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Greater Columbus Chronicle

Newsletter of the CEF of Ohio, Inc. - Greater Columbus Chapter

December 2022

Serving the following counties:

- Delaware • Madison
- Fairfield • Perry
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Staff

Laura Gardner,
Ministry Coordinator

Local Committee

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Sandy Harper
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Praise the Lord for a New(ish) Staff Member!

Our Committee is excited to announce the hiring of Laura Gardner as a paid, part-time Ministry Coordinator. Many of you know that Laura previously served this Columbus Chapter for many years as a volunteer Ministry Coordinator. Her duties will include planning, leading, and supervising our direct ministries to children, including Good News Clubs and 5-Day Clubs. She will also help train teachers and other volunteers. With this hire we also will take on a salaries & wages expense that we haven't had in a while. Therefore, we need your help to support Laura in this endeavor. Let's hear from our newest and best staff member, who plans to start on December 1:



"I am so blessed to become a paid staff member in the Columbus Chapter that I've served in for many years. At the age of 8 years old, I heard how Jesus died on the cross for my sin at a VBS. I asked God to forgive me and come into my heart. As a teen, I worked three summers with CEF as a CYIA (Christian Youth in Action) missionary, and during this time I felt the call of God on my life to tell children about Jesus. This passion for reaching children has intensified over the years as I've ministered to children at CEF and my church. I thank God that I have had the privilege to lead children to Christ; it is such a joy to see a child's eyes after they accept Jesus. I look forward to serving my Savior and growing the ministries in our eight-county chapter.

CEF staff are considered missionaries that need to help raise their own support. Will you join me and become a part of our team sharing the love of Jesus with the children in the Greater Columbus Area? Will you prayerfully consider a financial gift? One-time gifts are welcome, but I am also looking for long-term supporters who would be willing to contribute on a regular basis. I need to raise at least \$1,500 per month starting out, which would look like 6 donors giving \$250 per month, 15 donors giving \$100 per month, or even 30 donors giving \$50 per month. But any amount God lays on your heart to give will be a blessing.

Will you join me in praying for our Committe Members, leaders, volunteers and especially the children who so desperately need to hear that Jesus loves them? If you do decide to support me, please indicate "Donation for the Ministry Coordinator Fund" on your check or PayPal donation, and feel free to send a note of encouragement as I start this paid position. Checks can be mailed to **CEF of Ohio – Greater Columbus Chapter, PO Box 1173, Columbus, OH 43216**. Debit/credit card donations can be made through PayPal by visiting the link on our website at cefcolumbus.com/donate/. Thank you for your prayers and for making a difference in the lives of children. I hope you had a great Thanksgiving and pray you have a very Merry Christmas!" – Laura

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. – Philippians 1:3-5

2021 Worldwide CEF Ministry Statistics

Teachers Trained
2020 - 273,875
2021 - 312,655

Good News Clubs
2020 - 58,616
2021 - 55,143

Children Reached
2020 - 16,443,289
2021 - 15,628,921

Professions of Faith
2020 - 5,616,966
2021 - 5,645,921

Christmas Across Ohio



At the end of the month, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior. Last year CEF chapters shared with many children the true meaning of Christmas. This resulted in 50 Christmas Party Clubs being conducted across the state and over 650 children hearing the Gospel. This year's Christmas Party Clubs will have children being able to hear the "Joy to the World" that Jesus provided. The lesson will share clues about how we can know that Jesus was the Savior talked about in the book of Isaiah. The fun does not end there as children will be 'traveling' around the world learning what games other kids play during this time of the year. The goal across the state is to see 70 clubs conducted this winter and over 800 children to hear the Gospel. Our chapter hopes to hold several Christmas Party Clubs as well. This one-time special Club meeting will focus on telling students the true meaning of why we celebrate Christmas, and introduce them to not only Jesus the baby, but also Jesus the Savior.

