

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NASHVILLE, TN
PERMIT #4686

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



COTTAGE COVE CO.
630 BENTON AVE
NASHVILLE, TN 37204
(615) 292-2303
WWW.COTTAGECOVE.ORG

COTTAGE COVE

URBAN MINISTRIES

IN FOCUS



HOMEWORK FIELD TRIP - EASTER
MR. BRENT WITH DESTINY, DeVONTE', ANTHONY & NIA

FIRST EDITION 2009

PRINTING OF COTTAGE COVE INFOCUS IS DONATED.

What is the ministry of Cottage Cove? A quick answer would include the two primary mission statements which are a part of our governing documents:

(1) To provide educational opportunities and training in the arts through the power and in the name of Jesus Christ.

(2) To provide spiritual instruction, upholding the Bible as God's inspired Word and as the complete and final authority on all matters of life and faith.

These broad statements allow for a lot of very different ministry opportunities. From the beginning we have focused on a core implementation of these mission statements in regards to children. In fact, again quoting from our by-laws, a later statement under finances shows how much we believe this to be an integral part of our ongoing ministry:

Brent MacDonald (3) Daily children's programs will be provided without charge to the children or their families; believing that God, through His people, will provide for His work.

While we have added a number of additional outreaches, some of which I'll mention shortly, the non-negotiable for us is children. All children. Of course, in our neighborhood, a host of other adjectives could be

added to the word children: low income, inner-city, at-risk, single parent, minority, etc. Perhaps the best summary of these are words that Jesus used, "the least of these" (i.e. Matthew 25:34-45). When times get tough, children often are the first to suffer, to be forgotten. Since children don't have a say, their programs are often the ones that get cut first. At Cottage Cove, we've turned this inside out. Our focus is not on those who can give something in return, but as it should be, on those who cannot (i.e. Luke 6:32-35). If things get severe enough that we have to cut back, everything else will go first and the children's ministry will remain as long as God enables. We believe this to be a Biblical priority! (i.e. Luke 18:16)

The ultimate contrast and contradiction of our type of ministry is that when things are rough economically the need for our help increases exponentially. While we have struggled to make ends meet for the past few months, God has enabled us to, so far, maintain every one of our outreaches. Our daily children's program continues to provide homework help, tutoring, life skills classes, arts, and more, for children ages kindergarten to middle school. "C4" has been joined by an "open court night" to provide a program geared towards older teens. Families are being helped with a weekly food distribution, plus the option of warm fellowship and worship on Sundays

STAFF NEWS & STORIES



complete with a noon meal. Another aspect, often not considered, is the hosts of volunteers, interns, and short term missionaries who come to serve, learn, and grow. They too are a vital part of what we do. We dream of doing more, but only as God allows – we can't do it unless He provides through His people. So the more things change, the more they stay the same: another day, another opportunity. Thanks for your prayers and support!



Clockwise from left:
Donovan in Phonics
Class, Marisol &
Anthony in Digital
Photography,
Brittnesha &
Destiny in Aart,
Autumn with Ms
Alyssia in Book
Club



Make your web surfing count. Use...
www.GoodSearch.com
(powered by Yahoo! Search)

When you select Cottage Cove as your designated cause we will receive 1¢ per every search.



MISSIONS TRIPS TO NASHVILLE

Plan a trip to Nashville with your teen or adult group. Our DTI experience offers a time of service and personal growth in discipleship. Including great accommodations and food, at a manageable cost, this is a trip to remember.

It is hard to believe over a year has gone by since I started my journey here at Cottage Cove. And it has been just that, a journey. Brent always said that part of being in ministry is adapting what you do to meet the needs of the ever-changing community in which you are planted. Since I have started here, I have seen many new programs implemented and old ones tweaked to better serve our neighborhood.



Cooking class with Ms. Sara

One of the changes we encountered this past year was the extended school-time hours for our students. Having one less hour with the children affected our curriculum in a very big way. It was difficult to give the students a well-balanced week incorporating both academic and spiritual growth, as well as, structured class time and recreational activities. This dilemma birthed our big hit, Super Tuesday. We decided to tack an extra hour and a half to our regular program time every Tuesday. This allows the children who opt-in to our Super Tuesday program to sit down around a table and have a hot meal with their friends along with other Cottage Cove volunteers and staff. After dinner is over, the students divide into one of six different classes, which they had signed up for in the beginning of the semester. These classes are designed to progress each week with the five or six pupils in their group as they learn new skills and advance in their course of interest. Tuesday has now become a coveted day of the week for our Cottage Cove children, in the same way as most students view Friday.

