christian and feelings were expressed of wanting to become one.

As you can tell, I really thought it was a wonderful week. But since camp is for the students, Taurean, a BTW freshman next year, volunteered to share his experience in the following interview.

Taurean, how many years have you been to camp?

Four, once in elementary and three times in middle school.

Why do you keep coming back?

I love it! It's fun and the people (camp staff) are so nice. They make it so that everything all ready for you when you show up.



Taurean and John Cowherd on the first day of camp.



Robert, Brandon and Darryl on an afternoon canoe trip.

What was your favorite thing about this year's camp?

I would have to say the fact that a lot of people accepted Christ into their lives. The message really got to them and touched them.

What was your favorite activity?

Definitely canoeing... and bike riding... and hayrides. Once you get away, I wasn't thinking about anything else except what was going on at camp. Everything was just so right. It made whatever you do seem better. Around the neighborhood, everybody is always trying to act all gangsters and stuff. Here at camp, we can let our guard down. With the distractions gone, I could relax and focus on Christ.

In your mind, what was the highlight of this year's trip?

On the final night after the talk, everybody went outside and found a place of solitude. Here, I could focus on God and what I had learned at this year's camp. We had just watched a bunch of scenes from the movie "The Passion of The Christ", so everybody was real quiet when we left. Some of us were crying and stuff. My spot was in the middle of a street behind a building. I sat there in complete silence for over ten minutes before heading to cabin time. It was amazing to think about everything Christ went through for me and it made cabin time that night the most meaningful of the trip.

Summer Institute: by Carmen Coleman

From June 12th through July 7th, Streets welcomed 11 students from the top of their class at Booker T. Washington to "Streets Summer Institute." This five-week program pushes students to higher levels of achievement in the areas of math, writing and oral communication, while developing strong leadership skills.

This year, the students engaged in two fields of study, "The Scarlet Letter", by Nathaniel Hawthorne, and 1 Kings 8:36, "Then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel. Teach them the right way to live." While study in these courses was separate, parallels were made as students realized that no one sin is greater than another, and we should always be willing to share words of encouragement with anyone.

During the final week of Summer Institute, students traveled to Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, GA. Here, students were given the opportunity to speak with a college recruiter and to get an idea of what it would be like to live on a college campus. Everyone was completely mesmerized by the scenery that Covenant had to offer as they juggled class and homework assignments, participated in activities such as bible studies, paintball games, ropes courses, basketball shoot-arounds and volleyball tournaments. The students even got to go whitewater rafting one afternoon in what served as an excellent team building exercise. In addition to all this fun, students had to manage their time



Carmen, Kandice, Marc and Alton "steer" downstream.

in such a way that allowed them to turn in a ten-page research paper that was due by the end of the week.

Throughout the entire program this year, participants truly began to realize what it really meant to be redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ. At the conclusion of Summer Institute the students realized the letter "A" from "The Scarlet Letter" no longer represented adultery or able, but rather it stood for the atonement and adoption by God. To help make this point more memorable, everyone received a shirt with a bold faced "A" on the front that was filled in with the words from 1 Kings 8:36.



The SSI Class of 2006 celebrating the 4th of July.



BTW Junior and SSI Student Alton during a Bible Study.

The Streets Center: Now Open!

This time last year, footings for the new 34,500 square foot Streets Center at 430 Vance Avenue were just beginning to be poured. At that time, everyone referred to the location as “the site”, as it was difficult to really put a face on what was to come. Today, however; what was then a dusty construction site in the middle of another hot Memphis summer, is now a state of the art facility used by up to 250 kids a day from the Foote and Cleaborn homes community. And since June 3rd, when we first opened our doors with a Community Open House, the Streets Center has played host to basketball camps, Summer Institute, a Vacation Bible School, weekly movie nights as well as a being a safe place for kids to hang out. As a result, it has been our busiest summer on record. But come this fall, with your help, the Streets Center will be so much more as the programming wing opens up and the facility begins to more completely fulfill what it was designed to do.

What was once “the site” has now expanded into spaces for Bible studies, club meetings, tutoring, computer labs, recreation and video game centers. This, combined with our close proximity to the neighborhood, means that Streets will be reaching many more students each day. As a result, an increase in volunteer participation is needed across the board to help us adequately serve this need.

Volunteers have always been an incredibly important of Streets’ ministry and are used in virtually all areas of



Located directly across from Foote Homes, the new Streets Center is now open to students in the community.

programming. Currently, Streets has over 100 volunteers serving as tutors, Bible study leaders, readers, food providers, clean-up crews and general office help. But we need more. With a full slate of programming already scheduled for the upcoming fall semester, now is the time to act if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.

To find out how, or to learn more about specific volunteer opportunities, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Mary-Wilkes Harris, at either (901) 525-7380 x208 or MaryWilkes@StreetsMinistries.org.



Open House visitors stop to read the collection of framed articles written about Streets over the years.



Former Streets kid Antonio Burks came by to break in one of the nets in the Streets Center gym.



What We've Been Up To

- With FedEx like precision, over forty members of the Covenanter's Class at **Independent Presbyterian Church** helped Streets move into its new facility on May 20th. Afterwards, class members heard a brief message about Street's mission and took a tour of the building.
- Weekdays this summer, the Streets Center has been open to students of all ages as a safe place to hang out while escaping from the summer heat.
- Wednesday nights at Streets, up to 170 adults from the community have taken part in open gym sessions hosted by Delvin Lane and Paul Crump.
- From June 28th-30th, Streets transformed into a tropical oasis as Vacation Bible School's "Passport to Paradise" welcomed elementary students from Foote and Cleaborn homes. With the help of the Youth Group from **Independent Presbyterian Church**, over thirty kids took part in singing, games, skits and Bible lessons.
- Movie Night is back this summer and, with the help of a new audio/visual system in the recreation room, it is better than ever. Each Monday and Tuesday night there have been between forty and fifty kids come by to enjoy a movie, some cool air and, from time to time, tasty snacks.
- As the host site for **Hope Presbyterian Church's** Cross Court basketball camp, Streets has had over thirty girls and 100 boys working on their game in the new gym.
- On July 15th, Streets took twenty-one high school students and four staff members for a two week stay week at **Sharp Top Cove** in Georgia. Please pray for the safety of the students and staff during this trip as well as for strength and endurance as the group hikes up the mountain. Pray specifically that students have open hearts as we share the Gospel with them.



Members from IPC's Covenanter's Class take a quick lunch break on move day.



The state of the art video game room at the new Streets Center is a big hit amongst the students.



Members of the local media came by to interview students about their impressions of the new facility.