

Mission Statement

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

Service Learning

www.servingincanton.com

Facebook

facebook.com/LHMCanton

Twitter

LHMCanton

WordPress (blog)

lighthouseministriescanton.com



Donor Challenge

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

Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us financially?

Set up your monthly donation at cantonlighthouse.org!



From the Director's Desk

Fall at the Lighthouse means a constant buzz of activity. Our clubs are in full swing and the after-school program has 65 children enrolled and a growing waiting list! While 2011 has been an excellent year in terms of community relationships and impacting the children we work with, we have significant concerns as we look forward to 2012.

The Lighthouse is currently in the last year of a five year 21st Century Grant. This grant allowed us to move into the schools and more than double the number of children we serve. The grant paid for classroom teachers to lead our academic times, a site-coordinator for the school, field trips, and materials. In all, this grant provided more than \$37,000 in resources to our after school program. Losing this grant will change the look of our program drastically.

The grant is being reapplied for but in these difficult financial times, we feel that the chance for renewal is slim. We want to ensure that we are able to continue supporting the children of our neighborhood and are asking for your support. Please consider supporting the Lighthouse financially with a one time gift as part of your year end giving or by setting up a monthly donation through our website.

As you read about the new things happening here we hope that you capture our vision for impacting the youth of Southeast Canton with the love of Christ.

Peace,
Darin Nissley

Vocational Awareness

Abby Skiba

"What are you going to be when you grow up?" A common question asked by parents and adults to young individuals from the first day of school to college graduation. But what happens when a child doesn't hear that phrase from their parent? What happens when a child isn't encouraged to be *anything* when they grow up? What happens when they don't even realize that they have gifts and talents just waiting to be developed?

Lighthouse Ministries is encouraging students through a new program called Vocational Awareness. Each Friday a different professional from the Canton area will come and speak about what they do, how they got there, and what it took to become successful in their given vocation.

Several of our students have no idea what they want to be when they grow up. Many of them think that they will be professional football or basketball players. Others believe that they will succeed as a multi-platinum

recording artist. Most children have those dreams growing up, and we love to hear their imaginations run wild when they talk about being the next NFL star. We realize, however, that we need to encourage our students to be thinking realistically and provide hope that they have a bright future. That they are capable of being a nurse, a barber, or the next mayor of Canton.



The Lighthouse wants every child to realize that they are gifted in several areas and that they have the potential to be whatever they want to be. We hope that our students start considering

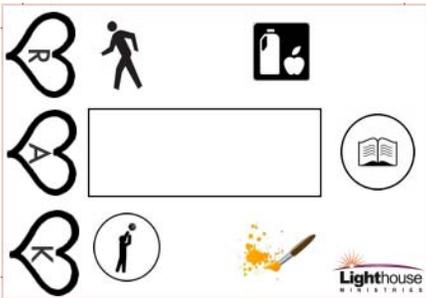
what their dreams are and feel empowered to follow them.

We want to instill worth, hope, and inspiration in our students. It is through the accounts of other professionals in their own community that we hope to continue to do these things well.

Would you like to tell students about your job?
cantonlighthouse@sbcglobal.net

RAK: Random Acts of Kindness to promote service and relationships

At the end of last school year, the Lighthouse staff met to discuss new ways to benefit our students during the after school program. One of our staff members suggested doing a punch card system where students would receive a hole punch after they had completed each section of the after school program. We all thought this was a positive and creative way to commend students for a job well done.



One of the most important sections on the incentive cards is the section with the three hearts that have the letters R, A, and K inside of them. These letters stand for Random Acts of Kindness.

We use RAK because we hope that through giving students the choice to practice kindness, that these “random” acts will soon become “regular” acts.

We’ve already seen students taking the RAK part of the system to heart. On a Monday afternoon our 5th graders were doing their homework in the cafeteria as the 2nd graders walked in from the literacy program. One of our 5th graders, Latasha, noticed the group getting their own homework out, and approached a staff member with an idea.

“Abby, can we go help the 2nd graders with their homework?”

Soon Latasha and all of her friends were paired with one other female 2nd grader helping them finish their work. This was a great moment and a moment that helps illustrate the reasons why we emphasize the importance of service and kindness.

It was amazing to see 5th grade girls take initiative to go help their younger peers with their work.

When an older student helps a younger student, it conveys a positive message. It shows the younger student that they are cared for and looked out for by the “leaders” of the school. It gives our older students a sense of responsibility because we are trusting them in helping another person with their work. It helps the older students practice academic skills. And it reflects community by allowing them

to interact with each other. Because of one student’s idea, we had the entire 5th grade group participating in an RAK moment.

Since that day, our students have been especially eager to help each other with homework. We’ve also seen them cleaning up the cafeteria, gym, and art room without having to be told.



We are excited to see the incentive cards becoming a positive influence on our kids. We’ve already witnessed “random” acts morphing into “regular” acts and we will continue to nurture these small moments so that our students practice RAK beyond the after school program and into their classrooms, homes, and communities.



Meet Latasha

Latasha is a 5th grader at Belden Elementary. She has been in the Lighthouse Ministries after school program for 3 years.

What does kindness mean to you?

It means *everything* to me.

How have you seen kindness in your life?

I see it in helping people and expressing my feelings to people who care about me. I see it when people play together.

What are some ways that you practice kindness?

By cooking for my mom and brother and babysitting a lot.

What is your favorite part about the after school program?

We get to play, do activities, and get our homework done. I like when we take field trips too.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

A doctor, scientist, nurse, police officer, and a teacher. I want to be a parent and adopt kids too. I also want to go to college and get my degree. I mostly just want to have fun!

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