

**Staff Spotlight: Ashley Diaz (continued)**

January of 2002. Ashley has been with us for a year and a half now, and she took over as Education Coordinator when Grace left in August of last year. Christina will be a senior this fall, and Josh, who is now a bubbling 18-month-old, is in the nursery at BTW each weekday from 8 AM to 3 PM while his mom is in class. The duties of motherhood have prevented Christina from continuing her tutoring with Ashley, though the two remain very close. Both Ashley and Christina remain optimistic that Christina will be able to attend college despite the inherent difficulties of doing this as a mother.

Ashley's "pretty big change" – going from a life of academics to a life of fulltime inner-city ministry, godmother duties and all – still amazes her. And she remains thankful for God's sovereign hand in changing her plans. Ashley continues to provide wisdom to young men and women like Christina as she guides them through our Pathways program, and we know that these students – like the rest of the Streets staff – are thankful that God had different plans for her.



Christina and Ashley a few months before Josh's arrival

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769 Vance Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38126

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20a

# STREETS - BETWEEN THE LINES

JULY - AUGUST, 2003

## The Rewards of Volunteering

It is May of 2003, and as seniors march victoriously across the stage at Booker T. Washington High school, countless parents, sisters, brothers, cousins, and friends cheer them on from the auditorium seats. In the midst of the sea of family members and friends, Nancy Hubbard can see the face of a woman who has been there for her at every award ceremony and homecoming court, a woman whose voice has comforted her and mentored her, a woman who has made her laugh and whose steady presence in Nancy's life stands in stark contrast to the volatile surroundings of her home. The woman is not an aunt or a sister. The woman was never Nancy's teacher in school or counselor at camp. They are years apart in age and live on opposite ends of the city. Apart from the providence of God, there seems to be no good explanation as to why these two women's paths should have crossed, yet Elizabeth Martin sits in the audience and takes pictures of yet another milestone in Nancy Hubbard's life. They have shared many moments like this one.



Elizabeth and Nancy outside BTW after Nancy was crowned Homecoming Queen last fall

Nancy Hubbard and Elizabeth Martin met in 1997, when Nancy was starting seventh grade and had just been selected to participate in Streets' Pathways Program. Elizabeth had just moved back to Memphis and was in a Bible study with Debbie Bennett, who told her about Streets and the work that Ken and his staff were doing. Elizabeth called Streets that fall and inquired about the Pathways Program, the weekly mentoring program that pairs a Christian volunteer from the community with a student from Vance Middle School or Booker T Washington High School. She was soon matched with 12-year-old Nancy Hubbard, a fortuitous meeting that has meant a great deal to both women.

During the first few years of their relationship, while Nancy was still at Vance Middle School, Elizabeth and Nancy met each week to spend time in studies and then also spent time outside of Streets at movies, at Liberty Land, and shopping. As Nancy grew older, Elizabeth watched Nancy grow in her determination to overcome the influences of the neighborhood. The two worked to get Nancy's driving permit during her sophomore year, together they completed the application for the summer prep school that Nancy attended between her sophomore and junior years, and they spent Nancy's entire senior year exploring and preparing ways for Nancy to attend college. Next year, Nancy will attend the University of Memphis, and she hopes to become a math teacher.

With the advent of high school came not only questions about the future, but also Homecomings, dances, and numerous struggles and questions. Nancy found herself in the midst of all of these, dealing with a difficult family, interacting with peers, and elected to virtually every student office at BTW. During those years, Elizabeth became not only Nancy's tutor but also a source of wisdom and friendship for Nancy. She and Nancy talked through many of Nancy's frustrations and struggles, they shopped for dresses together and as Nancy explains now, "Elizabeth was always there for me, helping me do the things that I may not have otherwise gotten to do."

