

Crossroads Chronicles

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www.crossroadshilly.org

Summer Camp in the words of our campers

From the Director's Desk, Rev. Juan Marrero

I thank God for another successful Summer Day Camp at Crossroads! Fifty-five children and youth took part, and ten youth counselors developed their leadership skills.

We asked some of our campers to create this Newsletter, so you can hear from them in their own words. Ali, Nya, and Shahada share their perspectives with you.

We missed having James Muldor, AKA Mr T, with us this summer. He came to Crossroads six years ago from Chaplain Ron's ministry and has been a wonderful youth leader. He is now working full time at The City School, so he does not have time to serve with us. Though we miss him, we know that this is a positive result of Crossroads' ministry—providing a place for returning citizens to come to Christ and turn their lives around. God bless you, Mr. T!

Juan Marrero, Executive Director, M.Div



Rap and dance in chapel!

Shahada: “In chapel we learned about God and had devotions. I remember one chapel this year that was really fun. My cousins, sister,



Shahada, Ali, and Nyla—two sisters and their brother share memories of summer camp for the Newsletter

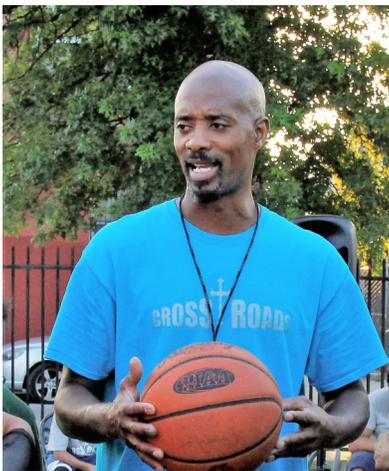
and I turned chapel into a singing and dancing party. Alex, Josiah and Mariah were rapping, and we were jumping around dancing. I felt really happy after chapel! I think God wants us to enjoy using our gifts like music and dance.”

Ali remembers Camp Men-O-Lan. “I had fun at Camp Men-O-Lan and I miss my counselors. They helped us have fun inside when it was raining. We played ‘Duck-duck-geese’ and other games. I loved the slippery slide and pool. We played a ball the game in the pool.

I also went on a giant swing. I wasn't scared, but my sister screamed when she went on it.”



Cristina, Nyla and Shahada enjoy the pool



Nyla: “Mr. T was not in camp this year because he is working at The City School. He is a great person, very funny and nice. We missed having him take us on fun days. The thing I missed most was the trip to the beach: the beach house, surfing, riding bike on the board walk, and playing in the ocean and the sand. I remember last year Mr. T took us to Lake Side. I took the swimming test and passed!”



Above

Dr. Mary Wade (in the center with blue dress) is a Minister and a Quaker who does international peace making. She lives in North Philly where she grew up and spoke at chapel one day.



Left: Dr. Randolph Walters from Eastern U. spoke in chapel about dealing with traumatic situations. He asked everyone in chapel to stand, state their name, and one positive thing about themselves. He called Juan (son) to the front and said, “I see you as a David with a special anointing for leadership.” “That made me feel very special,” says Juan. “David is my favorite Bible character.”



Sandra, Juan and Mayo with groceries he brought for summer camp meals

Late last year **Dan Mayo** read about Crossroads in the “Broke in Philly” Inquirer article. He was intrigued, and soon ventured into Fairhill to visit. After meeting Juan and Sandra, he asked, “Is there something I can do to help?”

It was just before Thanksgiving, so they said, “Yes! We need turkeys for our thanksgiving food boxes.”

He brought ten turkeys, and the following week he was back with a trunk full of groceries. Every week since then Dan has come with food for the pantry!!! During summer camp, he brought groceries for breakfasts and lunches.

Juan asked him to sit down and talk about his decision to support Crossroads.

Dan is from an Irish Catholic family of nine children.

He was born in the Cobbs Creek neighborhood of Philly but his parents wanted their children to “grow up with grass under their feet,” so they moved to New Jersey. Dan’s father was always ready to help people out, and he would move quickly to provide what was needed. It seems Dan has this same trait!

His father pushed his children to go to college. Not Dan. He wanted to be outside working with his hands, so he got a job in a nursery. “Since the age of 17 I’ve been working in landscaping,” he says, “and I’m 60 now, so that’s 43 years.” He took some landscaping courses at Rutgers University and has his own business, Waterford Gardens.

“Does your faith motivate you to support us so faithfully?” asked Juan. “I see Jesus in you, even though you don’t talk about him.”

Dan didn’t respond directly. “I’m Catholic,” he said, “but I’m very disappointed with the church!” It’s clear that he would rather respond to people’s needs in practical ways than talk theology!

“I’ve been blessed in life,” says Dan, “and it’s a blessing to help at Crossroads. I know that people here need help with emergency food sometimes.”

Thank you, Dan!