

13 QTR 1 UPDATE



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overflow christian community development association



STRATEGIC
FOCUS

Every Benton Harbor resident is prepared for further **education, life and work**, while experiencing **Christ's love.**

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rev. Brian Bennett

Friends and supporters of the OCCDA,

As you know, the OCCDA is in a time of tremendous fruitfulness and transition. I am encouraged by the response of our staff, board, volunteers, and partner churches to all that is happening and the collective sense of God's hand in it and through it all. There is a spirit of unity, anticipation, and hunger among the management staff to work on things for the next season ahead. In the past few months we have updated the OCCDA brochure, video, and website; you can view all three by visiting our website, www.occda.com.

The three primary focuses of our internal strategy to help people "find further education, life, and work while experiencing Christ's love" for the OCCDA are:

DISCIPLESHIP

- Leadership
- Development
- Next Steps (helping people find theirs)

We will work with staff and volunteers to insure that these three focuses are comprehensive and represent our laser focus as an organization and our "secret sauce". I am truly looking forward to what is next for the OCCDA and hope that you will pray, invest (time and treasure), and that you are encouraged by what you read in this update.

In Pursuit,

Brian Bennett

OCCDA | President and Executive Director

In This Issue

Schools of Hope

Kathy Reubel has officially become School of Hope's new program director!

Program/Business Snapshots

The 2012 Wonderland Toy Store was another great success that blessed 537 children with presents from their parents.

Social Enterprise Updates

An overview of the happenings of the Mosaic Cafe, Mosaic Resale Store, and Harbor Shine.

Prayer Points

People and events in our community that we are blessed to be involved with and to keep in our prayers.

Save the Dates

Get involved!
Upcoming events for spring and summer 2013!



AFTER SCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM

schools READING PROGRAMS
of hope

KATHY REUBEL (*First Church of God*) has officially become School of Hope's program director!

Kathy has many years of teaching and administrative/principal experience as an educator and brings a great passion for children, leadership, and literacy to our program.

We are excited about the future and the vision Kathy has to expand Schools of Hope to more children. Currently, our students are advancing at a rate of more than 1.2 years of reading gain per year and the program is demonstrating its value.

From Ann Kitron, Lead Teacher:

"Our site has already begun mid-year assessments. Our kiddos are learning - yeaaaaa!!! In fact, one of the Benton Harbor first-grade teachers finished assessing her students in her classroom and made the discovery that all her students who participate in SOH have improved their literacy skills whereas her students not involved with SOH are not progressing. The teacher requested SOH registration forms to send home with her low students."



Lead Teacher Ann Kitron inspires and engages kindergarten through 3rd grade students of Sorter Elementary School.

From Lindsey LaSota, Volunteer:

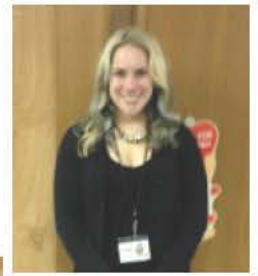
"It's been great to see the improvement the children have made since last year and how fast they can learn. The Bible time segment is teaching them who God really is and the exercises are very good and consistent."

From JoEllen Holling, Volunteer:

"I love the big smiles and snuggles from the kids. It's great to see the excitement they have for reading now."

From James Wofford, Grandparent:

"The kids really enjoy coming to SOH and my grandson has advanced in his reading level. He now picks up books at home and sings-- Christian songs that he's learned."



teachers
of hope

PROGRAM/BUSINESS SNAPSHOTS

WONDERLAND TOY STORE 2012

Wonderland Toy Store 2012 was once again an amazing thing to be a part of. God put so many pieces together and provided all that we needed to regroup and plow forward with plans that had been well laid. The biggest blessing was the wonderful families that we served, all 103 of them, and the 537 children who received Christmas gifts from their parents! We again experienced the gratitude and emotion shared by these parents as they shopped and enjoyed refreshments while they waited for their gifts to be wrapped. What a gift to all of the volunteers to be a part of that!

