



### Prayer Needs

#### #1

For three years now New City Kids Grand Rapids has been served by Ellie. She is our After School Center Director and hundreds of children in Grand Rapids affectionately know her as Ms. Ellie. Sunday night her two year old son went to the ER complaining of joint pain. This afternoon (Thursday at 1pm) he will undergo surgery for a bone infection in his femur known as Osteomyelitis. This is a very treatable infection and yet we covet your prayers for this little guy as he goes through this process.

- Pray for the surgical team who will do the operation, that they will successfully remove all of the infection
- Pray for a complete recovery over the next 30 days of antibiotics
- Pray for the Shalom of the Holy Spirit to be on Ellie as she cares for her son and family

#### #2

For the last year we have had a very special young man be a part of our After School Center. He is a musical prodigy of sorts. When he sits down at the piano or bass guitar - or any instrument - he knows what needs to happen. Intuitively, he just gets it. He is in the top 1% of musicians I have ever met. But he lives on a rough block near New City Kids. His home life isn't the greatest and his attendance is streaky. Last fall, he won a brand new keyboard through a wonderful gift from the folks at 20 Monroe Live and New City Kids. Then a month later he disappeared. I remember going to look for him. I walked up to the porch strewn with garbage, leaves, and dirt. I knocked. A minute later I saw his fingers pull apart the broken blinds on the window and peer out. He invited me in. I tried to keep it light, but make sure he knew we wanted him back. He was looking down like he did something wrong. I said, "We miss you. When you coming back?" He said, "I can come back?" For some reason he thought he had done something wrong, that he was not able to come back. To tell you the truth, I felt terrible. I was kicking myself for being too busy with other stuff to come earlier. That very day he showed up again. The next time he was absent I stopped by his school and got him back involved. But I'm sharing this with you for a reason. In the last couple of weeks there have been four drive-by shootings on his block. This young man - call him Mark - was at home when a block away his stepfather was shot in the head. He came home bloody and the kids had to see that. Now they are living with their biological father in a different neighborhood.

- Please pray for the whole family and the stepfather in critical condition
- Please pray for Mark and his sister to be healed of the trauma they've witnessed
- Please pray that we will be able - in God's timing - to continue to be the family of God to these siblings. They both are so precious and I know in my bones that when they become teenagers and get a job with us, God will turn their lives around.

#### #3

The story you read above is not uncommon. Many of our current 26 teens have been through things like this. In one month we will be starting our new year. The program year starts with our Intern Try-Out (August 30 and 31), where dozens of teens from Union and Central and other high schools will compete for jobs with New City Kids. This is such an incredibly important fork in the road moment for kids. This will be my 12th year of doing Intern Try-Outs and I can confidently say that THIS is the moment where the course of kids' lives change. Once they get a job with us, we will be spending 500 hours a year with them doing leadership development, discipleship, college readiness and simply doing life together. Please pray for the returning teens and the teens we haven't met yet.

- Please pray for the teens who've been away this summer and that they will return for their old jobs! "Bri" (see last prayer letter) stopped by yesterday excited to reclaim her job!
- Pray for teens we've never met who will join our team. Pray that they will fight their fears (or any spiritual strongholds that would stand in their way) and insecurities to go through with the Try-Out.
- Pray for our staff to choose the right ones. This is an excruciating and exhilarating moment for us as some kids go on the waiting list - and others get picked.



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