



MISSION
POSSIBLE
AUSTIN MP

INTERCEPTOR

Connect. Serve. Empower.

September 2008

Camp Nikos Fall Retreat September 26-28

Mark your calendar to join us September 26 - 28 for the Nikos Fall Retreat here in Austin at Pole Cat Hollow! This will be a short camp to reunite campers from Camp Nikos, and review what we learned about God there!

God is REAL.
God can be KNOWN.
God can be HEARD.
God can be TRUSTED.
This is a great way to build a relationship that will have an eternal impact.

COME! Invest in the life of a child!

Come and serve The Lord with us, as:

- **Activity Leader** (adults, over 18 only)
 - **Counselor/ Mentor** (please see the website for details and application)
 - **Camper** (6 - 11 years old only)
 - **Transportation Facilitator** (clean driving record)
 - **Meal Coordinator** (work with MP staff to plan meals and purchase ingredients)
 - **Meal Volunteer** (attend one meal to help prep, serve and clean up)
- We need 4-5 volunteers for Saturday, September 27:
Lunch (11 - 1pm) or Dinner (5 - 7pm)
and for Sunday, Sept. 28:
Breakfast (7- 9am) or Lunch (11am- 1pm)
- **Work Day at Pole Cat on Sept. 13th** (anyone willing to get dirty and prepare the property for camp. Mandatory for counselors/mentors)

Go to www.mpaustin.org for more details, forms, and directions.

- Cheryl Lowe,
Project Intercept Coordinator
(cheryl@mpaustin.org)



Cheryl Lowe,
Project Intercept
Coordinator



Your gift of \$45 will sponsor a child for Fall Retreat!



Email Cheryl@MPAustin.org to volunteer for Fall Retreat!



JET Baseball 2008

JET Baseball is a summer program sponsored by Mission Possible. It is for players age 18 and under who demonstrate a significant level of commitment.

Approximately 15 players are chosen for select competition. Developing their baseball skills is a priority in addition to a focus on leadership, teamwork, character and commitment.

Austin JET Baseball experienced much success mingled with some adversity in the summer of 2008. Some of these players have been with the program 4 years now and they are definitely among the success stories.

Aaron, Brandon, Matt, Michael and Keith have demonstrated perseverance and leadership in these 4 years. They and their



parents expressed much gratitude and great memories at the end of season "banquet" at CiCis Pizza. Four of our seniors intend to play college baseball: Randy Berg (McMurry), Aaron Martinez (Huston Tillotson), Matt Cavazos (Mountain View CC), and Brandon Rivera (Tyler JC). We hope to continue to encourage these guys as they pursue their new goals.

This summer it was gratifying to play in some higher level tournaments (18U) this summer and hold our own. Our record was about 17-12-2 and we held about 12 practices at Akins HS; but beyond the stats, the relationships we have with our players and parents is precious. Debbie and I have been part of a "sweet 16" party, a quincenera, two funerals, two college visits, a graduation party and a lot of baseball with these folks.

What a privilege to serve Christ by being involved in the lives of these families. We declare to the players and parents that JET Baseball is a gift modeled after the gift that God gives us in and through Christ. We ask these boys to be disciplined on and off the field. They must sacrifice time and effort improving their skills and supporting each other. In a baseball season there are numerous opportunities for players (and coaches and parents) to grow in perseverance, forgiveness, commitment, self-control, deference, teamwork, team spirit, and sportsmanship.

God answered our prayers for some help by sending 3 wonderful part-time assistants: Bob Mitchell, Airrick Martinez, and Kirk Caldwell. These guys were a blessing and were blessed as well. JET baseball is such a blessing in so many lives. We cannot thank our supporters enough for their prayer and financial support.

- Bart Bratcher,
JET Baseball Head Coach



Tim Pinson, Sr.
Executive Director

Transformation Is A Process!

"If walls could talk" . . . they would testify to His transforming power !

As we look at our lives and the footprints we leave behind, we often forget that the things in life that hold the most value are those that were birthed through struggle. And often, in the midst of struggle, we lose sight of the work God is doing with us and through us.

Mission Possible is in a position to impact the community around 12th & Chicon for years to come. One day we know that those within the walls and those walking on the streets will testify to the faithfulness of a loving, caring God. A God who is in the business of transforming lives as well as communities for his purposes. The fact that the Body of Christ has the opportunity to be involved in the transformation process of a community once held hostage by oppression and illegal activity is almost unbelievable. The process is tedious and sometimes overwhelming, but we are committed to the task of community transformation.

Please continue to pray for our work in completing the transformation of the "Old Tavern" at 12th & Chicon. Every day has new challenges. Pray for favor with the city and active involvement from the Body of Christ in the transformation of lives touched through genuine life changing relationships.