We also had approximately 220 volunteer roles filled for set up, toy pricing, shopping days... and some really wonderful news... We made \$1,883.37 in profit to give to Schools of Hope!" (Shared by Wonderland Store Team Leader, Jenny Fry--First Church of God)



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE UPDATES

We are able to provide jobs, on-the-job-training, and ministry space through our businesses & every dollar spent or donated stays local. Here is the latest from our social enterprises:

MOSAIC

MOSAIC RESALE

Mosaic Resale is thriving as a business and a ministry and we are excited about what is ahead. Justin Barnes officially starts March 11 as our Business Development Director with a primary focus on Mosaic. Please be sure to stop in and connect with him this spring.



HARBOR SHINE

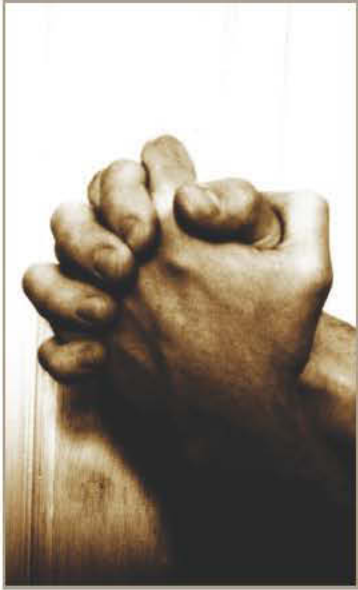
Announcing Scott Sutton as our new Harbor Shine Operations Director, effective April 1st!! Justin Barnes will continue to provide managerial oversight. We look forward to seeing the business and ministry move to new heights this spring and encourage you to hire Harbor Shine year round to handle your lawn care, landscape, and snow plow needs.



CAFÉ MOSAIC

Café Mosaic and Mosaic Bookstore are steadily growing. A new take-out menu has been created for larger catering orders and the menu has been updated to reflect some great new baked goods, soups, and sandwiches. The Mosaic Bookstore is working hard in the community to provide books to teachers and a great deal to shoppers. Please consider donating books or come in and find a great deal on some weekend reading material!

PRAYER POINTS



PRAISE GOD for the Sawyer family (Christian, Stefenie, Abbie, and Ian) and their 3 years of service in founding Mosaic Resale Store. Please pray for them this spring as they transition back to their hometown of Allentown, PA.

PRAY FOR THE OCCDA LEADERSHIP as we walk out our staff transition and for our new leadership (Justin Barnes with Mosaic and more to come in the months ahead).

PRAY FOR UNITY in our community, between the churches and partners of the OCCDA in our region.

Pray that **GOD'S HAND OF BLESSING** would rest on the OCCDA to touch even more lives with Christ's love.

PRAY FOR FUNDING to increase for the OCCDA in 2013 that would allow us to expand our capacity and ministry to the residents of Benton Harbor.

SAVE THE DATE

PARTNERSHIP GATHERINGS

"THE POWER OF THE LOCAL CHURCH, PART 1 AND 2"

MAY 2 @ 6:30PM

Refreshing Fountain Genesis Center
(175 S Euclid Ave, Benton Harbor)

AUGUST 1 @ 6:30PM

Café Mosaic
(510 West Main St., Benton Harbor)

SUMMER OUTREACH IN BROADWAY PARK

May 17, 31 // June 14, 28 // July 12, 19 // August 2, 16

H3 (HOOPS, HIP HOP, & HOT DOGS) SUMMER LEAGUE @ **6PM**

A smaller, regular, version of H3 in order to develop deeper relationships throughout the summer.

JULY 20 @ 12-4PM

H3 BIG EVENT

YOUR HELP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

GETTING INVOLVED...

Please remember to share the OCCDA with your friends: www.ocdda.com and to like us on Facebook.



We also appreciate your prayers and financial support. For online donations and information on donating via check/mail please visit our site: <http://www.ocdda.com/donate/>

PRAY.

Please consider adding Harbor Shine to your daily prayer list as we continue to point people to Christ while equipping them with the tools and skills to provide for their families.

SHARE.

Share the Harbor Shine story! Have a neighbor that needs new windows, the lawn done, or a bathroom remodeled? Share what God is doing through the work of Harbor Shine.

CALL.

Call Harbor Shine for your next home project!

GIVE.

Donations allow us to employ more men and youth in our community. Consider giving a tax-deductible gift to Harbor Shine.