

The Cleveland Connection

Behind the Scenes at your CEF® Cleveland Connection

May 2022

Connect with us!

We want to hear from you!

CEF of Ohio, Inc.
Greater Cleveland Chapter
PO Box 30124
Cleveland, Ohio 44130

Website: www.cefonline.com



Martha Heidinger
Ministry Coordinator
martha.heidinger@cefonline.com
Phone: (216) 339 8256

Local Committee:

Cindy Morris
Suzanne Aldrich
Bradley Castle

Abbreviations Key

CEF® – Child Evangelism Fellowship®

GNC™ – Good News Club®

CYIA™ – Christian Youth in Action®



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Outrageous Faith!

My prayer life was recently challenged by a sermon about the healing of blind Bartimaeus recorded in Mark 10. Jesus told him, "...your faith has made you well." How was his faith displayed?

- Bartimaeus was desperate! Jesus was his only chance to be healed. No fear of man nor fitting in with social expectations held him back. He cried out publicly to Jesus, pleading for mercy.
- Bartimaeus was persistent. He didn't let the crowd shush him up. I can picture him crying out all the louder again and again, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."
- Bartimaeus was specific in his request. When Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He didn't hesitate. "Rabbi, let me recover my sight."
- With sight, came responsibility. Bartimaeus, the one who used to sit by the roadside, now followed Jesus on the way. (Mark 10:52)

Our culture of self-sufficient independence keeps us from acknowledging our desperation. Do we really believe that apart from Jesus we can do nothing? (John 15)

Lord, open our eyes to see how desperately we need You to bring the Gospel to the children of Greater Cleveland.

Starting is one thing, but to persistently cry out for the children is another. We need endurance training. Like training for a marathon, we start small and slowly build. Hebrews 12:1-2 reminds us that to run this race with endurance we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

To be specific in our requests for the children, let's listen to the news and then search the Scriptures. Will you commit to pray for the requests shared in our biweekly Greater Cleveland Prayer Power? Contact me to sign up for the updates.

Then, as Bartimaeus chose **to follow Jesus on the way**, ask God to show you how He wants to use you to impact the lives of the children. Step out in outrageous faith!

Martha Heidinger
Ministry Coordinator



Summer is just around the corner and opportunities for reaching kids with the Gospel abound.

Ask God to raise up young people in Greater Cleveland to serve as summer missionaries. There is an application process and different levels of intense training before they serve in 5-Day Clubs.

Discover more at <https://www.cefohio.org/christian-youth-in-action/> Check out the videos and brochure that explain the program.

Then step out, in outrageous faith, and share the link with a young person.

Insights From a Praying Principal

Chardon Hills STEM School is a school bathed in prayer. Stacie Spears, the principal, knows the difference that prayer can make. It all begins with her relationship with God.

I can't imagine Him not being a part of anything I do; of everything I have. I am who I am because of Him.

I know the successes of Chardon Hills is not luck. God showed me that it's not about me or my own merits. It's about relying on Him.

The teachers, kids and staff are covered in prayer each day. Ms. Denise, our school secretary, joins me to pray before our workday begins. We are grateful that all our teachers, no matter their beliefs, respect our time of prayer.

We pray for the children's safety, for peace in chaotic situations, peace in their homes, and for their mental health. We have kids telling each other to kill themselves and others, as young as first grade, saying that they want to die. In a time when suicide has been made a viable option, someone needs to help them understand their value.

We pray for the teachers to have peace of mind and good health, that they will take care of themselves both physically and mentally so they can continue to pour into the children.

I ask God to give me the right words to say every day. If I'm going to have a tough meeting with a challenging parent or with a colleague, I ask God to remove my pride and I pray for His outcome, for what He feels is right.

(Excerpts from a January 14, 2022, Interview)

Prayer makes a difference at Chardon Hills. You can make a difference, too. Find a school near you or your church and commit to pray. Lay a groundwork of prayer! Expect God to open doors to bring the Gospel to the children and families of that school.

Use the enclosed prayer guide to get started. It's compiled for Christian teachers in the public schools. You can adapt it to pray for all the teachers, staff and students in your adopted school.

Invite someone to pray and let us know that you are praying. Tell us which school you are praying for.



Principal Stacie Spears



Easter Party Club at West Side Alliance

Treasure Hunt for Truth

God used five Easter Party Clubs to reach over 120 children in schools, the Family First Childcare Center and at West Side Alliance Church. We know of three children who came for counseling for salvation. Praise God with us for His transforming power. We thank God for Sara, Judy, BJ and Sarah who went the extra mile to reach kids not yet in Good News Clubs.

Pray for teams to follow up with 5-Day Clubs this summer.

Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for good contacts made with nine new pastors. Pray for the follow up.
- Praise God that North Olmstead Schools are again open for Good News Clubs and for the team leading the Maple School GNC. Pray that children are open to the Gospel during this six week club.
- Pray for new locations for 5-Day Clubs. We already have two locations scheduled. Ask God to raise up two teams of summer missionaries.
- Pray for two committee members needed by June 2022 and for a future local director.

