



## Rub Shoulders with a Super Bowl Star

When I met him, he was scrawny. I could definitely beat him in football. Just by the contrast of our sizes. I think he came because of energy of New City, and possibly the lure of free snacks at the end of the day. But within a few months Jonathan joined our drama team. I remember his cheerful face and his bright eyes. In a lot of ways Jonathan was a lot like so many of the other kids we had every day. Kids filled with infinite promise, incredible strength, and a familiarity with the destructive power of poverty. For a few brief years I got to spend time with this amazing young man, and share with him as best I could the example of Christ, how he served his disciples and washed their feet. On one particularly memorable occasion, I got a chance to actually wash Jonathan's feet as we did our own New City Kids foot washing service. In the last couple of years those same feet propelled Jonathan forward to two Super Bowl wins for the NY Giants. (click [here](#) if you want to hear his full story).

This week 70 bright eyed, beautiful, and diamond-in-the-rough kids just like Jonathan came through our doors as we started our new season of After School Center. We have 35 teens and 70 kids, and not

nearly enough adults! But I'll get to that in a minute. What I wanted to share with you is that I get to spend time with all of these kids for free. In fact they pay me. Some of them may go on to win super bowls. Some of them may come up with the cure to cancer. Some of them will raise godly families with children who change the world. And I get a front row seat.

And you could too. We need some help. Yesterday I spent 30 minutes teaching Jennifer how to do prime factorization - a skill I recently re-learned when my 12 year old had to do it for school. Yesterday, Linda got to do play-doh sessions with some kids who wanted to tell her about the pressure they are getting to join gangs. Yesterday, Grace, one of our new Teen Life Interns, got to sit with Elmer and help him write descriptive sentences for his English assignment. These moments of teaching and passing on skills are important. But what's really important are the relationships that form over time. This often happens when a volunteer is able to come consistently twice a month or every week. These kids need to be loved. They need to be listened to. Is that something you know how to do? Are you looking for a way to get involved in a ministry? Do you want to feel like your Christianity is more than showing up a church for an uplifting 90 minute service once a week? If the answer to any of these is yes - maybe there's a place for you volunteering at New City Kids. Thanks so much for taking the time to read this and please check our volunteer and prayer needs below.

## Ways to Volunteer

- **Tutor Children** - Kids do homework from 4:30-6pm Monday-Thursday. We have teens to help, but the teens often have to help 4 kids at once. One on one tutoring is better. We are looking for people who can come on a regular 2x/month or 1x/week basis. Email [Ellie@newcitykids.org](mailto:Ellie@newcitykids.org) if you are interested.
- **Music Lessons** - If you know how to play bass guitar, piano or drums, we teach the kids every day from 4:30-6pm and could use your help. Or if you can help teach the teens who teach - those opportunities exist as well. Email [Maurice@newcitykids.org](mailto:Maurice@newcitykids.org)
- **Other Opportunities** - If none of these sound quite right - but you want to help anyway - please email [katy@newcitykids.org](mailto:katy@newcitykids.org). We need college prep, painting, plumbing, electrical, and many other skills as needs arise.
- **Prizes** - we always need \$10 prizes. Email [Ellie@newcitykids.org](mailto:Ellie@newcitykids.org) for ideas.
- **Snacks** - pretzels, goldfish, chips, granola bars, apples - we feed 70 kids/day. Email [Ellie@newcitykids.org](mailto:Ellie@newcitykids.org) if you can help
- **Metal folding chairs** - as the program grows we're running out of chairs. If you or your church has 5-10 decent quality folding chairs you no longer need, we could use them.

## Prayer Needs

- **Nicole** - Nicole featured in last week's email is doing great. She has really stepped up. She continued to face struggles at home. Pray that she will begin to see hope and that her community at New City Kids will make the gospel real to her.
- **Shante** - Shante is a new Teen Life Intern. She is tremendously gifted but she was told things at an early age that formed her identity as someone who does not deserve to be alive. Pray that over time she discovers and embraces God's identity for her.
- **Divorce** - several of our kids are living through the break up of their family. New City Kids can be like a second family and this helps, but please pray specifically for the children and teens whose families are breaking apart.
- **Kids in Gangs** - within 30 minutes of talking to some middle school boys, it is clear that they are being targeted to become part of gangs now and as they enter high school. Pray that New City can be a gang too. A stronger one.
- **Staff** - As our staff work to form relationships with over 100 kids - pray that we will be able to stay filled with the Holy Spirit who is the only one who can give us the strength to be ministers.

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