

The Seed

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LUM Camp 2004 – Where Creativity Runs Wild

The flashlights and bug spray are packed, the pool is filled, the horses are groomed, and in just one short week LUM Camp will re-convene for its 32nd annual session! Eighty boys and girls ages 8–10 will be in attendance this year. They come from families that have recently been assisted by the Lafayette Urban Ministry. Thanks to over 250 individual LUM Camp donors, these special young people will experience one of the most memorable weeks of their lives.

There will be all the traditional camp activities like swimming, hiking, campfires, morning chapel, riding horses, sleeping in cabins, and all those great camp songs. But this year we'll also place a special program emphasis on the arts. Through workshops on dance, art, music, and drama, the campers will experience a broad variety of visual and performing arts. Twenty-five of our community's most talented children's educators will be at camp to teach and lead activities. Over 30 energetic and enthusiastic LUM Camp Counselors will provide a three to one camper to counselor ratio.

LUM Camp helps children gain confidence, develop a love of learning, overcome new challenges and to grow in self-esteem. It provides them quality time with caring adults. In fun, wholesome, and positive ways

LUM Camp provides children with the tools they need to be successful in life. Through the years over 2,400 local children have participated. There's nothing quite like it!

LUM Camp takes place during the week of June 14–18 at Pine Creek United Methodist Camp in Warren County. Please remember the children that week in your prayers. Thank you for what you have made possible!



Swimming friends: Counselor Hilary Ross and a young camper make waves at LUM Camp last year.

Camperships still needed

LUM Camp is a very large undertaking that requires significant financial support. Last year, the rising cost of facilities, buses, program, and staff outpaced the financial support from our LUM Camp donors. The LUM board has responded by shortening camp in 2004 from a 5-day program to a 4-day program.

We've registered 80 special children for LUM Camp. They would never have the opportunity to attend a summer camp—much less a camp like ours—if it weren't for your friendship and financial support. If you've already contributed - thank you very much! If you haven't, please know that your gift of a full or partial \$110 campership is still needed. Place your check in the enclosed envelope and return it today.

Me? A LUM Camp Counselor?

Volunteer counselors are the heartbeat of LUM Camp. They instill confidence, rejoice at accomplishment, build esteem, and support each child through the wonderful week that is LUM Camp. It takes 24 adult counselors to fully staff camp, but with the start of camp just one week away we still need 6 volunteers.

Would you, or someone you know, make a good counselor? Camp takes place during the week of June 14th to 18th. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, enjoy working with children, and be available to spend the entire week at camp. A comfy bunk in a rustic cabin is waiting for you. All you need is the availability and willingness to have a fun week with a great group of children. Call Joe Micon 423-2691, ext. 20 or e-mail at lum@lafayetteurbanministry.org.



Removing suffering from childhood

by Mary Anderson, Acting Executive Director

“Suffer the little children to come unto me” were the words written

in elaborate script under the picture of Jesus and the children in one of my early Sunday school rooms. I had trouble connecting “suffer” with those smiling faces and the calm demeanor of Jesus. I came to learn that “suffer” could mean “allow,” as in this verse, as well as the more common sense of feeling pain or distress.

Now, so many years later, **I can all too often connect “suffer” with children**, and in the context of real pain and distress. *The 2001 Yearbook: The State of America’s Children* by the Children’s Defense Fund offers a bleak picture of being young in America. Each day in America:

- 10 children under 20 die from firearms.
- 1,354 babies are born to teen moms.
- 1,951 babies are born into poverty.
- 2,911 students drop out of high school.
- 4,342 children are arrested.

These are not just the problems of large cities. These are the problems of rural areas, of small towns, of our own cities and county. In Tippecanoe County, the Indiana Youth Institute reports the number of CHINS (Children in Need of Services, filed with the courts) has doubled since 1990 (from 74 to 149). Twenty percent of all our school students qualify for free school lunches. The number of available child care vouchers (to help low-income working parents with child care costs) has dropped by 20% in the last two years. Eight percent of our public school children drop out before graduating.

But there **is** a contrast to this bleak picture. **At Lafayette Urban Ministry, we are actively working to change the lives of our community’s children.** We are surrounded by small successes, changing lives and lots of smiles. Thirty-five children have participated in our Afterschool Program this year, allowing their parents to finish their work day while the children are in a wonderful, supervised, enriching environment. Homework is the priority, with religious education, enrichment and just plain fun coming after school work is finished. Andrea Penner, who is leaving LUM while her husband pursues his graduate studies at Notre Dame, has created an environment where children are eager to learn, respectful of one another, and open to new experiences. We will miss Andrea, but we know the