- Tim Pinson, Sr., Executive Director

If you would like to learn more about the Austin JET baseball program, contact Bart Bratcher at (512) 331-4790
bart_bratcher@sbcglobal.net.



by **Tim Pinson, Jr.**
Director of Ministries

CUB Purpose and Needs



Join us! CUB meets every Sunday at 10am under the bridge at 7th and I-35

Church Under the Bridge (CUB) has not only been a well-known ministry of Mission: Possible! Austin for a number of years, it has also had controversy surrounding it. From health permits, to permission from the city and state to meet publicly, to complaints from city residents, we have walked through many challenges over the years. When folks initially discover CUB, many wonder what it is all about; others assume what it is all about. We felt it would be important to share our heart about what CUB is and why we believe it is a very important ministry in this city.

I would say that most folks who have seen or heard anything about CUB think that it is simply a church not so different from other churches, save the location and attendees. Others think that CUB is no more than a program (with a positive message) that enables people living on the street to continue to do so. These, from my standpoint, are extreme views in relation to the true identity and purpose of CUB.

Having said that, what is it? What are we doing out there every Sunday morning? Although, CUB is not a church in the traditional sense of the term, it is a place of fellowship centered in Christ. Nearly 15 years ago when we asked many of the homeless what needs they had beside food, clothing and shelter, the most common answer was that they felt they could never darken the door of a church for fear of being judged.

When we started CUB, we had a great desire to afford them this needed fellowship. As the ministry has grown, so has its purpose.

One thing we (MP) recognized was that God was using His people (from all over the city) to come and live as Light among those people. In addition to that, another amazing thing was happening. Believers from all over the city began to relate to one another in a way that had not been possible until then. They were coming as nothing more than servants of the Lord and His purposes.... what an incredible foundation of unity.

So what is CUB? It is a connecting place, a venue where believers connect in relationship to people on the street and with other believers in the city. You may ask, "How will that impact the growing problem of homelessness in Austin?" The answer is simple, but it requires much from the Body. Our city has numerous resources for people on the street, but they can offer little by way of relationship. As believers lay down their lives for others and are willing to walk with someone through their "rough circumstances," lives will be changed. I can personally attest to this and praise the Lord for it.

The purpose of CUB is to provide the location in a safe environment where these relationships can be initiated and strengthened. Believe me, CUB is not about having church, it is about being the Church. Many people and churches contact me and ask me what needs we have at CUB. Typically they want to know what resources we need to be able to distribute them to folks in the street. I always express that our greatest need is for people with a heart of service to the Lord, those who are willing to pour their lives into the lives of other people. This is the way all the programs of Mission: Possible work. If you have questions about CUB, please feel free to contact me any time.

- *Tim Pinson, Jr.*
Director of Ministries

Check out the new MP website!



We have launched a new website! We would love for you to take a look at it and give us your feedback. Over the years we have continually worked on our website to make it

useful and informative for our volunteers. Please check out the new site and let us know what you think. We would also encourage you to check back from time to time as we will continue to add some great features like a customizable home page and a member log-in. Those features will allow you to view information about a particular program and look at current and upcoming events for that area of ministry. Thanks to Michael Swanson for all his hard work on the new site!



My name is Susan Joy Knechtel, and this is my Life Song:

Hello! I am delighted to say that I am the newest member of the Mission Possible staff family, serving as the Director of Community Outreach and Communications.

I was raised in a Christian home and made a personal decision to invite Jesus into my heart at the age of nine. My grandparents on both sides of the family were foreign missionaries (in Brazil and Morocco), so from an early age I was aware of, and intrigued by, God's work in the world.

My faith journey has been that of a prodigal daughter of sorts. The pressures of college life and seductions of corporate America got the best of me for many years. In too many ways I lost sight of my own values, faith and priorities. Those years may have looked "successful" on the outside but were so painful for me on the inside. Thankfully, God in all His loving mercy never forgot that I was His child, even when I did.

Several years ago He led me to a church home where I was able to reconnect with the love of Christ and experience Christian community in a deep and authentic way. As I turned back towards God more and more I increasingly experienced the freedom and life transformation promised in II Corinthians 3:16-18!

My journey of answering God's call to ministry work began a little over a year ago. God had blessed me with a successful advertising sales career at Austin's top TV station, but it became increasingly clear that He was calling me out of corporate America and into His service. In my heart I've known for many years that part of my purpose in life was to serve the poor and vulnerable in society, and to inspire others to do the same. In September of 2007 I took a huge leap of faith and quit my job, downsized my possessions and prepared for a season of short-term mission trips to get away from this culture of excess and get my heart in line with God's love for the world and for me. Like the parable of the hidden treasure in Matthew 13:44,

I discovered where true treasure is buried and was willing to "sell everything" to buy the field!

