



Every Child Matters

February
2016

OUR TEAM OF KIDS

IN THIS ISSUE

Our Second Newsletter

by Mike and Amanda

We are so grateful and thrilled that God has allowed us to put together our second 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 are participating in 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 with this program.

You may already know about our program, and would just like an update on what is happening. Or you may be new to all of this, and are wondering what this program

is all about. This newsletter is for everyone.

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. Won't you come and join us on this journey.

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 Christmas Celebration on Saturday, December 5th. This was an awesome event for our Sponsors and their sponsored Child. Christmas carols were sung, gifts were given to each of our kids, and the kids even helped decorate our Christmas tree (some of these kids have never done that).

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. 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 also check out our new website at www.everychildmatters.com where you can learn about this life changing ministry and how to get involved.

On our new website you can make a donation directly to ECM. And soon you will have the ability to purchase some of our awesome products. All the proceeds that we receive goes directly to the kids and to help them with their basic needs.

You can contact either one of us at any time via email at amanda@everychildmatters.com or mike@everychildmatters.com. We look forward to hearing from you. We know that God has something very exciting in store for you.

Mike and Amanda

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.



One of our kids playing soccer

Our kids just finished their first soccer season. They have all really excelled at the sport and we are so proud of them. They really are enjoying the "being a part of a team" aspect of it. We can't wait to see them excel in other sports. They are learning to play on a team, the rules of the game, and how to be a good sport even when your team loses.



A letter from Bobbi Hagler

We decided to be in the ECM program when we saw the sports sign up. Our two sons played sports for many years and their experiences helped form their character and taught them valuable life lessons. We wanted to give a young boy that same chance.

Sponsoring a seven year old from a different culture has been rewarding and challenging. We have tried to expose him to life experiences he has not had. He had never been to a movie, to Target, to a restaurant (excluding McDonalds, Wendy's), etc. We took him bowling for the first time. He has been to our house and we are teaching him how to swim. Soccer was fun for him and he improved every week. These are experiences our sons took for granted and we are blessed to share these times with Fernando.

I have met his teacher at Open House and he provides a progress report each week. We are working on improving Fernando's behavior in school. He has good and bad days. We are seeing more good days. He is doing his homework and class work most of the time.

Fernando is a friendly, outgoing child. We enjoy being with him. He always makes us laugh! He hugs us goodbye and tells us he loves us. We pray that God uses us to help this child. Being Fernando's sponsors has been special for both of us. We are thankful he is in our lives and we love this little boy!

Bobbi and Carlos Hagler

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!

- ✚ Sponsor Meeting Follow-up
 - March 13th
- ✚ Equestrian Therapy
 - March – April
- ✚ Basketball Camp
 - April – May
- ✚ ECM Garage Sale
 - April
 - We will soon be looking for donations to help with this fundraiser

If you're interested in helping with any of our events, please feel free to contact us.



A letter from Stacy Rowe

When I heard about the Every Child Matters ministry, I knew I

wanted to be a part of it. I didn't know what child I was going to be partnered with, but I knew God always has a plan. I discovered a week after meeting Jeremiah (also known as "J") that he lives in the neighborhood next to mine. He can walk to my house. He lives with his mom, an older brother, and two younger sisters.

For me, this is what "church" is; It surrounds us, holds us up during our trials, educates us, loves us, and offers us God's peace. That is what we are to do for others. God has a plan for each of us, and I know he has a plan for Jeremiah and his family. It is a blessing and joy for me to be a part of His plan for J. I've also developed a friendship with the rest of the family including his mom, Trisha. Raising children is hard and having four so close in age, being a single mom, is a struggle for Trisha. She wants them to have the security of God's unconditional love and the extra care to develop each child's talents and interests. So I applaud Trisha for enrolling her children in Every Child Matters. For my part, I sponsor J in his weekly guitar lesson. He has real aptitude and lights up when he's learning music.

Since being a part of ECM in September, Jeremiah has made a turn for the better in school with his grades and outlook. He was

named "Student of the Month" for December. I'm hoping J will continue with his music and continue to develop his leadership abilities. He's such a good kid and I am so grateful for having gotten to know him and his family. I am so grateful for Every Child Matters.

Stacy Rowe

Our ECM Team

We would like to introduce to you our 3 new core team members.

First, Denise Fatigate:

Denise brings many skills to ECM. She is in the catering business and has really helped to raise the bar with many of our special events. She will be heading up a lot of our ECM activities. She really has a heart for these kids.

Second, Andrhea Kittredge:

Andrhea is an awesome individual who knows and loves these kids. She was in the mortgage business for over 40 years. Now she is a stay at home grandmother. She is a volunteer in the Sandwich Club at our church. We are so happy she has agreed to be a part of this ministry.

Third, Jan Hameister:

We are thrilled that Jan has agreed to join our team. She just retired from the Broward School System as a principle. She will be able to recommend many courses that we can use to help our kids be as successful as possible. Jan is enjoying her time that she gets to spend at home now with her grandkids.



We do have to say goodbye to two of our core team members: **Barry Laidlaw and Lorraine Casoria**. Barry and Lorraine have decided to move to Orlando. We want to say a big THANKYOU for all they have done for us. We can't thank them enough for their hard work and dedication to ECM.

Barry is our sponsor liaison and does a lot of work communicating with our sponsors and their concerns. He has dedicated a lot of time and effort to this ministry and we are so thankful for everything he has done for ECM.

Lorraine is our fundraiser coordinator. She has helped bring many donations in, whether it's from Origami Owl or from the Insane Inflatable 5k. She is always there with awesome ideas, and comes up with ways to give our ECM's kids a chance. She is also a volunteer with the sandwich club

We will miss both of them. But we are so excited to send them off to this new journey in life. We know God has good things in store for them. We can't wait to hear all about it. We love you guys!

Love and God Bless. ECM team



Every Child Matters

Our Core Team

The following individuals have played a key role in helping us bring this mission to reality, and we are so thankful for each one of them!

-  Pat Beers
-  Barry Laidlaw
-  Lorraine Casoria
-  Carol Donmez
-  Denise Fatigate
-  Andrhea Kittredge
-  Jan Hameister

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