



Oxford Circle

Christian Community Development Association

Back to School with OCCDA



As we kick off the school year in Oxford Circle, we have some exciting news: OCCDA was chosen for grant funding to expand our After School Program from 1 to 3 sites this Fall! We chose to replicate our Carnell K-5 After School Program at another public elementary school in our neighborhood, JH Moore, where we ran our summer camp this year, and also, begin an after school program for high schoolers at our next door neighbor, Fels HS, which borders our property at our main office! We are excited for the new relationships and in-roads these connections create. The need for our programs is evident – already all our enrollment slots are filled at our 2 elementary schools, and we’ve recruited a good number of interested high school students/parents. Our programs offer a strong foundation in academics (math, literacy, STEAM, collaborative Project Based Learning, etc.) but what stands out is the social-emotional competency students explore through our character building (student leadership) focused classes.



We’re also pleased to partner with specialists to offer life skills & exploratory classes, like: personal finance, goal-setting (Goals Not Guns), career, and immigration law & rights – balanced with dance & yoga, and fun Fridays. We are conscious as we grow to maintain quality, collaborating with evaluators & using feedback to assess where more support is needed, and what we excel in that we can leverage and replicate. We look forward to seeing what future cross-over partnerships develop, and weave more layers into our network of resources supporting families in Oxford Circle – on spiritual, physical, social, and economic levels. Please pray with us for our staff as we chart new courses, establish relationships, train new staff, and recruit more educators to join us!

Meet Our Staff!



Keilyn Baez is our Coordinator at our new After School Program at Fels High School.

When Keilyn, who lives nearby, started volunteering at OCCDA in our Food Distribution program 2 years ago, she didn't imagine it would lead to employment. But our staff saw her dedication as a volunteer, so when a job became available with Food Distribution, they offered it to her. On staff, Keilyn was mentored by her colleagues, and felt herself opening up and growing professionally. After a while, a new position opened up with our After School Program, and Keilyn tentatively stepped into it. "I was willing to try something new," Keilyn reflected, "I hadn't done something like that before, but the people here believed in me."

Keilyn has been thriving in her new role -- she helped launch the After School Program at our 2nd elementary school, J.H. Moore, and is now leading the After School Program for high schoolers at Fels High School, which neighbors OCCDA's property.



Keilyn working with 9th grader, Ritzy, on a goal mapping project in the After School Program at Fels High School.

Keilyn naturally connects well, and draws from her own life experiences to help students think ahead about what they can be working on now, to prepare for life outside of school. "I tell them if they're thinking of getting a job this summer, now is the time to get in early on applying for a work permit, and beat the rush!"

Our students have been learning and practicing techniques this year in a class taught by Ms. Wanda, author of "[Have Goals not Guns](#)." Check out Ms. Wanda interviewing some of our staff & students for her TV show [here](#)!

OCCDA After School Program values connecting students with mentors that think with them about life skills and goal setting relevant to their lives. We invite you to join us to help continue and expand work like this!