In South Memphis, despair runs rampant and defeat claims the dreams and relationships of many. Streets, through the Pathways program, seeks to equip students to encounter the academic challenges that lay before them. More importantly, we pray that a student's life is changed through a relationship. It is only because of the abundant outpouring of Christ's grace and love that happens through our incredibly dedicated volunteers that a 12-year-old girl like Nancy is able to experience the joy of such a relationship. Pathways is so thankful for all of our volunteers, who, like Elizabeth Martin, have been changed by the cross and have chosen to believe in our students.

**Ken Bennett**  
Executive Director  
**Joey Collums**  
Summer Education Intern  
**John Cowherd**  
Middle School Coordinator  
**Ashley Diaz**  
Education Coordinator  
**Grace Halliday**  
Education Specialist  
**Delvin Lane**  
High School Coordinator  
**Gwen Sanders**  
High School Women's Coordinator  
**Rob Thompson**  
Director of Development



**STREETS MINISTRIES**  
(901) 525-7380  
www.streetsministries.org



## A Kid's Story: by Ashley Diaz

Monique's eighth grade sister has a one-year-old daughter named Dasani. Her mother manages a household of six children while nursing a habit evidenced by the track marks and scars that run the length of both of her arms. Monique's sixteen-year-old brother functions at the level of a kindergartener and spends most of his days seated on the front porch, watching cars pass by the family's withered house on LaCleda Avenue. Monique finished the sixth grade this year – it was her second time, as she was unable to pass her course work last year. Almost every day, she peeks her head into my office after school and asks me the same question: "When are we going back to camp?"

Last summer, I met Monique only a few days before we loaded up the vans and drove to For the Kingdom Summer Camp. Tiny, bright-skinned, and delicate, she stood out among the other kids, and her sweet, quiet, and nurturing ways kept her from the general middle school buzz of who likes whom. Almost immediately, I liked her and I noticed as she began to laugh and play more as the staff interacted with her at camp. She and I talked a lot that week, about golf and canoeing, why she likes reading but struggles with it, and which of her sisters make her laugh. Towards the end of the week, I found out that her aunt had died just days before we had left for camp, leaving a number of very young cousins for Monique and her family to care

## Staff Spotlight: Ashley Diaz

Born and raised in Memphis, Ashley graduated from White Station High School. Later as a student at Rhodes College, she had several friends that were Pathways tutors at Streets. As a sophomore, she met Grace (Moore) Halliday – then Streets' Education Coordinator – at RUF, and she started volunteering as a tutor. In the fall of her junior year, Ashley tutored a Vance Middle School eighth grader named Christina. Ashley and Christina became very close over the next two years. Not only did the two spend an hour together each week in their tutoring session, they spent time together talking about boys, the marching band, school and all the other things that teenage girls think about.

Ashley graduated from Rhodes with a double major in philosophy and religious studies at the same time Christina

for. On our last night of cabin devotions, Monique, who had been silent up until that point, finally gave a prayer request for her family. She explained that she had learned during the week that God loved her and her family and could take care of them. Before that, she said, she hadn't been so sure. She said that she now had Him in her heart though, and that meant ultimately it would be okay.

As the school year progressed this year, I learned a good deal more about Monique and her family. Theirs is not a happy story. Frequently, after club or Bible study, I drop her off at her house on LaCleda and watch her shuffle up the walk and disappear into the dark doorway. The God of the Universe provides us with places of refuge and rest, and I pray that Monique will be able to return to camp with us this summer, where the Gospel is explained and where she is allowed to be loved as a Child of the King.

finished her freshman year at Booker T. Washington High School. The following fall, as Christina started her sophomore year and Ashley began her yearlong process of applying for academic fellowships and PhD programs, the two continued tutoring each week. Then in October, Ashley got a call from Grace informing her that Christina was six months pregnant. As Ashley and Grace visited about Christina, the conversation turned to Ashley's plans. Ashley explained her plans to spend the next seven years pursuing a Master's and PhD, and Grace asked Ashley about her interest in working in inner-city ministry. Less than two weeks later, Ashley was Streets newest educational staff member.

