



# Lift Every VOICE

In 1996 a university professor analyzed 39 studies comparing student test scores at the BEGINNING of the summer with their performance on the same tests at the END of summer. To no one's surprise, he found that all students scored lower on math tests at the end of summer than they had at the beginning. But while low-income students scored lower on reading tests as well, their middle-class peers made gains. And the farther students advanced in school, the more their reading either regressed or improved during those summer months. Based on this pattern, educators now believe that 2/3 of the achievement gap between low-income and middle class students can be attributed to what happens during the summer.

This data can be viewed as a threat, or an opportunity. We choose the latter. If summer offers a chance to reduce the achievement gap by two-thirds, then it's time to get busy!

The Adventures Ahead summer camp has registered twelve students in grades K-2, and twenty-two in grades 3-6. Two of this year's sixth graders have been in the program since kinder. A team of Adventures Ahead graduates (now teenagers) will run our reading intervention program. Six college interns will oversee lessons, games, trips to the library and appropriate classroom behavior. Our center will be loud, messy and not as air-conditioned as we would like. Like a very large family sharing a small space. And in this space, kids will replace summer learning loss with academic progress!

This year's theme is "Finding your Voice."

As our country celebrates the 50 year anniversary of many civil rights milestones, we plan to introduce the next generation to the power of peaceful protest. Students will read stories of marches and sit-ins. They will talk about the courage of those who participated, especially children and youth. They will practice advocating for themselves and their community through letter writing. They will make phone calls to city offices regarding trash and graffiti. They will create art that tells their unique stories. And they will have a chance to participate in a community-wide protest against the toxic oil drilling a few doors down from our center.

Please watch our facebook page for photos, updates and chances to help. Take a minute now to "like" Redeemer Community Partnership.

Also, would you consider giving a gift to sponsor one of our students? The full cost of our five-week program is \$350 per child. Our families pay only \$40. Gifts from partners like you make up the difference.

Will you help this generation claim their voice? And will you help them develop the vocabulary, knowledge and confidence to make themselves clearly heard?

Summer learning gains, here we come!

**Anna Parks**

neighborhood mom, program volunteer and RCP board member

Prevent summer learning loss and help a child discover his own unique voice!



*\$350 will sponsor one child's summer experience*



*\$500 will support one of our Adventures Ahead graduates as they return to the summer program as a junior teaching assistant*



*Help our kids find their voice this summer!*