

Redeemer Community Partnership Building Better Neighborhoods

South Central Los Angeles

Fall 2011



Light the Night

If you survived a childhood lacking in car seats, bike helmets and BPA-free water bottles you may also have spent October 31st collecting candy with a posse of neighborhood kids. For many healthy neighborhoods this annual tradition was part of the glue connecting families to each other. But in our neighborhood today, Halloween Night is more complicated. In a place where spiritualists and fortune tellers dot our boulevards, Christian parents are wary of the holiday's occult roots. And in a place where robbery and vandalism are everyday events, few parents want their kids knocking on strangers' doors, or strangers knocking on their own. So instead of coming together, our community scatters to suburban trick-or-treat spots or retreats behind closed doors with porch lights off. For the past 14 years, Redeemer Community Partnership and a local church (Church of the Redeemer) have co-hosted a block party that reclaims the night's community-building potential. We call it LIGHT THE NIGHT! As you read this our neighbors are forming committees to plan menus, rent equipment, obtain street closure permits, create decorations, collect donations from local businesses, book local musicians and more. And when October 31st arrives the families of our community will celebrate the truth that "Light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overcome it."

Throughout the evening we will raffle off bikes (with helmets), gift baskets and electronics. The ticket price is a short survey asking our guests to indicate their interest in tutoring, youth programs and block clubs, as well as Bible study, prayer or a visit from a local pastor. Through these surveys we've been able to connect children to our tutoring program, youth to our performing arts programs, concerned neighbors into public-safety improvement efforts and families into home Bible studies. We expect LIGHT THE NIGHT to keep blessing our community long after the dunk tank is emptied and last straw bale hauled away.

Come join the fun! Volunteers get to pass candy out to children while staffing simple games. It's a great way to experience the beautiful transformation that has taken root in our South L.A. community. For more information contact Lauren Tigrett at lauren@redeemercp.org.

Come and see some of the remarkable changes in our neighborhood over the last 19 years. You will be encouraged and inspired to take Jesus' call to neighboring back to your own community.

Saturday, November 12
from 10:00 to noon

at Redeemer Community
Partnership's tutoring center,
1438 W. Jefferson Blvd., 90007.

R.S.V.P. to Richard Parks at
richard@redeemercp.org
(323) 377-9686

Ready for Summer Splash 2012?



Forty children attended our Adventures Ahead Summer Camp this July. We continue to relish this chance to invest intensively in our kids' learning now that our schools are back on a traditional calendar. The kids spend six hours a day, five days a week with a team of college interns, learning and exploring together. This year's theme was HEALTHY LIVING, including nutrition, fitness, and basic gardening.

Each morning the kids exercised their minds with multiplication drills, phonics, geometry, theater performances, creative writing and more. In the afternoons they learned about nutrition facts, how to make healthy snack choices and how to see through the advertising industry's sneaky techniques. They got their hands dirty gardening and composting, growing their own tomatoes, peppers and herbs. They cooked their own meals every Friday, making healthier versions of kid favorites—turkey burgers on whole wheat buns, chicken quesadillas with veggies and lots of fruit smoothies—all using fresh ingredients they purchased from local markets. They also exercised their bodies with daily trips to the park, weekly sessions at the local pool and exercise class every Tuesday afternoon. Finally, we took a trip to see where food comes from. What a sight to see forty city kids take in the sights, sounds and smells of a working farm! They picked carrots from an organic garden, fed swiss chard to sheep and goats, and even milked a cow! One of their favorite moments was meeting Grandma Tina, an old brown cow with a very long tongue.

The summer was full of adventure and new experiences, and it couldn't have happened without the help of many hands. Church groups from Shoreline, WA and Eagle Rock, CA taught the kids soccer, dance, movie-making and art. They also fixed up our tutoring center and organized a family beach trip. Other volunteers made a total of 800 sack lunches, created eye-catching bulletin boards, designed fliers, prayed for us and served as teaching assistants. Would you like to get your church group involved? We are accepting reservations for next summer's adventure! Contact richard@redeemercp.org for more information.



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