

## Mission Statement

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

## 2010 Annual Campaign

Your support is needed!  
We need to raise

# \$15,000

by the end of the year.



Visit  
[www.cantonlighthouse.org](http://www.cantonlighthouse.org) to  
set up your one time or monthly  
donation!

## A note from the Director Darin Nissley

This time of year is great! The after-school program and all of our evening clubs are up and running. The energy and noise brought by the constant flow of children is quite enjoyable. Currently the Lighthouse is abuzz with the more than 95 children participating in at least one of our programs. Programs that allow our staff to do the significant work of building relationships with the kids.

Building relationships can bring a mixed bag of emotions though. On one hand, you discover the beauty of the child; learning about their gifts, their passions and dreams. Unfortunately getting to know someone also reveals the incredible pain that many of the children we work with must face. Stories of betrayal, abandonment, fear, and violence are far too common, and often seem overwhelming. Yet it is through these relationships that the Love of Christ is most effectively expressed and received.

For the last several years we have been developing a vision for sending our after school students to a Christian camp for one week during the summer. We feel this fits our mission and vision in several ways. It provides opportunities for children from an urban setting to get away for a week enjoying a camp environment in the country, it serves as a reward for a year's worth of hard work in our after-school program, and it provides additional exposure to the healing and hope the Kingdom of God offers.

**Your support allows this work to continue! We need to raise \$15,000 by the end of the year.** Meeting this goal allows us to continue our ministry in the community and provides 50 camperships for the children participating in our after-school program. As many of you know, our annual banquet has been rescheduled for the Spring; meaning that our original goal of \$40,000 will be met at that time. For now, we ask that you join us in our mission to impact the youth of our community with the Love of Christ. Thank you!

## Meet Taylor

### Why is the Lighthouse important to the community?

I think the Lighthouse is important because the people here really enjoy helping and being with the children in the after school program. When I was in the after school program, I was very thankful for the homework help. Without it I would have spent my whole day doing homework. Another thing is that the staff makes sure that you have a way home so that you are protected. Their concern for our protection and safety is very high. Last but not least, all the activities the Lighthouse has planned are really fun and helpful.



**Taylor is a 7th grader who currently volunteers at our after-school program and attends junior high club.**

## Art program strives to stimulate the mind

*Abby Skiba*

Art, in its more traditional sense, has always been a part of our programming here at the Lighthouse. The desire to provide new ways for our students to be creative and express themselves called for a more holistic approach to our arts programming. Staff member Jordan DeWeerd has been working with the Lighthouse for three years now. She is a youth ministries major at Malone University, but she also happens to be an outstanding artist, which has lead her to her new role as the art teacher for the after school program. She has had a passion for art since she was young. "Art has always been one of my main outlets. It can calm me down when I am stressed, it is a way for me to worship God, and I believe that it stimulates the mind," she said.



**33% of children are visual learners. Our art program creates an outlet for them.**

As an exciting addition to the art program, the Lighthouse has welcomed drummer, Josh Carey, to our ministry this year. Josh will lead bucket-drumming classes; teaching the kids how to use buckets to create cool rhythms. It

gives kids an outlet for expression and a way to learn that is different than sitting in a classroom. The Lighthouse plans to offer dance classes beginning in January as well.



**Children learn to create rhythms through bucket drumming. It's a team building process that also calls for creative expression.**

The arts offer an opportunity to significantly impact children as learners. Art stimulates both sides of the brain and studies show that kids who make art read better and receive better grades in science and math. 33% of children are visual learners, which means that art and music are going to utilize those senses to help children learn and to develop essential motor skills. Exploring the arts allows children to express themselves and open their minds to all sorts of possibilities. "I think that art provides a common ground between teacher and student as well as peer to peer relationships," said Jordan. Jordan also believes that art can promote self esteem and that it brings the cultural resources of the community into the classroom.

Over the summer Jordan designed and lead students in painting murals that portray different heroes and stories of inspiration. These murals will be on display at the Lighthouse to remind everyone of the amazing people in history who broke racial stereotypes, barriers and prejudices to make this world a better place. The murals will serve as a learning tool for our staff as we work with children and will serve as a constant reminder of the things that the Lighthouse stands for.



**Jordan DeWeerd designed and lead students in creating this mural depicting Nelson Mandela standing for equal rights and justice.**

As the year continues to unfold, our prayer is that our children will excel through creative expression and continue to engage in these exciting classes that we offer. Jordan is excited to see how God will use the art program this year. "We have a lot of things planned this year and I've already seen some pretty good art work come from these students."