

Great Oaks News

March 2011

www.greatoakscamp.org

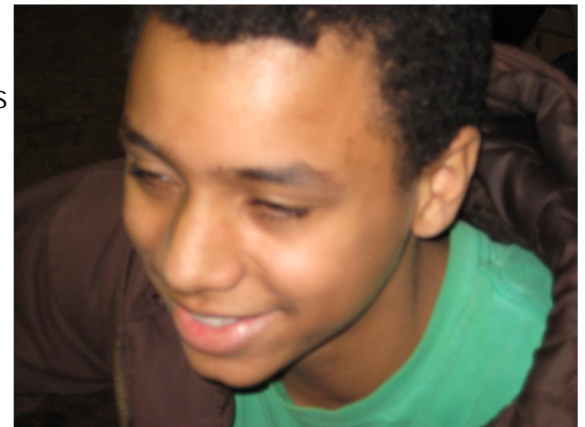
Peoria Office: 710 E. Archer Avenue · Peoria, IL 61603 · (309)688-3745 Camp: 1380 CR 900N · Lacon, IL 61540 · (309)246-4005

A Note from the Director



For seven weeks this summer, over 200 children will come to Great Oaks and attend a week of camp for free. We will plug around 20 of those children into our year-round discipleship program. However, I believe our greatest impact as an organization is when we successfully plug the children into the local church. The urban youth of Peoria need church families because they can provide the youth with both a program and people who will always be there for them, as our program is only designed to minister to children until they turn eighteen.

At the age of thirteen, I had already made Jesus the Lord of my life, but I found church to be quite boring. The only reason I made it to church every Sunday morning is because my dad took the time to wake me up and take me. My dad also insisted that youth group take precedence over sports and video games. Without that encouragement and dedication on my dad's part, I probably would've skipped church or only gone to church when it was convenient to me. In summary, I made it to church because I had great parents. I am amazed that God has used Great Oaks to plug three children into church because I understand that these three boys are attending church without being made to go. These three young men not only have to remember what time church starts, but they have to choose to make it a priority in their lives. When I was 18 years old, church became a priority to me I no longer attended because my father made me but because I wanted to. It took my father 18 years to help me see that church needed to be a priority in my life. These three boys not only get that at 13 years old, but they get it without having a father or a mother to demonstrate that their walks with the Lord and church should take priority over what the world offers. I am blessed to know these three boys, and I remain grateful to be part of an organization that ministers to the low income urban youth of Peoria.



Tyler Keene, Executive Director

Don't miss our Annual banquet. This year Joe Horn, current board member and pastor of Chillicothe Bible Church, will be our speaker. He is going to tell us how camp impacted his life and encourage us to keep impacting the lives of the urban youth of Peoria. If you would like a ticket please contact the camp office at 309-246-4005. We hope to see you there!!

Restoration

Great Oaks Camp Annual Dinner
Sunday, May 1st
Weaver Ridge Golf Club
5100 North Weaverridge Blvd.
Peoria, IL

1:00 Beverage Service
1:30 Dinner

Cost:\$25

Please RSVP by April 21