Sara Wanner

The hour-long classes offered on Tuesday nights range from Sculpting, to Piano, to Counted Cross-stitch, to, my favorite, Foods & Creations. These courses are not simply giving our students new abilities or knowledge in the designated area of study. Through them they are learning important lessons about life. A great example of this is the students in Mr. Brent's Foods & Creations class. Each week they are exposed to new foods, that often times none of them have ever tried or even seen before. They are challenged to put aside their preconceived ideas and open their minds (or, in this case, their mouths) to try a sampling

of unfamiliar vittles. Not only do they acquire a taste for new foods, but they also receive a lesson on where the food originated and how it is cultivated. Last week only one of the students in his class had ever tried salmon before that day, and when they came to offer it to my piano class, the students in my class were perplexed as to what a salmon even was.

Super Tuesday has been an excellent addition to Cottage Cove's ministry. I know it is a day that we all anticipate, children and staff alike. It is rewarding to watch the students in your class grow as they learn to read music, follow a pattern, or season a dish. The atmosphere set for our Tuesday evenings is one of fellowship, sharing, and learning together in love. We continue to look to God for guidance as the community around us develops and changes. Come and visit and see for yourself what God is doing here!



Autumn & Derrisha waiting for center sign-up

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

A quick summary is found in three little words that make a big difference:

COME ~ PRAY ~ GIVE

MORE INFORMATION ON WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IS FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE OR PHONE 615-292-2303. MORE UPDATES AND PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK! GIVING OPTIONS INCLUDE VIA DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS AND SECURELY ONLINE.

Cottage Cove has ministered to inner-city children in Nashville since 1995. Our mission is to **provide educational opportunities and training in the arts through the power and in the name of Jesus Christ.** We are a non-profit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

WHO WE ARE



WWW.COTTAGECOVE.ORG



ASSOCIATED TEACHING MINISTRIES

WWW.LIONTRACKS.ORG
WWW.BIBLEISTRUE.COM

Another year has gone by here at Cottage Cove, and there are more and more changes taking place every day. C4 (our once a month youth program on Sunday evenings) is now well over a year old and is continuing to grow and develop, especially with our new basketball court where the old playground used to sit. On April 9th we began having an "open court" night every Thursday evening after the regular Cottage Cove children's program. Open court night is a time where any junior high and high school student can come play basketball supervised by staff and volunteers. (I fully intend to play a bit myself as well, of course). The majority of our students in the past, if they haven't moved, drift away from Cottage Cove because it is primarily a kids program, and they feel too cool, or just out of place. Open court night, along with C4, are excellent ways to connect and reconnect with the older students in the neighborhood and to further our long term involvement in their lives.



Woodworking class with Mr. Barry

With the closing of the Vine Hill Boys & Girls Club, there is a lot of slack to be picked up in the area in regards to after school and summer activities. Pray for us as we try to grow and adapt our programs for older students as this is a much different endeavor than our regular program working with younger children.

Barry MacDonald

I am still loving my time here at Cottage Cove, having now been full time (including my time as an intern) since May 2007 (involved since 2003), I have seen so many students come up through the program, and it truly makes a difference. One of my particularly favorite parts about Cottage Cove is teaching Bible Study with older students (grades 3-7). Right now we are going through Judges on Wednesdays and Thursday is what the kids call "Questions Bible Study". Usually we have another book we would be going through (in this case Acts), but so many questions started coming up that I realized, hey... these kids have real questions about God rolling around in their heads; we could spend the entire Bible Study every week answering questions. I am kept on my toes regularly with questions like "What happens when we die?", "Is it wrong to hate church?", and "Can people in jail still go to heaven?". All questions you know came straight from the heart.

My favorite question, I received actually only a few weeks ago, was from a 4th grade student, Delondre, who asked, "So, if Jesus knew everything, then why did He still go down there (Garden of Gethsemane) when He knew they were going to kill Him?" After a moment I realized the golden opportunity God had just given me, and the following week we had a really awesome conversation about how Jesus did know, and that's why He went.

Please keep Cottage Cove's finances in mind throughout the year, we are feeling the hurt like every other ministry that runs on donations. Our program is still offered for free, as a service and a witness to the 99% low income families involved. In an effort to keep our program overtly Christian (with Bible Studies), we choose not to take grant money with anti-religion strings attached, which means more responsibility falls to individuals. With everything going on in the country, giving has dipped, and yet we have more need now than ever as we work to pick up the slack in this inner-city neighborhood. Thanks again for all you do to help make this place possible!



Longhorn Steakhouse Gallatin hosted a Christmas party/field trip.

Complete with awesome food and presents!



The Nashville Predator Foundation has again given us a grant

The 2009 grant is to help us complete the bleachers and player benches for our new basketball court

Go Preds!