

Serving in Chicago



I survived Snowmageddon 2011!

As most of you saw on the news, the Midwest got blasted by over 2 feet of snow in the first blizzard of 2011. Since schools were closed, my roommate and I both got snow days and took full advantage of them! We made snow angels, had snow ball fights, and spent many hours helping our neighbors dig out their cars. I am very thankful that I spent last year in Colorado because it prepared me well for the snow that brought our city to a halt. The morning of our blizzard we actually handed out the last of the Homeless Care Kits we had prepared a few weeks prior. I couldn't help but think of the men, women, and children all over the city without a home during the blizzard, but I was encouraged to hear that all the shelters were preparing for overflow and even some churches stepped up to become make-shift shelters for the week. I am so glad that 400 people were able to receive blankets and personal items through our care kits before the blizzard hit.

Besides compassionate products (Boxes of Love, Homeless Care Kits, etc.), we also do workshops and trainings for our partner ministries. This weekend we hosted an Adult Development Workshop that trained people who work with adults in the inner city. Here's Life Inner City has 5 programs that focus on adults in need: Beyond Bars, Work Net, CareerLink, New Focus,

and Holistic Hardware (visit www.hlic.org for more information on all of these amazing programs). Most of them focus on securing a job and working toward a career. They help develop soft skills (like typing and computer literacy) and help people create goals for furthering education to get them their dream job. The best part of these classes is that they incorporate Christ because we know that lasting change only comes from God (Gal 2:20). I really enjoyed my time learning about our programs and I am excited to have our newest staff member, Missy, start some of these programs at the Agape Center.

Things at our after school program are going well; we are studying the 10 commandments now. I still volunteer at the school twice a week and have formed a strong bond with the teacher I work with. However, one of the families in our S.A.Y. Yes! program has had 4 family deaths in the past 6 weeks. Although this is tragic, it has opened a huge door for us to serve the family. I was able to share the Gospel with the mother over Christmas, with the aunt a few weeks ago, and the dad is going to meet with us next week! So cool! I also have 2 other appointments with some moms of the kids in my class. I love that I am able to reach the entire family through the kids I teach. Please pray for open hearts as they hear about the Good News of Jesus.

Thank you for your support as I serve in Chicago!

In Christ,

Heather

Pray

- For the Smith family as they grieve and also that they would each cross the line of faith
- For Tammy and Tonya, 2 moms of the kids in our S.A.Y. Yes! program
- For the 200+ college students spending their spring break with us
- For financial support to come in as I have lost 2 monthly supporters