With the chains of materialism removed, I was free to embark on a journey of listening to God and learning first-hand from the faithful lives of others. I went on a series of mission trips to Panama, Oman, Yemen, Ethiopia, Egypt, India, EAST AUSTIN, and Zambia, not knowing where God would ultimately lead me, but being "willing to be willing" to be called into foreign missions. Well wouldn't you know, it was right here in East Austin, during the Urban Submersion weekend at Mission Possible in May that God revealed His invitation for me to be a part of His work in the world!? I must be pretty hard-headed, because God had to take me all the way across the world and back to make me hear Him say, "GO HOME, plant your roots with love, and serve me where you are."

What a blessing to be given the opportunity to combine my corporate career background with my passion for serving others and connecting people right here in this city that is so dear to me. I love encouraging people to become all of who God created them to be and believe that through serving others you can connect deeply with God's love for humanity as well as with the desires of your own heart. For those of you already serving through Mission Possible, I thank you and encourage you to deepen your relational investment in the lives of those you serve. For those of you who aren't yet serving with us, I am eager to help you get connected!

Surrendering to God's purpose for my life has given me just that – real life -- and indescribable joy and peace. I get to serve my Lord in His ministry at Mission Possible and at my church as a women's small group leader and member of the global and local mobilization teams. I get to live in this beautiful city and enjoy long walks around Town Lake with friends, two-stepping at the Broken Spoke, and watching my nephews grow up too fast.

Many Bible verses have gotten me through the different seasons of my life, but this season's "life verse" would have to be Psalm 119:32 "I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free!"

Peace, love, and JOY to you.

*-Susan Joy Knechtel, Director of
Community Outreach & Communications*



Jackie Cherico.
Outback Director



Another art center?

For the past year the OUTBACK has had a great partnership with a new church plant just 7 blocks east of here on Garden Street, the Salina Street Church. Faithfully 2-4 adults pick up kids from the nearby housing complex to bring them to art on Saturdays. Any given Saturday we will have 6-15 kids who arrive ready to create. A few months ago the head count got upwards to 20+; so, the older boys were shifted to a new group with 4-5 mentors to hang out with on Saturdays. The new group venue can be almost anywhere from a Frisbee field to a coffee shop, the main intent is to create safe relationships and begin a foundation of Christ in the boys' lives.

Currently I am investigating finding a third location to place another art center, this one will be located close by the new church plant. We are looking into the possibility of buying an upgraded, affordable portable building with dimensions of 16' X 24", with a loft for storage of supplies. Prayers for the location as we probably have a family close to the church, who sound willing to make the commitment. However they are still in the "newly moved in and still renovating" process, so I am in the investigating stages of all the logistics and will be for a few months. Once I have more details we will present a plan to the family: now, we are letting the shock of moving in and settling into a new culture settle down before we start putting this into concrete.



Another Artist!!

This week Laurie Thelen joined us to get a feel for the Saturday group of aspiring artists. Her plans are to be a regular contributing teacher twice a month, giving me a breather. In the past she has been an art instructor, both in public school and at Grace Covenant Church School. Her desire is to give a more overall view of the great artists and techniques to the kids. Welcome to the eastside LAURIE!

-Jackie Cherico, Outback Arts Center Director



We are excited to announce that CARS at Owens Garage will be starting the fall 2008 Semester with orientation on Tuesday, September 9, 2008. We will have dinner starting at 6:00 pm with introductions of students and mentors starting at 6:45 pm. When introductions are completed, we will then review the class syllabus and hand out all class materials.

Classes will begin Thursday evening, September 11, at 6:00 pm with dinner, followed by our evening devotional and class topic for the evening "Shop Safety." In this session, we will learn about fire extinguisher location and usage, proper jack techniques, and other safety issues that are faced in an auto garage.

Our regular scheduled time will be every Thursday from 6-9pm. We will have one Saturday a month where there will be a fun activity for the students ranging from car shows and races to camping and fishing excursions. Our Saturday activity for September will be attending the Texas Classic Car Show at Rudy's Barbeque on September 27th.

If you are interested in joining CARS at Owens Garage, contact Bill James at (512) 636-0817. We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Thanks,
Bill James





by Terry Brock
Community Relations
Liaison

Community Corner

There was a lot of volunteer activity in the Community Preservation Alliance outreach during June and July and God gets all the glory for what He has

accomplished through His volunteers. We have been blessed to have young folks and adult leaders from Work Group Camps serving in the community for 7 consecutive weeks, Monday through Thursdays from 9am until 3pm.