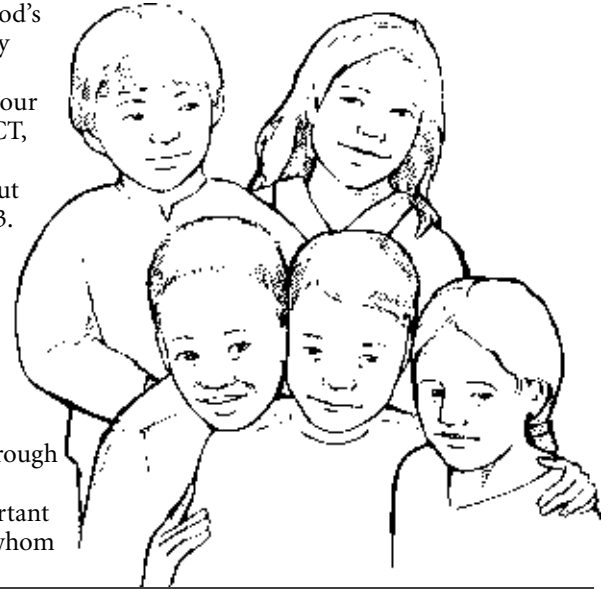
quality of the program will not change with new leadership. She has changed lives just a little bit, each day.

We are getting ready to take 75 children to LUM Camp! They will learn all about the arts—visual, creative, performing and so much more. But they will also learn about peace each morning at chapel, about diversity and mediation, about getting along and loving God’s creation. They will be changed by the experience.

Earlier this year we awarded our first scholarship through RESPECT, our teen pregnancy prevention program. You can read more about the recipient, Amy Baumis, on p.3. Amy’s life could have been very different, but LUM was there to make a difference.

During this season of graduations, as parents and grandparents, friends and relatives watch proudly as their children—from kindergarten through college—go through various graduation ceremonies, it’s important to remember those children for whom

childhood is suffering. While we watch with pride as our “little” ones walk across that stage, we must remember those for whom life is a daily struggle, whose dreams are limited by their circumstance, and whose choices are determined by their poverty. We need to work to assure our children that suffering is **not** connected to childhood.



A PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN

We pray for the children who sneak popsicles before supper,
who erase holes in math workbooks,
who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
who are born in places where we wouldn’t be caught dead,
who never go to the circus,
who live in an X-rated world.

We pray for children who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money.

And we pray for those who never get dessert,
who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,
who watch their parents watch them die,
who don’t have any rooms to clean up,
whose pictures aren’t on anybody’s dresser,
whose monsters are real.

We pray for children who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,
who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food,
who don’t like to be kissed in front of the carpool,
who squirm in church or temple and scream in the phone,
whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those whose nightmares come in the daytime,
who will eat anything,
who aren’t spoiled by anybody,
who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
who live and move, but have no being.

We pray for children who want to be carried and for those who must,
those we never give up on and for those who don’t get a second chance,
for those we smother with love
and for those who will grab the hand of anybody kind enough to offer it.

—Ina J. Hughes

LUM to offer Clemente Course

The Lafayette Urban Ministry, beginning Sept. 6, will offer the Bard College Clemente Course in the Humanities, a tuition-free, credit-granting course in the liberal arts that is designed specifically for low-income people. Books are free, and there is no tuition for the six transferable credit hours that are granted by Bard College to those who successfully complete the Course. Childcare, snacks, and bus fare are also covered.

Clemente students are normally between 17 and 50 and must express a commitment to attend and actively participate in classes and to complete reading and writing assignments. No high school diploma or GED is required to enroll. Literacy at a level of reading and discussing a daily newspaper in English is a requirement. Individual or household income should be no more than 150% of poverty level.

The Clemente Course was founded in New York City in 1995 by author Earl Shorris, who responded to a plea from a female inmate to learn about the “moral life of the downtown”—the culture of art, literature, philosophy, history, and tradition that the economically advantaged enjoy. Over two dozen communities in the US and Mexico have implemented the Clemente Course, with graduates continuing with higher education, engaging in civic discourse, and enhancing their careers and lives.

During the 11-week fall term of the Clemente Course in Lafayette, writer and scholar Joy Castro of Wabash College will teach literature Tuesdays from 6pm to 8pm, and Wabash

philosophy professor Cheryl Hughes will lead a class in moral philosophy Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm. The fall term will begin September 6 and end November 18.

A third faculty member will teach writing and critical thinking every other Monday evening from September through April, with a break in December and January. During the spring term, art history and American history will be taught, along with the continuation of the writing and critical thinking course.

The Clemente project has received planning support from the Indiana Humanities Council. The Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College is reviewing a proposal for partial funding. Wabash faculty members Joy Castro and Cheryl Hughes are volunteering their time, as is local artist and scholar Clifford Peterson. Dr. Peterson will serve as Course Director for the fall term.

Friends of LUM can support the Clemente Course by 1) volunteering to help with snacks, childcare, or tutoring, 2) sending a gift to help pay for the cost of publicizing this opportunity to LUM's clients through the mail, and 3) by letting low-income friends, neighbors, and co-workers know about this unique opportunity. Applications for enrollment are available at LUM.

