



OUR TEAM OF KIDS

# Every Child Matters

## September 2015

### IN THIS ISSUE

## Our First Newsletter

by Mike and Amanda

We are so grateful and thrilled that God has allowed us to put together our first newsletter, and to update everyone on what is happening with Every Child Matters. First, we would like to say a special thank you to all of the Sponsors that have joined our program. We thank each one of them for hearing God's call for this mission, and for stepping forward in faith to truly make a difference. We also thank each of our core team members for their commitment and dedication in helping us to get this program rolling.

This newsletter is for everyone. You may already know about our program, and would just like to know what is happening. Or you may be new to all of this, and are

wondering what this program is all about. Hopefully we can answer both of these questions.

The driving force for this program is our Mission Statement, which is as follows:

*There are so many underprivileged children right here in our own backyard that need help, either spiritually, emotionally, or financially. Children need good role models and people to look up to. They need to feel like they belong, and that they have something to offer. They need a positive, structured environment, and good social skills. They need to know that God loves them, and that He has a plan for their life! **Every Child Matters** was formed to specifically meet these needs. Our primary*



### Co-Founders

Hi! This is Mike and Amanda! We are so excited to see God working all around us. And we thank Him every day for the opportunities that He has provided through this program. Lives are being changed. Come and join us on this journey.



### Sports in Action

Part of our program is sponsoring children in Sports. And what a difference it can make in the life of a child. They learn a lot of things while playing, such as teamwork, goal setting, respect, and hard work.

*purpose is to help children who truly need help; to make a difference for Gods kingdom; and to help children get on the right path. This organization helps connect people (Sponsors) that want to help, with underprivileged children that so desperately need the help.*

As of today, we have 13 children in our program, and 14 absolutely amazing sponsors that are truly making a difference in their lives. We have heard so many awesome stories already from our sponsors, and are sharing stories from two of them in this newsletter. We know that God can do truly amazing things when HE is in control. And we give all honor, glory, and praise to Him. The journey so far has been incredible, and we know that God is going to do a whole lot more.

We held a big kick-off luncheon on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. This was an opportunity for our Sponsors to finally meet their sponsored child, as well as meeting the child's parent. The luncheon was really cool, and the food was amazing. It was a great bonding time for all. Some of the kids were able to sign up for soccer. And we have plenty of pictures, some of which are included in this newsletter.

This newsletter is just another way to keep everyone connected. Please check out our future events section to see what new and exciting things are coming up! You can also check us out on facebook at Every Child Matters

Ministry, where we are posting the latest happenings. And very soon, we will be launching our very own website! These are truly exciting times.

We thank God for the incredible opportunity to start this ministry. We know that HE is touching lives! Won't you consider helping us, and getting involved? You can contact either one of us at any time via email at [everychildmatters@aol.com](mailto:everychildmatters@aol.com). We know that God has something truly amazing in store for you.

## Mike and Amanda



### A letter from the O'Briens

Thanks so much for the opportunity to serve and make a difference in Renold's life through the ECM program. We are excited about getting to know Renold and his family, and are slowly building a relationship with them. Renold is an amazing young man with so much potential, but lacks confidence in himself. Our hope is that he will gain confidence through participation in local community sports. Renold will benefit from knowing that people care about him and are willing to take an active role in his life. Morgan and

Mallory have both taken an active role in Renold's schoolwork and have provided any tutoring that he might need.

We had a great time over the holiday weekend and enjoyed sharing our family activities with him. I think he enjoyed participating in pool volleyball as well as sampling all the food. For now, we are still getting acquainted. Renold is gradually opening up to us and will hopefully become more comfortable as the year progresses. I think it's important to take things slowly as he learns to trust us and we all learn what to expect of each other. In the meantime, we continue to pray for Renold, his situation and his future. I may try to take him down to Ft Lauderdale soon to DWJ so he can learn how special it is to serve others. We will keep you posted as he continues to progress.

Blessings,  
Mindy O'Brien

## Upcoming Events

The following events are being planned for the upcoming months. Please check back on these as we are always adding something new and exciting!

- ✚ ECM Night at Pizazz
  - Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>
- ✚ Sponsor Meeting Follow-up
  - September TBD
- ✚ ECM Christmas Celebration
  - December TBD
- ✚ Fort Lauderdale Insane Inflatable 5K
  - Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>



### A letter from Jill

My favorite people tend to be younger and shorter than me (5'2") and often possess squeaky voices and find joy in watching cloud formations. Likewise, my favorite Bible verses often pertain to the children of God.

Psalm 8:2 "From the lips of children and infants ...";  
Deuteronomy 6:6 "Impress them on your children ...";  
Mark 10:14 "... Let the little children come to me ...";  
Proverbs 22:6 "Train a child ...";  
and my favorite Proverbs 31:28 "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also; and he praises her."

As the administrative assistant at First Church I have a front row seat to all the comings and goings at the church office. Amanda Fatigate had a dream which blossomed into Every Child Matters, immediately I knew I wanted to be involved.

A list of neighborhood children to sponsor developed and one child had already touched my heart. Kelly is an eight year old who would stop by the office several days a week after school, stand sternly and silently in front of my desk, and wait for a hug. There was no question - God had

brought a precious child into my life.

We signed Kelly up for a season of flag football and he didn't miss a game all season. The first day he was timid and unsure of himself. He had never played football before, but Kelly could run - fast! That first day he received a medal for being a good listener which he wore all day, and several days since. Coach Adam was a positive male role model and a wonderful influence on Kelly. Soccer season begins soon and I look forward to watching all of his games and sharing conversation, lunch, and ice cream afterwards.

Kelly has been a blessed addition to my life and I look forward to a long relationship as his sponsor.

Jill Taylor



### The Insane Inflatable 5K Race

We are partnering with the Insane Inflatable 5K organization to help them with their race in Fort Lauderdale this year. The Insane Inflatable 5K is finally coming to our neck of the woods! Get ready to experience the most fun, wild and insane obstacle run in the world. Get "pumped up" for a

course filled with the world's largest and most extreme inflatable obstacles ever produced. Here's your chance to be a kid at heart, and insane by choice. The race is taking place on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. The race location is at Central Broward Regional Park at 3700 NW 11<sup>th</sup> Place, Lauderhill FL 33311.

The Every Child Matters organization will receive a portion of the proceeds, which is awesome. All funds that we receive will go directly to the children in need. We do not spend any money on salaries or organizational overhead.

So here is how you can help. When registering for the race, or making any additional purchases, just enter the letters **ECM** in the promo code box found in the cart section at checkout.






For more information on the race, check out the details at [www.insaneinflatable5k.com](http://www.insaneinflatable5k.com).



**Every Child Matters**

## Our Core Team

The following individuals have played a key role in helping us bring this mission to reality!

-  Pat Beers
-  Ken Beers
-  Barry Laidlaw
-  Lorraine Casoria
-  Carol Donmez

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.  
Philippians 2:4

