

Mission Statement

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

Keep up with the Lighthouse on the web

Website

www.cantonlighthouse.org

Service Learning

www.servingincanton.com

Facebook

Lighthouse Ministries

Twitter

LHMCanton

Blog

www.lighthouseministriescanton.wordpress.com

New Donor Challenge

By the end of October our goal is to have 20 new monthly donors.

1 new donor @ \$50/mth

3 new donors @ \$40/mth

6 new donors @ \$30/mth

10 new donors @ \$20/mth

Would you prayerfully consider supporting the Lighthouse financially.

Visit
cantonlighthouse.org
to set up your monthly giving

From the Director's Desk

Unbelievably the summer's end is upon us which means all of our staff is enjoying a month's reprieve from programming as we transition from field trips, camp, and service teams to the after school program. This break offers a chance for reflection and preparation. We reflect on the joy of sending 18 children to 5 different camps at Camp Luz this summer, more than 200 people attending our neighborhood Block Party, 35 children participating in our field trips, and 80 youth and leaders from churches in Ohio and Pennsylvania coming to the Lighthouse for a week of serving and learning!

So we take time for a well earned breather while looking forward to an after school program with a renewed focus on empowering children to dream and achieve, and ministry clubs inviting these same young people to consider being part of God's Kingdom! Enjoy the newsletter and please consider the ways you may be able to support the children of southeast Canton.

Peace,
Darin Nissley

Because You're Worth It (BYWI)

Abby Skiba

Every child deserves to hear that they are worth it. In Matthew 18 Jesus refers to children to help the disciples understand faith and our responsibility to value younger generations.

Specifically in the 5th verse Jesus says, "And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." This simple phrase sparked our newest volunteer opportunity at the Lighthouse. BYWI: Because You're Worth It, is a chance to impact children at Belden Elementary School.

Belden is a struggling place, as are many of the schools in our area. Belden is below the state proficiency in every grade in both reading and math and many of the classrooms are at capacity. The teachers need help, and that's where you come in. For 1 day a week volunteers have the opportunity to spend 4 hours in the school. During this time you will help teachers in

the classroom with various projects, reading time, and general tutoring. Lunchtime is a way for volunteers to further connect with children through conversation and sharing a meal. Every day that you spend at the school you will eat lunch with the same small group of students, creating strong relationships for the school year. Recess time



is chaotic and in need of more supervision. Volunteers will also have the chance to play in the gym or on the playground with students.

Our goal is to have one volunteer in each classroom. Our goal is to help these children know that they are worth it, that their education is worth it, and that time spent with them is worth it.

When we welcome children into our lives in Jesus name, especially ones who find themselves in a struggling community, it not only empowers them, it glorifies the kingdom of heaven. Please join us!
Email: LHMBYWI@gmail.com.

A service learning student's testimony: What she experienced this summer at the Lighthouse

Jessica Linville

Hope. Hope is alive in the streets of downtown Canton. When our team had a day in the shoes of those in poverty, we ate inside a soup kitchen. We asked a man who was eating there what his name was, and he said, "My name is Matty. The only reason I told you that is because someday I am going to be in the NFL. Then you can say when I come on TV, 'I know that guy.'" We don't know if that is going to happen, but he has hope to improve his situation.

We spent time with the kids from the Lighthouse and went with them on a trip to Sluggers and Putters. I was with a girl a little younger than me with the same name as my sister, Jenai. We instantly became friends, and had fun in the simple things we did. We blasted each other with water from the bumper boats and played putt putt golf. Our second field trip day was at the beach. That was a super fun day. It was a special time to

see the kids as real kids. Sometimes we judge people in poverty, but we don't get a chance to know them! Really, all they need is love and someone to spend time with them. They like to have a good time just like us.



Our team helped clean up the cemetery right behind the church. At first we were apprehensive because it needed A LOT of work and none of us liked the idea

of working in a cemetery. We ended up all coming together as a team and had a blast! We made a fake movie while working. It was one of the longest work days of our week. We didn't have time to finish everything, so the guys got up really early without being asked and finished the work. We were all very proud of ourselves and hope others enjoy the cemetery looking better.

We did an activity called the prayer path, where there were nine different stations and each had a different way to talk to God. I learned that I really need to listen to others and try to understand their lives, and I learned that God is right here in this moment. He knows what he is doing. This experience was really powerful for all of us because everyone held back tears while they prayed.

I would really like to come back and work at the Lighthouse. I saw the suffering in Canton, but I saw how the Lighthouse gave Hope and compassion to the kids in Canton. Their lives seemed better because of the opportunities at the Lighthouse. I want to be a part of that.

Jessica was part of the service learning team from First Friends Church in Canton. She is currently a freshman at Lake Center Christian School.

Meet Lawt

Lawt is our newest staff member and she is from Laos. She will be working with the 3rd and 4th graders at the after school program and serving as a classroom assistant at Belden Elementary School. This is Lawt's first time in the United States.

What is your full name?

Bounyong Raken; my nickname is Lawt

What brought you to Lighthouse Ministries?

I came here through the Mennonite Central Committee. There was an assignment in Oregon and one in Ohio. I chose Ohio!

What are you looking forward to most about working at the Lighthouse?

Experience with the kids, helping them with their education.

How is America different from where you grew up?

In Laos you can't open Christian schools or programs. You can't talk about peace. You'd have to do it in secret, underground. It's easy here.

What are your favorite activities?

Volleyball, going on walks, riding bikes, reading books, hanging out with friends.

Providing safety • Fighting prejudice • Nurturing hope • Offering spiritual care • Emphasizing service