For more information, read *Riches for the Poor: The Clemente Course in the Humanities* by Clemente Course founder Earl Shorris, visit www.lightweave.net/clemente/clemente.html, or call LUM at 423-2691.

Afterschool Program concludes a successful year

May 25th marked the final day of the school year for the Afterschool Program at LUM. Thirty-five children from 27 local families participated in the program this year, receiving quality childcare and educational enrichment from 2:45–5:30 p.m. each day the Lafayette Schools were in session. The Afterschool Program, directed by Andrea Penner and assisted by Amy Borland focused on the four character traits of being responsible, respectful, honest and caring this year.

Responsibility included homework time—a must for two teachers leading the program! For 30–40 minutes every day, children and 28 Purdue and community volunteers worked hard at their schoolwork. From spelling lists to math workbooks, the homework time was a success for all. Parents mentioned being appreciative of having the time at home with their child without struggling to spend time doing homework, kids improved in reading and math assignments and scores on tests, and teachers have started recommending us!

We worked on teaching respect as a daily reminder to treat others as you would want to be treated. We did this in every situation the LUM kids were in—on field trips such as Louise Jewell's Farm, the public library, the YWCA for swimming, Purdue campus, and the favorite trips of the year to Turkey Run State Park and the Indianapolis Children's Museum—to everyday interactions with other children, adults and those in our community.

Being honest and caring with one another is something that is required with so many children and volunteers in one building! The environment of the LUM program ensures

that each child feels successful and safe. Parents have appreciated the structure and the expectations of their children while they are here at LUM.

The LUM Afterschool Program would not be able to run without the aide of so many people and organizations who give of their time and energy to plan special events for the Afterschool children—thank-you! The Afterschool Program will begin its 6th exciting year on August 17! To volunteer or donate snacks for next year, please call LUM at 423-2691.

Congratulations Amy Baumis!

At its April meeting, the LUM Board of Directors awarded Amy Baumis with the first ever RESPECT Program Scholarship for successfully completing the five-year teen pregnancy prevention program. Amy has enrolled in IVY Tech and hopes to transfer to Purdue to pursue a degree in elementary education. In the photo, Amy stands on the left next to RESPECT Program Director Andrea Penner.



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Change Service Requested

Briefly Noted...

- Overnight Shelter Volunteers Needed.** Help provide safe and caring overnight shelter for the homeless in our community. Volunteer once, or as many evenings as you'd like. Shelter volunteers serve from 8:30pm to 7:00am (includes 5 hours of sleep). Must attend training on Monday, June 21 at 6:30pm at LUM. Call Joyce Boehm at 423-2691, ext. 22, or email at jboehm@lafayetteurbanministry.org.
- Supper for the Homeless.** Volunteers are needed each night to prepare the evening meal for LUM's homeless shelter guests. Volunteers purchase the ingredients, prepare the meal, and deliver it to the LUM shelter. Supper is served between 9:00pm and 10:15pm. Some volunteers prefer to prepare the meal at LUM and stay to serve it to the homeless. We serve 50 individuals each night. For more information, or to schedule a night, contact Joyce Boehm at 423-2691, ext. 22, or e-mail at jboehm@lafayetteurbanministry.org.
- Did you know that the **St. John's/LUM Food Pantry** is our community's highest volume pantry, serving over 2,000 individuals each month? **Volunteers are needed** to work one morning each month from 9:00am to noon. If you own a pickup truck and can lift 20lbs., we could use your help with periodic shopping and transport of food from the food bank. Help feed the hungry in our community. For more information call Patti O'Callaghan at 423-2691, ext. 17, or e-mail at pocallaghan@lafayetteurbanministry.org.
- Purdue's Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures** is pleased to announce that its faculty members are offering programs on a wide variety of **cultural, artistic, and historical subject topics**. Your church has received a directory of speakers, topics and contact information, or go to www.sla.purdue.edu/academic/fl.
- Please remember to bring your empty inkjet printer cartridges to LUM** (525 N. 4th, M-F 8:15am to 4:30pm). We recycle them and receive \$2 for each one! We accept every brand except Epson.
- On Sunday, June 6 from noon to 5:00pm, **Steinmart of Lafayette** will offer a 15% discount to anyone from a LUM member church. Voluntary donation boxes will be located throughout the store for those who might like to help support LUM's new **Dignity U Wear Program**.
- Clothing drives will benefit LUM clients:** Two LUM member churches will collect clothing for which Goodwill will provide vouchers that can be given to needy families:

Unitarian Universalist Church Sat. June 5, 9:30am-1pm 17 S. 7th Street , Lafayette (Across from the library) Church parking lot.	St. Mary Cathedral Sat. June 26 4-6pm Sun June 27 7am-noon Mon-Tues June 28-29, 10am-1pm 1212 South St., Lafayette Bring clothing to the gym.
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