



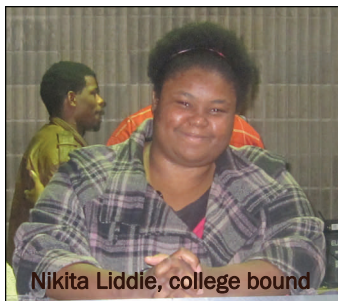
SUMMER NEWS 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Backyard Bible Club</i>	2
<i>Volunteer Thanks</i>	3
<i>10 Creative Gifts to Agape</i>	3
<i>Numbers tell a story</i>	3
<i>Opportunities to Contribute</i>	4

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Nikita Liddie, college bound

Spiritual Answers

How do you deal with the problems of the inner city? Improve schools? Find jobs? Give better health care? Fight crime? Yes, yes, yes, and yes.

However, I believe that some problems require the gospel of Jesus



Making a Healthy Neighborhood

Christ. How does someone forgive their childhood abuser? How can you confess a terrible sin and hope for forgiveness? Only by

Christ's atoning death can we heal from spiritual and emotional distress.

Over the past three months, our staff have conducted intense, spiritual workshops. Topics included

forgiveness, service, sacrifice, healing from abuse, confession, and growing in Christ. The response has been incredible! Whether rich or poor, suburban or urban, we must bring dark deeds into the light to get free from secret sin and shame. Our staff spends months building rela-



Ashly Scott at Workshop

tionships and praying for trust before any breakthrough can happen. Without this groundwork, trust is absent. Without this time investment, shame stays hidden. Thank you for faithfully supporting Agape's mission to bring lasting transformation. Thank you for understanding that deep change takes time. During these times we especially value your contributions of time, prayer and finances.

College Bound: Nikki Liddie

With great pleasure, we will be sending our first Agape member off to a residential 4-year college. Nikki Liddie will be attending Moody Bible Insti-

tute in the fall of 2009 pursuing a degree in Communications, planning to lead youth ministry as a career. For the past three years, Nikki has been

working as the Office Manager for Yellowstone Academy, and for the past 10 months, Nikki has been participating in Agape's residential

WAYS TO HELP NIKKI

towel sets (2)
 winter coats (2)
 luggage set (3 pc)
 air miles-voucher to
 Chicago (Aug., Dec.)
 under-the-bed storage
 containers
 graphing calculator
 Bible dictionary
 MLA writing manual
 notebooks, pens, bind-
 ers, highlighters
 dictionary
 USB flash drive
 backpack

Tuition is free at Moody, but room, board, books, insurance, and fees cost roughly \$11,000/year.

BIBLE CLUB NEEDS...

juice boxes (50 per week)
 stacking outdoor
 chairs (10)
 ice chests w/ wheels (3)
 outdoor tables (3)
 kickball (2)
 basketball (6)
 basketball goal
 dodge-ball (10)
 orange cones (12)
 crayons (8 pks. or 200)
 easy-up shade tents (4)
 volley ball and net
 Snacks, crackers (50/wk.)

Either the items or a contribution to purchase the items would help!!

College Bound Continued

program called Gateway. This time of living in close community with fellow Christians in their early 20's has prepared Nikki for dorm life at Moody. However, she will have to adjust to the cold weather of Chicago and the 6-month winters. Nikki is the first member of her family (including aunts, uncles, brothers, and sisters) to attend a 4-year residential college. When asked about the difference maker in beating those odds she cited her suppor-

tive community of encouragers through Agape. Nikki said "They helped me stay on the right path and taught me that I'm in control of what I get out of life. If I want something, I gotta do it. I won't get it by sittin' around." Nikki is excited about the classes, dorm life on campus, new friendships and a different place. She says that her year in Agape's Gateway Program has taught her good conflict resolution



Nikki and Susan during mentorship

in living situations. She now knows how to handle a stressful situation without letting it blow out of control.

Nikki is embarking on a great new part of her journey and she needs our prayers.

Backyard Bible Club

Some kids spend their summers at camp, on vacations, in swimming lessons, or with relatives. In our neighborhood, many children are left at home to care for themselves by necessity or neglect. But every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, about 25 kids on Perry Street have an alternative. Agape staff and Gateway



Neighborhood Muscle

members supervise games, provide a meal, and teach a Bible lesson to anyone within walking distance of Agape.

