

The Cleveland Connection

Behind the Scenes at your CEF® Cleveland Connection

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Connect with us!

We want to hear from you!

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Abbreviations Key

CEF® – Child Evangelism Fellowship®

GNC™ – Good News Club®

CYIA™ – Christian Youth in Action®



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Great Interest, and Yet...

“I am sorry, but there’s no more room. We can put their names on a waiting list and if space opens for both, we’ll let you know.” These are hard words for a Team Leader to pass on to any mother wanting her children to attend the *Good News Club* at Chardon Hills STEM School.

“Most parents, regardless of religious identity or faith practice, want their children to have a healthy relationship with spirituality”. Nearly three-quarters of American parents said that they were concerned about their children’s faith formation. A 2021 Barna research survey revealed that 37% were very concerned about their child’s spiritual development. ¹

Does this hold true in Greater Cleveland? This concern was obvious at the first meeting of the Chardon Hills *GNC*. Three parents came to hear what their children were learning at this after-school club. One mother said, “I want to learn more about Jesus.” The following week another mother called Lorelei, the *GNC* Team Leader. She wanted to know what Bible Lesson was to be taught so that her child could read the Scripture ahead of time. Yes, parents are concerned.

As 29 children crowd into the Media Center, there are just enough chairs for everyone. With “temporary help” to join the team of three, Lorelei could divide the children into four small groups. Small group leaders are needed for this special part of *GNC*. Children need to share about their day, ask questions and be affirmed by an adult who truly listens and cares.

Ire and Ayonimi will help until Christmas break. Thank God for their commitment. Though they miss small group time, because their school day ends later, they arrive in time to help with the teaching. Both are experienced summer missionaries who want to impact the lives of children.

As we seek to help the church proclaim the Gospel to every child in Greater Cleveland, more workers and church partnerships are needed. Will you pray? **What part does God want you to have in filling the spiritual hunger of each child and parent?**



Chardon Hills GNC

North Olmsted Sings!

What a thrill to hear the Pine Intermediate *GNC* sing their *GNC* theme song with volume, enthusiasm and actions! *What's the News?* is an upbeat song that invites the kids to have fun, as they learn about God's Son, who gave His life for everyone. A young girl at the Maple *GNC* was asked what her favorite part of *GNC* was and she said, "The songs! I like singing!" Isn't it great that Bible truths are taught and better remembered when sung!

Pray that God will use these songs grounded in Bible truth to renew kids' thinking and transform their lives.



Open Doors Lead to Rich Opportunities!

The Amazing Grace EPC *Good News Club* Team entered **Open Doors** at Richmond Hts. Elementary School to serve kids like this boy who says, "God is the best!" Nineteen children attend regularly. The team will send out more invitations for the Christmas Party Club before Christmas Break. **Pray that more kids will come for the party and then join the *GNC* in 2024.**

The *GNC* Team continues to flex with the demands of the after-school program at **Marion-Sterling Elementary School** in Metropolitan Cleveland. So far, they see fewer children than in past years. **Ask God for more committed team members and for ways to include more children in this *GNC*.**

With 29 children signed up for the **Chardon Hills STEM School in Euclid**, a sense of expectation fell on the entire group as the first club began. We were all amazed at the calm and attention of these first through fifth graders during the entire club.

The **Pine Intermediate *GNC*** had a special outreach to friends. They invited a World Champion Juggler, David L. Cain, to share God's Word and the Gospel in a creative and memorable way. (Over thirty came for this presentation.)

The **Maple Elementary *GNC*** started this October with a new team from Columbia Road Baptist Church. An evening custodian has a part in what God is doing at this school as he prays for the students when cleaning the classrooms. It is a blessing to discover how God strategically places His people where He opens doors to bring the Gospel to the children.



Putting God first.

Chardon Hills Good News Club in Action!



Lighting the Way into 2024



Martha gives report

Sixty friends, both old and new, attended the *CEF* annual Fund-gathering Banquet: **Light the Way**. God gave a blessed time of...

- fellowship at each table
- a report of God's direction for *CEF* and His blessing for the children's sake in the Greater Cleveland area
- A word from God's Word "Light the Way" by Mike Todd, the Local Director of *CEF*'s West Central Chapter in Ohio
- a challenge to support the ministries of *CEF* in the Greater Cleveland

Our Lord blessed the hard work of our five Committee Members and Kyle's leadership, enabling us to clear over \$5,000.00 from this Fund-gathering event. We are grateful for each person who came and for all who gave so generously to further the ministries of *CEF*.

Let's also thank our God for His presence and His invitation to get involved. What a joy to be workers together with Him that the children of Greater Cleveland get to hear the Gospel and believe on Jesus!

What part would He have you play in 2024?

More Team Members are needed in our existing Euclid and Metropolitan Cleveland Good News Clubs. Do you know someone who lives in the area and would be available in the afternoon?

ClearView Community Church, a new church plant in Euclid, wants to start a new club at Shoreview Elementary School in the new year. Do you live in the area? Is God prompting you to help?

We hope to add one part-time staff this year to help develop the ministries of *CEF* in our chapter. Ask God to raise up the right person for this part-time position.

Join us in trusting God to raise up a support team to invest in His kingdom through monthly gifts!

Ten giving \$50.00 and 10 giving \$25.00 each month would enable us to commit to inviting this person to join the Greater Cleveland team. Together, we can reach even more Greater Cleveland children.



Mike Todd - Keynote Speaker



Kyle Latchaw gives the challenge

Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for the start of five After School Good News Clubs reaching over 90 kids with the Gospel. Ask God to raise up more volunteers to complete each team.
- Praise God for new contacts and the potential for two new Good News Clubs in 2024. Ask God for wisdom in developing these church partnerships.
- Ask God to raise up the right person to join us as a part time ministry coordinator and provide the needed finances.
- Pray for the elementary schools in your neighborhood that God would protect the children and teachers from violence.
- Ask God to help believing teachers and school administrators to light the way for the kids in their school.

