

Mission Statement

To impact the youth of our neighborhood with the love of Christ.

2011 Annual Campaign January 1-May 31

Our goal to meet this year's budget:

\$5,000

Thank you for your support!

A note from the Executive Director

Many of you have heard about the shooting which resulted in the death of a young man near the Lighthouse at the end of February. While the event was in many ways a random occurrence, it typified the kinds of choices people make when they feel their options for getting by are limited; one to sell drugs, the other to rob someone. The point I keep coming back to though is that if these two young men would have had good jobs, neither of them would have found themselves on 3rd St that night.

As you can imagine, the past few weeks have been difficult for many of the staff and the kids, it has left many quite shaken and grieving. We covet your prayers as we sift through this situation and continue to seek God's guidance in how to best respond as care-givers, fellow grievers, and as a proactive Kingdom presence here in southeast Canton.

On a more positive note, we are excited to announce that we met our 2010 financial goals. Through your support and donations we are able to send as many as 50 kids to a Christian camp this summer and fund our incentive program, which you will read about in the article below. Thank you for being a part of this exciting opportunity.

Peace,

Darin Nlssley

Incentive program encourages academic growth and financial literacy

Abby Skiba

This year's incentive program has kicked off once again. This program was implemented last year as we saw the need for inspiration and motivation among our students. We also saw the need for the children to learn how to take care of their money and begin to learn the basic functions of a bank.

In order to do this, we allow students to earn a weekly stipend based upon their efforts and achievement in both the classroom and the after school program. The amount directly relates to the grade level of the child from \$3.00 for 3rd graders up to \$6.00 for 6th graders. There are five things a student must do all week in order to receive their money. All graded

assignments must be a C or better, all homework must be turned in with an honest effort given, they must attend the after school program each day without being sent home, and they need to give an honest effort in the academic portion of the after school program.



The students receive their money at the Lighthouse at the beginning of each week. They have the option to keep their money or they can

bank it. They also have their own passbook, which they can use to track their savings. All of this encourages financial literacy. When students choose to keep their money in the bank, they will be able to earn interest on their savings.

In doing this program we hope that the students take their school work more seriously, which will then open the door to academic success and love for learning. We also hope to see the children gain understanding in making wise choices with money. And we would like to see less behavioral problems inside the classroom and during the after school program.

It has been rewarding to see students earn money each week and feel proud of themselves for not only getting their stipend, but for completing all of the necessary criteria to receive it.



Meet Elijah

Why is the Lighthouse important to the community?

Because it's a fun place for kids to go to have fun and do homework.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?

Math. It's really easy!

What would you like to be when you grow up?

A basketball player.

What's your favorite thing to do outside of school?

Play basketball!

A donor's testimony June Phelps

My husband and I are supporters of the Lighthouse and have been for several years. My connection to the Lighthouse dates back to when I was a board member and wrote grant proposals for the program. Now my association is primarily through providing financial support.

We give to the Lighthouse because we trust in the hearts of the leaders and the staff who run the program. As I mentioned I was on the board and was deeply impressed by the wisdom and spiritual discernment of the leaders, by their commitment towards and love for the children of the Lighthouse neighborhood. I have always been struck by the Lighthouse's emphasis on the importance of relationship. The leaders and staff have a clear sense of the personhood of each child. The staff and leaders listen to the children; they give them respectful attention and the children love it. The kids laugh, they play, they learn, and they come to know about Christ through experiencing Christian love. I have been particularly struck by how the leaders and staff have communicated a patient love.

There are so many good things

about the Lighthouse that make me grateful that I can support the program. The leaders and staff express the love of Christ by providing a safe place for children to go after school which is stimulating and fun. The Lighthouse is a safe place partly because of its longevity. It has been a trusted presence in the neighborhood for many years now, providing enrichment and tutoring to help kids have a better chance of finishing school and succeeding in the community. Some children who once attended the Lighthouse are now adult staff members, giving back to the community. The Lighthouse is a safe place because the staff are so well trained (you should see the training manual). Additionally, the Lighthouse is a safe place for kids to play and learn because it is committed to assessing and improving its programs, while recognizing that certain intangibles cannot be easily measured (e.g., how the love and commitment of a leader can turn a child's heart to Christ).

We support the Lighthouse because its vision is communal, focusing on cooperation not competition. The Lighthouse is part of NASI, a group of



Program Director Hannah Ramsburg poses with Belden Elementary students on a field trip.

after school programs in Canton City that instead of competing for limited funds from foundations, work together to improve each other's programs and to share support. The Lighthouse has a vision that extends beyond the neighborhood and fosters cooperation throughout the city. Could a donor ask for more? I think not.

Visit

www.cantonlighthouse.org

to set up your one time or monthly donation!