

The Good Samaritan

Engaged minds, busy hands at “Backpack League” Summer Camp



Creating tie-dye shirts. Math problems incorporating exercise. Interactive storytelling. Robotics. Arts and dance.

It was all about engaged minds and busy hands.

“I like the gym and making new friends. There are a lot of girls my age that I can play with. We created tie-dye shirts, and we did fun stuff with visitors,” said Noriah, a 4th grader at Shelby Traditional Academy.

These were several of the enrichment activities nearly two dozen 1st through 8th grade students participated in during the second annual “Backpack League” summer camp. Hosted at the Family Success Center (FSC), in partnership with JCPS and Evolve502, the program ran Monday through Friday from June 20 to July 12.

Winsbert, an immigrant from Jamaica, was a middle school instructor at our FSC site for summer camp. He is a science



teacher at JCPS’s Barret Traditional Middle School.

“I’m very impressed by their behavior,” Winsbert said. “They’re very enthused and eager to learn. They ask a lot of questions. It’s a pleasure being at this site. I believe the FSC is serving a useful purpose and I want to commend everyone involved. I hope that you continue to do all the good things that you do because the kids truly appreciate it. I can see that glow in their eyes when they learn something new.”

Alivia, a 7th grader at Meyzeek Middle School, was one of those students.

“I’ve enjoyed reading and working with my friends. I like how our teachers are respectful and kind to other students,” she said.

Sinopa also worked with middle school students. A UofL student from Nigeria, she is an Evolve502 math/reading intervention counselor.

“With a smaller class size, I’m able to focus on each student’s individual needs. Just being able to see where they’re at and trying to push them a little further is what I’m really enjoying,” Sinopa said. “I think it’s special to have a safe place to go. I love that it not only has a gym and a playground, but there are books and math materials so that if you need help, you can ask for it.”

Nicholas, a 6th grader at Marion C. Moore School, enjoyed all the FSC has to offer.

“I’ve enjoyed the gym because we can play basketball in the morning. We also work on math and reading,” he said.

Girl Geek, Get Better Every Day (GBED), Kidsview, Faith Works, Chase Ur Dreamz, J. Cortez, Acaiville, and Divine Interventions were among the local nonprofit organizations and small businesses who led enrichment activities

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The Good Samaritan

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St. Vincent de Paul Louisville



with the elementary and middle school
students each week.

"I've been to summer camp a few
times. I keep coming back because I love
it here," said Shantaz, a 5th grader at
Engelhard Elementary School. "I can play
with my friends in the gym. I liked the
math activity, where they ask us a math
question, and if we get it right, we get to
run to the black line in the gym."

Makayla, an Evolve502 writing/reading
tutor for our after-school and summer
programming, says having the FSC is
vital for children from the community to
be able to come and grow.

"I love being with the kids. That's what
I want to do with my career. These kids
need a lot of extra help and additional
support, so I'm glad I can be that person,"
Makayla said. "I also used to be homeless
as a kid, so I sympathize with these kids.
I grew up in maybe not the most stable
household, so having a safe space is so
important to me. School was a safe space
for me. It's very important for me to be
that trustworthy person for them."

SVDP also hosted its own summer
camp from July 15 to Aug. 2 for incoming
1st-8th graders who live on our campus
and those in the neighboring Smoketown
and Shelby Park areas.



Coming to a device near

The Dominican Brothers



The tradition continues.

Each summer, two Dominican Brothers serve at our Shelby Park campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays. From May 30 to July 23, Dominican Brothers Francis (above) and Michael volunteered in the Food Pantry, Open Hand Kitchen, Ozanam Inn Men's Emergency Shelter, and Tranquil House.

They were a blessing to each program and person they encountered.

"There's a lot going on here," Bro. Francis said. "A lot of different ministries. I've been really impressed with the Food Pantry volunteers. They're a really dedicated group of people."

At Tranquil, they played cornhole and card games with residents and spoke with those at the Open Hand Kitchen.

"We wanted to be there with them in any of their concerns," Bro. Michael said. "I had a great conversation with a guy about his dog, and at the end he said, 'Next time I want to talk to you about something.' I thought that was great. Just being there with him allowed him to feel comfortable enough to open up."

Dominican Brothers are not hard to spot. They wear a habit, which comes from the Latin "habitus" and means

clothing. The habit is symbolic for one's full commitment to God.

"I've been amazed at the fact that what we wear really opens people up. People really want to talk about God," Bro. Francis said. "It's been great to stand out as a friar because people can be rather quick to ... talk about God."

The Brothers live in Washington, D.C., in their second of seven years until they are ordained as Dominican priests.

Brother Francis

When he was young, Brother Francis' parents divorced. After that, his family went less and less to church. Born and raised in southern Texas, Bro. Francis described himself as a "nominal Catholic" in his formative years.

With aspirations to go to a top five law school, Bro. Francis was a political science major at the University of Texas. He desired the "traditional" college experience of fun and partying.

During his freshman year, Bro. Francis felt "zapped" from that lifestyle and became "more and more unhappy." He joined a Catholic Bible study and decided to "pursue God in the most intense way."

Brother Michael



Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



Come Join Us!

Clubs & Cocktails

Dinner: Sunday, September 22

Scramble: Tuesday, September 24

Tour de Change & Give for Good

Thursday, September 12

For event information, please contact
Makenzie Greenwell at (502) 272-2134 or
mgreenwell@svdplou.org.

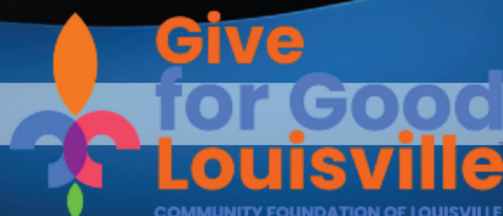
Our thanks to
Louisville Metro
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A native of O'Fallon, MO, Brother Michael grew up on a farm in a family of 11. They attended mass several times a week.

After graduating with a Bachelor's in mechanical engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology, Bro. Michael was praying in a Catholic church during the pandemic and felt called to the priesthood. He would like to teach seminary students upon graduating.

Join us on September 12



Don't miss the 21st Annual ISCO Industries Clubs & Cocktails

The 21st annual ISCO Industries Clubs & Cocktails is around the corner! This two-day event features a dinner and Hope Award on Sunday, Sept. 22, at The Olmsted, and a golf scramble on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at Harmony Landing Country Club. Your generous support allows us to continue our mission to house, feed, and support those in need with compassion and dignity.

"ISCO is honored to support St. Vincent de Paul and the incredible work that they do in Louisville," said Rick Kraus, ISCO VP, Product Exchange. "Our decision to become involved with SVDP stemmed from our love of its mission, as it closely aligns with our own commitment to the betterment of the community. Clubs & Cocktails offers our team members a great opportunity to further understand and celebrate SVDP's

cause, and we are excited to be a part of it."

A new course location this year, Harmony Landing is where PGA Tour golfer Justin Thomas learned to play. There will be new renovations to greens and new tee boxes open for the golf scramble.

If you're interested in sponsoring this event, registering a foursome, purchasing a table or tickets for the dinner, donating auction items or your favorite bottle of bourbon, or volunteering, please scan the QR code to the right or reach out to Makenzie Greenwell, SVDP's Senior Development



& Events Coordinator,
at (502) 272-2134 or
mgreenwell@svdplou.org.



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