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Ministry Center
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Safe, Loved and Valued

This fall marks the beginning of my sixth year at the Bridge. Never have I been so convinced of God's presence here and in the lives of kids. While the five years have come and gone quickly, the relationships built between staff, volunteers and kids will last a lifetime.

This summer has been a busy one for us all. God has given us new challenges and provided us different ways to reach kids for Christ. He has also set forth new challenges and new opportunities to reach kids for Christ. Every Wednesday through the summer, over 75 middle and high school students participated in our Bridging Out service program. Students had unique opportunities to learn to serve others, as well as gain important experience in finding jobs, developing community contacts and learning the benefit of giv-

ing to others. Wednesday's included trips to the Critter Barn, day trips to Camp Geneva, learning valuable job skills at the Old Navy store boot camp. In addition students played laser tag, took a bike trip to the beach where they watched rip tide victims get pulled from the water. Kids even had a chance to take a canoe trip down the pigeon river and pull invasive species from our area county parks.

This summer God also provided a way for over 40 kids to go to camp. In June, we took 20 kids to Cran-Hill Ranch camping in tents and braving the rain.. They went on a high ropes course, did some hiking, swam and learned how God never ever leaves them. In July, we returned for a second three-day camp with 20 additional students. This time, we stayed in the A-frames and did our best to stay cool in the over-

whelming heat. Kids had a chance to go tubing down the Muskegon River, climb the high wall, hike, swim and generally have a great time with each other. The unique part of these camps was that we could go with the kids and build our relationships with them. Our second annual immersion camp's purpose was to teach kids the value of living a life putting Jesus first, Others second in your life and Yourself and your own selfish needs last.

The busyness of the summer definitely caught up with us and seemed to echo that of the community as well, as our 5th Annual Bridge to the community 3-on-3 Tournament was postponed until November 5.

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Register online today for the 5th Annual Bridge to the Community 3-on-3 Tournament!

Creekside Middle School, Saturday, November 5

www.bymzeeland.org

Includes three games minimum . H-O-R-S-E Contest per division.

Our Fifth Annual Bridge Campaign

Officially runs from November 1 through December 31

Here is where we stand as of August 31

<u>2011 Budget</u>	<u>YTD Donations</u>	<u>Remaining Need</u>
\$159,469	\$65,850	\$93,619

Program Preview

We are excited at the new programs and new faces God has introduced at the Bridge this year. Please stop by and introduce yourself, we would love to have you as a volunteer as well. Here is an update of the current and upcoming programs that the Bridge Youth Ministry Center offers:

Drop-In Center

Offered every Tuesday and

Thursday afternoon. Drop-In provides a safe place for students to be where they are able to relax, play games, socialize and develop relationships with peers and adults. The center is staffed by adult volunteers who take time to invest themselves into the lives of the youth. This program is open to all 6th – 12th grade students. Over 120 different students take advantage of the Drop-In Center each week.



which has been developed in partnership with the local middle schools. This program offers families the option of sending their child to the Bridge Youth Ministry Center instead of going home to an empty, unsupervised home in the case of being suspended. This program follows a structured schedule including time for physical activity, homework, community service, career exploration and behavior management.

Faith and Fitness

The I am Third basketball team plays December through February. The team is made up of 12 – 7th grade through 12th grade boys who are not involved with school teams and are seeking a place to belong. We also have five high school students who provide positive peer mentoring for these young men.



The team plays local

non-profits such as: Barnabas, The Rock The Anchor, area youth leaders, as well as local church youth groups, school teachers, and employees of local businesses. The team also leads two service projects through the season.

Bridge 2 Excellence

“Bridge 2 Excellence” is an after school mentoring program which seeks to come alongside middle school students in order to foster spiritual, educational and social excellence. Students are referred to the program by their teacher, with parental approval and support. Students and parents sign a contract that commits students to attend every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for homework help and mentoring. Adult volunteers for this program are one of our biggest needs.



This year the new challenge will be incorporating the IPAD into the program. To keep up with the demands required by every Zeeland HS and MS student.

This will require a wireless network, as well as new training for our staff and volunteers.

Bridging Out

This program exposes middle and high school students to service projects throughout the community. Our goal is to work with area churches and non-profits in attempt to teach students the benefits of service and giving back to their community. This is a bi-weekly program throughout the school year that involves leadership training and service opportunities. Last year we had 30 students regularly attend the program. These students provided over 1600 hours of service to



the Zeeland community.

The school year version of Bridging Out exposes kids deeper to needs and generates a greater investment into their community.

Each “work” group consists of a Bridge volunteer, a high school peer mentor and up to three Bridge students. Our goal for the 2011-2012 school year is to provide over 2000 service hours to our neighbors throughout the Zeeland community.



Stepping Stones

The vision of Stepping Stones is to provide an entry point into the Bridge Ministries Center for students in grades 3 – 5. This year Stepping Stones will be run each Monday from October through Christmas. A second session after the new year is also being considered. Volunteers pick up students after school and drive them to the Bridge for a time of singing, snack, fun and combined Bible lesson. Middle school students and adults are used as volunteers.

Suspending Bridges

The Suspending Bridges Program is an alternative to out of school suspension

-Jed Mulder

A Summer in Picture Review



June Cran-Hill Immersion Camp



Intergenerational service project with members from Providence Healthcare



High ropes leaves the knees knocking a bit



Removing invasive species during Bridging Out



Canoeing down the Pigeon River during Bridging Out



Cooking over an open fire at camp—
"What's a little rain?"



Those who made it to the end of the river—(don't ask about the rest)



Bridging Out goes to Old Navy Camp to learn much needed job skills



Drop-in provides a time to introduce kids to Christ at "couch time"

Will you help us serve Zeeland's at-risk youth?

We are in need of mentors and volunteers
in each of our programs.

Contact Jackie Rutgers at

jackie.rutgers@bymczeeland.org to learn more

THE BRIDGE YOUTH MINISTRY
CENTER

WWW.BYMCZEELAND.ORG

210 E Main
Zeeland, MI 49464

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E-mail: jed.mulder@bymczeeland.org

BYMC Mission

The mission of the Bridge Youth Ministry Center is to be a source of community strengths, meeting the needs of youth through programs, activities, facilities, and events that help youth develop in healthy ways while at the same time reaching out to them in the name of Jesus to draw them into a relationship with Him.

We are blessed to be a blessing!

The Bridge Staff

Jed Mulder

Executive Director



Jackie Rutgers

Staff Volunteer

Coordinator



Scott Baumgartner

Communication Support



AmeriCorps Members

Monica Slagh

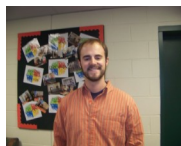
Service & Mentor Recruitment

Zach Trumble

Mentoring Support

Coordinator

Micheal Grenier



Two of our AmeriCorps members at The Bridge Youth Ministry Center are provided through a grant made available from AmeriCorps through Good Samaritan Ministries. Good Samaritan Ministries recruits, trains and places AmeriCorps members in the community as part of the Faith In Youth Partnership. For more information visit www.goodsamministries.com



To learn more about serving with AmeriCorps contact:

Robyn Afrik, AmeriCorps Program Director

Faith & Youth Partnership

616-392-7159

rafrik@goodsamministries.com



Did You Know?

- ◆ The Bridge Youth Ministry Center is a faith based 501c3 organization that is open to any community youth who walks through the doors looking for a safe and caring place
- ◆ This past year almost 70% of the students involved at the Bridge did not claim any type of church affiliation,
- ◆ Last year over 1600 hours of community service was provided by students attending the Bridge