Most of these children are between the ages of 6 and 11, and they are left alone, some are left to care for siblings even

younger. Agape provides value by offering a safe, healthy activity where the gospel is preached in word and action. If you would like to volunteer to help us for a session, please contact us at 713-658-1001 or Volunteer@agapedevelopment.org.



Dodgeball after Bible lesson

Saying Good-bye to Great Volunteers

Rusty and Kristi Hawkins have been faithful volunteers of Agape for the past three years. They attended our first retreat helping cook meals and building relationships in a crowded beach house. Two years ago, they took a big risk and moved out of The Vil-

lage near Rusty's Ph.D. program at Rice and into the Third Ward to better minister to Agape members. We could not ask for a bigger commitment. In that time, Kristi has given birth to Caleb (2) and Micah (2 mos.), and we have enjoyed sharing family life at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and regular Friday nights.



Ashly and Rusty after go-carts

The Hawkins have left a lasting mark in our ministry and our neighborhood. We wish them well in their new life in Indiana in a post doctoral program.

Thank you, Rusty and Kristi!



Kristi, Amanda and Chloe

Numbers Tell a Story

39

The percent of African American men living near Agape without a high school diploma.



Rusty & Kristi at Agape's 2006 Christmas Party



Rusty & Kristi & Caleb at Agape's 2007 Christmas Party



Rusty, Kristi, Caleb, and Micah today

Top Ten Creative Contributions

Agape appreciates your continued financial support during these economic times. We also appreciate a good bargain and creative ways to use existing resources. Whether or not you give financially to Agape, please consider a creative contribution to *Bring Hope and Transformation to the Third Ward*.

1. **PRAY:** Committed, weekly prayer will transform our neighborhood



2. **VOLUNTEER:** Your time may be more important as anything else.

3. **TELL:** Share our mission with friends and family who might also want to join our efforts.

4. **SWIPE THE CARD:** Not your credit card, but your grocery savings card. Randall's & Kroger will donate a % of your

grocery purchases to Agape .



5. **EMAIL:** Subscribe to our eNews list and save us postage and printing costs.

6. **FREQUENTLY FLY:** Send Agape staff to an urban ministry conference and Nikki to College in Chicago with air miles or vouchers.

7. **CLEAN OUT:** Check out our wish list. You could free up space and help us too with

items you already have.



8. **RECYCLE:** We send empty ink and toner cartridges and used cell phones to an exchange for dollars.

9. **HIRE:** Employ qualified candidates in your business.

10. **DOUBLE DOUBLE:** If you have given to Agape, your employer may match your gift and double your impact.



Agape brings hope and transformation to the Third Ward through economic, emotional and spiritual empowerment.

Derives power and direction Jesus Christ.

Listens to the community first.

Creates opportunity for individuals.

Empowers communities for sustainability.

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**Sign up for e-News at
www.agapedevelopment.org**



Staying cool this summer

Opportunities to Contribute

Donate

God provides for the mission of Agape through your generous donations. Simply put, your gifts make our ministry possible. Please consider making your first donation donate to Agape. If you already give to agape, please know how impactful your partnership is. The enclosed pledge card shows a few examples of how we steward your gift. All gifts are significant, regardless of size. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Kirk Craig
Executive Director & Co-Founder

All donations to Agape are tax deductible through our non-profit status as a 501c3 corporation

Pray

Members would continue to have courage to be honest about sin and struggles
Nikki would succeed at Moody Bible Institute
God would transform our neighborhood economically, emotionally, spiritually
New recruits would commit to the Gateway House
God would provide for Agape's financial needs
God would give clear vision for Agape's future plans

Volunteer

Backyard Bible Club: serve food, play games, Tuesday, Thursdays
Academic Tutoring: elementary, G.E.D., entry level college
OFFICE ADMIN: basic bookkeeping, data entry, web content updates
Gateway House: Mentors, driving, workday projects, community outreach

For periodic volunteer updates sign up at www.agapedevelopment.org for our email list.

Wish List

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| folding chairs (20) | professional Agape video | multifunction printer |
| digital camera | reward gift cards (\$5) | football and flags (20) |
| airline miles (staff training in Cincinnati) | pocketed folders (50) | |
| laptop computer | copier paper (2 boxes) | |