Ashley started at Streets in December of 2001, and was there for the birth of her godson, Christina's son Josh, in



Ashley with godson Josh

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## What's Coming Up: July - August

- Delvin and John will be kicking off a **Spiritual Boot Camp** with their Middle and High Schoolers **June 25 – 27**. The program, which will continue to meet each Thursday in July, is designed to instill sound biblical principals in the kids who made a commitment to Christ at summer camp.
- **Streets Summer Institute**, an intense summer writing and oral communications course for select BTW students, got started Monday, **June 30** and runs through August 1. This year's class has an excellent group of students, and we are excited about the addition of Joey Collums, an ECS and Mississippi State alum, as an Education Intern this summer. Please pray for Summer Institute and the students we will be serving this summer.
- Hope Presbyterian will be putting on **Vacation Bible School** for elementary students the week of **July 21 – 24**.
- Middle School girls and boys from Streets will be attending **CrossCourt Basketball Camp** the weeks of **July 21 – 25** and **July 28 – August 1**. CrossCourt is an urban Christian basketball camp aimed at using basketball as a tool to teach the Gospel. About 30 kids from Streets will get to attend the camps.
- Both Middle School and High School students will get to attend a local Summer Camp at **Victory Valley** the week of **August 4 – 8**, before returning to school on Tuesday, August 12.

## What We've Been Up To

- Friday, **May 9** was Booker T. Washington's **Junior / Senior Prom**, held at the Holiday Inn on Democrat. For the fifteenth straight year, Streets' staff attended the prom and took pictures of kids with their dates for free.
- Pathways tutors and students enjoyed the **Pathways End-of-the-Year Party** on **May 13**. The pizza party marked the end of a successful year. If you are interested in helping tutor a student in the fall, please contact Ashley Diaz at [ashley@streetsministries.org](mailto:ashley@streetsministries.org).
- **BTW Graduation** was held Saturday, **May 17**. 57 students graduated from this year's class. Please pray for these students, as well as those who did not graduate, as they go out into the world this summer.
- On Friday, **May 23**, John Cowherd and the Streets staff hosted **Vance Middle School's May Day / Field Day** for the sixth time. Students and teachers had a great time as we put on sack races, shooting drills, a football toss, tug-of-war and much more.
- The week of **June 2 – 9** was **Senior High Summer Camp** at Young Life's Sharptop Cove. Twenty-four kids traveled with Delvin Lane and Gwen Sanders to Jasper, Georgia for one of, if not the, most excited and fun-filled weeks of their young lives. Students *and leaders* enjoyed Sharptop's zip line, ropes course and bouncing off the blob, as well as cabin time and a Gospel message each night. Please pray for Delvin, Gwen and the kids that they will be following up with this summer.
- On Tuesday, **June 3**, over 60 middle school students showed up at Streets for **Movie Night**. This event will be put on Monday and Tuesday nights (High School and Middle School, respectively) throughout the course of the summer.
- John Cowherd and several other Streets staff members took 32 Middle School students to **For the Kingdom Summer Camp** the week of **June 15 – 20**. Please pray for the safety and salvation of all of our campers, as well as the sanity of our leaders!

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## News and Notes

### Email updates are now available

In an effort to keep our friends better informed of the goings-on at Streets, we are now sending out regular email updates. These updates will include more information on what is happening at the ministry each month, as well as important prayer requests. If you would like to receive these email updates, please send an email to [updates@streetsministries.org](mailto:updates@streetsministries.org) and type subscribe in the subject line.

### Job opportunity

We are searching for a missions-minded individual to work approximately twenty-five hours a week as a Recreation Coordinator starting in the fall. If you know someone who might be interested, let him or her know about the opening and encourage them to contact Ken Bennett at (901) 525-7380 or [ken@streetsministries.org](mailto:ken@streetsministries.org).

