



New City Kids

loving kids for change



Teen staff on retreat at Camp Ladore in Pennsylvania.

What is it that most defines you? I'm struck by how paramount this question is in our work at New City Kids. This year, while filling out financial aid forms with one of our seniors, he paused and looked at me. "Josh, am I poor?" By the U.S.'s definition he is. I encouraged him to apply for some of the best funded programs for financially disadvantaged students. His family clearly qualifies, making just over \$11,000/year to support a family of three. He went on to tell me that he had never thought of himself as poor before. I argued that he still shouldn't. My hope is that his experience at New City Kids will shape his view of himself as talented, capable, resilient, valued, and loved. I hope all of the youth who walk through New City Kids see themselves this way.

In February, 50 of the teens that work for New City Kids attended a three day retreat that addressed this question of how one is defined. Staff shared testimonies and insight on having a deeper relationship with God. Teens shared powerful stories about depression, significant losses, devastating diagnoses, battles with substance abuse, unhealthy and abusive relationships, and difficult home situations. For many of the young people in our ministry their childhood and ado-



Soo Kim, Job Coach, shares an amazing testimony.

lescence have not been carefree. The neighborhoods they're growing up in whisper failure over them, attempting to convince them that it doesn't matter whether or not they try. Every day they walk through apathy to attend schools, at some of which half of their peers will never graduate. They commonly hear about violence, see drug use glorified, and watch their families affected by a series of broken relationships. But when I hear their voices and their stories I see them trading that experience, which could define them negatively, for hope. On the retreat when the teens shared about their hopes to make better choices and to have healthier relation-

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ships they cheered for one another. I looked around the room and saw young people laughing together, praying with one another, giving each other advice, and being a community to each other in a world where it is very easy to feel alone. I saw them seeking out members of our staff – identifying adults that they trust and look up to.

New City Kids has fun and engaging afterschool programs that provide employment for teens, teach kids music, develop youth as leaders, and help young people get into college. These are incredible services. However, the most powerful takeaway at New City Kids is that all these experiences help youth learn to not be defined by the world, but rather point to a God who loves them, who has a plan for their lives, and doesn't assign value based on their family's income or ZIP code or even on the mistakes they have made. They are most defined by His love for them. That definition changes the view our

youth have of themselves and allows them to rise above even the most challenging circumstances.

At the end of March our kids and teens are taking the stage to share their stories with you! Please join us for *Out of Darkness*: an original musical production inspired by the work at New City Kids. This year's production is based on the passage 1 Peter 2:1-10, and shares how God uses New City Kids' ministry to invite young people to learn about the purpose of their life and the calling God has for them. Join us to experience the powerful music, stories, dance, and spoken word – written and performed by our talented youth. Our goal for the show is to raise \$170,000, which would support 31 internships for high school students this coming year. Your investment affects the lives not only of the teens, but also the 220 After School Center students they teach and tutor. Even if you are unable to join us, please consider making a gift to New City Kids.

Blessings,



Josh Dornbos
Executive Director
New City Kids: Jersey City



Teens sing at our 2016 spring benefit!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

\$5,500 - Sponsor a Teen Life Internship.

\$450 - Sponsor a teen's college tour.

\$25/mo - Contribute toward a scholarship for a child in the After School Center.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

Want your gift to go further? See if your employer will match your gift, up to 2x by visiting www.newcitykids.org/-matching.

SPRING BENEFIT



Join us for our 2017 spring benefit! Details and how to buy tickets below.

JERSEY CITY UPDATES

College tour is coming up! 20 juniors will visit 12 schools in April.

Over half of our seniors have already received college acceptance letters!

 New City Kids Benefit Concert

OUT OF DARKNESS

Sunday, March 26th | 4pm
LIBERTY CORNER CHURCH
45 Church Street
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

Thursday, March 30th | 7pm
EMERGENCY CHURCH
930 Riverview Drive, Suite 500
Totowa, NJ 07512

Saturday, April 1st | 4pm & 7pm
NEW CITY KIDS
240 Fairmount Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

 newcitykids.org

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE TODAY: NEWCITYKIDS.ORG/OUTOFDARKNESS