

## OXFORD CIRCLE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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*To extend  
healing and hope in the  
Oxford Circle community,  
believing that God's  
purpose of reconciling  
all people to Jesus  
leads us to minister  
on spiritual, physical,  
social & economic  
levels.*



## NOTES FROM THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

We have the following ministry and resource opportunity opportunities and welcome your participation!

**Prayer needs:** Contact Anita Lyndaker-Studer @ [occcda@verizon.net](mailto:occcda@verizon.net) or (267) 265-1709 for more information.

- We will be prayer walking and praying for particular streets and families who live there that peace would reign this summer and that violence would be diminished in families and our community.

- Please contact us if you would like to be a prayer partner for a child/family in our summer camp program. We are also looking for sponsors for participating children. Cost for OCCCDA is approximately \$50/week per student of which families provide \$20/wk per student.

- Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we look at beginning additional adult programs this fall which include GED/ESL, Financial Management, Management/Job Training, and Bridge of Hope (1 year intensive support program for homeless women and children). We need prayer both that we reach the families in need of these ministries and that they would know the love of Jesus through participating. We also need your prayers to find the staff, volunteers, and funding needed to support these programs.

- Funding to begin to pay down our loan debt so we can divert more funds from the property into our growing ministries and community programs.

#### Human resources:

- Summer camp volunteers—Contact Bianca Prunes @ [biancalanip@gmail.com](mailto:biancalanip@gmail.com) or (540) 742-5528
- GED Tutors and instructors – Contact Joe Beech @ [ajataylor1@yahoo.com](mailto:ajataylor1@yahoo.com)

### Board of Directors

#### Officers:

Leonard Dow, President  
Hong Tran, Vice President  
Karen Jantzi, Secretary  
Carlos Rodriguez, Treasurer

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## NOTES FROM THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

JUNE 2011

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### UPCOMING DATES

Board Meeting, every 2nd first Tuesday: 7-9pm

July-August  
GED Classes, Tuesday evenings 5-7pm

July 11-August 19  
Summer Camp Arts and Education Program, Mon-Thurs, 9-3pm,

8/18  
Camp Closing Program, 5-6:30pm

9/10/  
11th Annual Community Festival and Job Fair, 12-4pm

### A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In reflecting on this past quarter, what dominates my thoughts is the blessing of life. My husband and I were overjoyed to be able to adopt a beautiful baby girl born January 6, 2011.



Emma (left) came into our lives because her birth mother sacrificed to nurture her through pregnancy knowing she would not be able to care for Emma herself. Such an amazing gift of life!

We've been talking with the children in the after school creation club this semester about planting seeds that produce life. We see so many things that can "crowd out" and "eat up" the life produced by God's Word. Some days it seems that the thorns and birds in our community outnumber the seeds we are planting. We found them throughout our garden this spring. But we are called to faithfulness, to continued



sowing of the word and cultivation through prayer that the seeds will produce a fruitful life just like the garden we planted last week.

My prayer as we end this semester of after school and prepare for summer camp is that the participating children would receive the seeds of God's word with joy and know life and know it abundantly.

*"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."*  
Mark 4:3-8 (NIV)



# GED *Success Stories*



One of the programs that Oxford Circle Christian Development Association provides for its community is the adult GED education program, established in the fall of 2010. This program has been very beneficial for many of the residents in Oxford Circle Community and surrounding areas. Several of the participating adults were asked about their experiences with OCCCDA's GED program. Joe Beech (far left) is the volunteer GED instructor.

## *Sara has made plans to further her education after she attains her GED.*

Sara is a resident of the Oxford Circle Community who heard about our program through word of mouth. She chose OCCCDA over classes at EARN where she works because "I like the professor teaching style [at OCCCDA]. He is patient with me and he is willing to work with you until you get it." Sara has overcome many obstacles in her life that caused her education to be postponed. She admits that she "wasn't able to complete high school because there were a lot of problems at home and I also became a mother at a very young age. As a result of that, I had to be a homemaker and raise my kids."

Sara has made plans to further her education after she attains her GED. She is planning to attend college and take night classes. She is working tirelessly to be a mother for her children as well as achieving her education goals. The OCCCDA is here to help her.

Kevin is another student that is benefitting from the OCCCDA GED program. Kevin had been looking for a GED

program without any luck until he saw an OCCCDA flyer that was placed in mailboxes in the area. Kevin is more than content in his decision to attend OCCCDA's program. He is pleased with the classroom environment and the conduct of the classroom. Even with all of the commitment involved in getting his work done Kevin still finds the class to be very helpful.

The class has helped Kevin to do well on his test (passed several of the tests to date). He was able to call his mentor, who he meets with after class, at any time to ask questions about the GED. Kevin is hoping that his sister -in-law will also take advantage of the program at Oxford Circle and complete her GED. Kevin is looking forward to having more job opportunities to better support his family once he has achieved his GED this summer.

The hunt for a better job is one of the biggest motivators for people wanting to receive their GED. Nardai hopes that it will secure her a better job.

As an immigrant, she did not attend school for very long and is now learning many new things through OCCCDA's program. She now has been given the opportunity to further her studies after she receives her GED. "I hope to complete my GED as soon as it is possible, hopefully, before this year." OCCCDA's program, and its caring teachers, will help her reach her goals.

OCCCDA's free GED class is helping to change lives, improve job status, and giving hope. We at OCCCDA are encouraged by class growth and dedication of both students and teacher.



The afterschool program serves as a vehicle to expose Oxford Circle youth to various cultures and assist in tutoring. The photos below show the youth participating in the Cambodian New Year and African Dance.



## The OCCDA Afterschool Program