## Streets Volunteers: 2002 - 2003

Streets would like to thank everyone who gave of their time this year, whether as a weekly tutor or providing desperately needed in-kind services. Inevitably, someone will be left off this list. We apologize in advance for this misstep... please let us know who you are so we can correct our mistake!

### Middle School Club

Cisiro Harris

### ACT Prep Tutors

Meghan Arant  
David Brown  
Rob Ennis  
Jay Gardner  
Jay Koonce  
Sam Kuykendall  
David Spence

### Pathways Tutors

Neal Aguiard, MD  
Nat Akin  
Billy Bernard  
Emily Campbell  
Carmen Coleman  
Robert Covington  
Kyle Gehres  
Amanda Godbold  
Allen Halliday  
Jeff Hannah  
Frederick Holmes  
Jonathan Hulan  
Sam Kuykendall

Elizabeth Martin  
Erica Martin  
Mark Mazzone  
John Moore  
Kate Norman  
Curtis Pettis  
Gary Powell  
Gwen Rucker  
Joey Sherrard  
Bob Smith  
Josh Spickler  
Michael Stewart  
Brandon Tidwell  
Scott Turner  
Robert Vaughn  
Brenda Wilkerson



Anthony Laird and Pathways tutor Joey Sherrard

### Gift In-Kind / Service Projects

Christ United Methodist Mission Blitz  
Charlie Cleaves and the 7th Inning  
Josephine Covington  
Danka Office Imaging  
Glenn Terhune Plumbing  
Humphreys, Dunlap, Wellford,  
Acuff & Stanton

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## Streets Volunteers: 2002 - 2003

### Gift In-Kind / Service Projects (continued)

For the Kingdom  
Lehman Roberts / Memphis Stone & Gravel  
McNabb, Bragorgos and Burgess, PLLC  
Montgomery Martin Contractors  
Richard Vining Design  
Robert Vaughn Construction  
Josh Spickler, Attorney at Law  
Venture College Ministry  
The Women of Christ United Methodist  
The Women of Independent Presbyterian  
The Women of River Oaks Presbyterian



### Hope Presbyterian Elementary Read-to-Succeed

Pat Douglas  
Brenda Garner  
Bill Grammer  
Terri Holdway  
Jan McCollum  
June Robinson  
Mitzie Wright

above: Middle School Club  
volunteer Cisiro Harris  
(second from right) with  
some of 'her girls'.

right: Pathways tutor Josh  
Spickler with Dedrick Haynes



### Christmas Baskets

Miriam Avery  
Barbara and Brooke Ballenger  
Chris and Mary Bean  
Kathleen Boatman  
Nick Bragorgas  
Dottie Brown  
Richard Carter  
Chip and Susan Cayce  
Johnny and Anne Chambers  
John and Allison Coates  
Phillip Cook  
Ben Daniel  
Anna Duggan  
Nell Fleming  
Kathy Garrett  
Janet Gerber  
Sam and Margaret Graham

Allen and Grace Halliday  
Tom and Anne Jackson  
Steve Knox  
Lisa Langley  
Jean and Kim Larroux  
Marc Macmillan and the  
MUS Baseball Team  
Jeff and Michelle Maddock  
Jay and Lisa Mitchum  
Ryues Moore  
Richard Morton  
Bill and Camille Mueller  
Ed and Sally Norton  
Keith O'Dell  
Mark Olinger  
Sam Olson  
Tom Pacello

Judd and Margaret Peters  
Hermenia Prather  
Chip Rasy  
Marty Roberts  
Scott and Julie Rosenberger  
Steve and Patty Satterfield  
Dan and Robin Selberg  
Melinda Selberg  
William Stout  
Crosby Taylor  
Kimbrough Taylor  
Jason and Hallie Ward  
Sarah Watkins  
Michael Wiegert  
Clay and Debbie Wilemon  
Cindy Wilson  
Lou Wittenberg