An Exciting Summer of Training by Ray and Sandy Harper

We are celebrating God's blessing of a huge fresh start following the COVID slowdown. He put a desire to teach Good News Clubs into the hearts of 25 people in the Pataskala, Lancaster, Baltimore, and Delaware/Sunbury areas. Seventeen of those (being pastors, retired classroom teachers, and others who love children) were able to attend a two-day "Quick Start" training in July and were enthused with the lively videos and quality materials. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, prayer for each other, and sharing of additional ideas. Linda, a GNC teacher for years, hosted it and taught a second session for the remaining volunteers. This has led to three new clubs and we are praying for two more we anticipate will open soon. He also moved a veteran CEF teacher all the way from Washington state to our area who attended this training and she has already led a 5-Day Club and a Good News Club in Lancaster. We are thankful for the many children who will now be reached.



A Christmas Message from CEF's Founder J. Irvin Overholtzer from the early 1950s

Christmas is drawing near. One more time the birth of Jesus will be celebrated in all the churches of this country and in many other countries. The world also celebrates Christmas, but without thinking about receiving Christ as the Savior of their souls.

We have observed over the years that in our churches, in general, there is not much evangelism during the Christmas season. This is very sad. We forget there is no salvation in the birth of Christ. We can believe that He was born of a virgin, and that He truly is the Son of God, and still not be saved.

We have noticed during the Christmas season that the hearts of children are turned toward the Lord Jesus. And so, if we do our part, we can make this season the most fruitful season of the year, winning children for Christ!

In a large party of a Sunday school, I had the opportunity to present the Gospel to children and give them an invitation to accept Christ as Savior. The result was surprising. Many children responded to the invitation. In every Christmas program we must do what I did in that Sunday school.

We ask our workers to do open air evangelism and we have discovered that especially during the Christmas season, children are looking unto Christ. This is why it is so easy to give them the salvation message and guide them to accept Christ as Savior.

Reaching Children at Fairs and Festivals by Ray and Sandy Harper



At the Union County Fair in Marysville in July, 110 children and young people stopped by and heard the Gospel presented while they made a bracelet explaining it. Twenty-nine of them prayed to receive Christ as their Savior, many of them being Junior High age. We were blessed to have had Lucas, one of our trained Christian Youth in Action (CYIA) teens, working with us and you can see him in the yellow shirt sharing with kids who stopped by our booth. It was a week of communicating with adults as well. Several Home School parents stopped by and were interested in sharing CYIA training opportunities with their teens and their churches.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with other ministries. The Gideons have graciously invited us to pass out gospel bookmarks with Wordless book bracelets and Testaments at many Kid Fests around the area. Over two thousand Testaments have been given out; the colors in the bracelets

and bookmarks attract those walking by and we use those opportunities to explain the gospel to many different people. Pray that these will open the eyes of Moms and Dads as they explain them to their children. Many Muslims stopped by and we had opportunity to share the love of God. These were very special events. We need more funds and people to continue these activities. May the Lord be glorified!

Come be a part in some way and you will find it to be a huge blessing. It's the little things that we do over time that can make a huge difference. Give us a call at 614-732-0448 and we can share with you the many ways you can help to reach the children. Also visit our website at cefcolumbus.org/get-involved/. What is your interest? We are here to help with ideas. One idea would be to check out U-Nite TV and radio at unite.cefonline.com. This new tool from CEF unites children with the Gospel, Christian biographies, animated adventures, songs, missionary stories, and more. Share the website with your church, friends, neighbors, and grandchildren. We would love to hear ideas from you!

Prayer Requests – We thank the Lord for bringing Laura Gardner on board as Ministry Coordinator; pray for her as she starts this month • Additional Good News Clubs in schools and other facilities • Additional church partners/volunteers • A Director for our Chapter and extra funds to support that position • New Greater Columbus Committee members • Children attending our ministries to have an open heart to the Gospel



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