On June 7th, we had a Community Outreach event at one of the city parks. It was a fun event, with about 50 folks from the community coming, bringing kids and a desire to get to know each other better. We had a couple of musicians who played instrumentals, we had burgers and hot dogs to eat and the special event was the Spoon Race hosted by the Austin Police Department District representatives!

On June 19th, we enjoyed the Juneteenth Celebration, with the enjoyable parade that comes right by the MP Community Center and we watch it from our "upstairs deck." This is always a special day in Central East Austin as we get to celebrate the day of African American freedom.

The folks we serve in the B.A.G.S. program are such wonderful people and to be able to spend some time visiting with them, providing some needed food and then praying for them is such a blessing for us. This

Community Preservation Alliance Update



- On June 7, we had a Community Outreach at the park with 50 people in attendance.

- Our summer work groups served in the community for 7 consecutive weeks!

- We now have 26 families receiving food from our B.A.G.S. Food Pantry program.

- We now have a partnership with Home Depot as a "donation recipient."

Mark your calendars for our next Urban Submersion Weekend on November 21-23

outreach will be growing every month as more qualified residents find out about it. We're up to about 26 homes that we deliver food to and that translates to between 52 and 54 people!

We have finally started our partnership with Home Depot as a "donation recipient" and this is really great because we receive all sorts of materials that we can use in our Community Preservation Alliance outreach. This will continue to be a valuable resource for us as we discover more homes in the community that are in need of repair or restoration.

In the Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee meetings we are seeing more business owners/operators in the 12th and Chicon area attending the meetings and desiring to be actively involved in community events. God is moving in Central East Austin and it's exciting! We have initiated a Neighborhood Association Coalition and a Neighborhood Business Coalition, which will really help in identifying specific problems and providing input for solutions.

There are many exciting opportunities for you who want to invest some quality time in the lives of others and make a difference for eternity. Please pray about how God could use you through the various outreach areas of Mission:Possible Austin!

- Terry Brock, Community Relations Liaison



Mission Possible Financials

We thank the Lord for His faithfulness and provision!

NYACC Community Center Mortgage balance	\$151,160
2008 Year to Date Budget (Jan.-July)	\$348,327
Actual	\$282,907
Difference	-\$65,420

Once debt is paid in full, all funds will be used to directly impact lives for Christ!



Mission Possible Events & Programs

Call us at
494-0953
for more
info!



Cross Trainers
3rd Saturdays
beginning Sept. 20

Camp Nikos
Fall Retreat
Sept. 26-28

Sundays

The Church Under The Bridge

Every Sunday at 7th & I-35

Service begins at 10am

Lunch is served at 12:30

To find out more, call the Mission Possible Offices at 494-0953 or timjr@mpaustin.org.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Big Fish After School Program

Meets from 2:30 - 5:15pm; Program for 6-12 year olds who live near NYACC. The Middle School Girls also meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 8pm
To find out more, call 494-0953 or email cheryl@mpaustin.org

Tuesdays

Tuesday Night Fellowship

Meets from 3-9pm
Call Duane Severance at 619-0423 for details.

Wednesdays

Adult Bible Study

Every Wednesday at 10 am at NYACC on 12th and Chicon,
To find out more, call 494-0953 or email timjr@mpaustin.org

Thursdays

Big Fish Club at NYACC

Every other Thursday from 6-8pm
Program for 6-12 year olds who live near NYACC.

To find out more, call 494-0953 or email cheryl@mpaustin.org

CARS at Owens Garage

Every Thursday from 6-8pm
Auto mechanics training program for youth

To find out more, call Bill James at 636-0817 or cars@mpaustin.org

B.A.G.S. Program

Last two Thursdays of month from 1-4pm
To find out more, call Terry Brock at 217-9750 or terryb@mpaustin.org

Saturdays

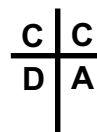
Cross Trainers

Meets every 3rd Saturday beginning Sept. 20

To find out more, call 494-0953 or email cheryl@mpaustin.org

First Evangelical Free Church- Rio Laddo Outreach

Contact Kurtis White at kurtis.white@gmail.com
2nd & 4th Saturdays 11AM



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Mission: Possible!
Austin, Inc.
P.O. Box 142076
Austin, Texas 78714

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Your gift
of \$45 will
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child for
Fall Retreat!

Contact Cheryl Lowe at
cheryl@mpaustin.org
to volunteer!

Camp Nikos Fall Retreat

Sept. 26-28, 2008