



September 2010

Dear BCM Family and supporters,

John F. Kennedy once said that “Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.” Bayshore Christian Ministries (BCM) seeks to make the kids of East Palo Alto more than simply a hope for the future. In East Palo Alto, the current high school dropout rate is at sixty-five percent and less than ten percent of the students who do graduate enroll in a four year college. Education and mentorship are a top priority in this area. Despite the challenging environment in which kids east-of-Bayshore live, BCM seeks to help the children of their community succeed in all their dreams.



Becky Sikkes, ICL 2009 and 2010

While completing my 3rd year as a Social Work student at Kuyper College, a small Bible school in Grand Rapids, Michigan, I began to wonder where God was guiding me. I have always had a passion for children and guiding them through the stresses they face in life. My passion is to see them speak up for themselves, gain self confidence, and never resort to violence as a way to solve problems. I learned about BCM’s Internship for Christian

leaders (ICL) in our front office and immediately fell in love with the mission and goals of BCM. I was welcomed to BCM the summer of 2009 as an intern working with their Summer Adventures In Learning (SAIL) program. Over the summer, God tugged my heart in so many directions. I watched a group of students strive and grow in their academics as well as their personal, social, and emotional lives. Every day was a challenge for me, and I gained a new perspective on education and the needs of students living in low income areas. As a social work student, my eyes were immediately drawn to the emotional and social needs of my students. I watched as certain students shared intimate details of their home lives, and my heart broke for the community. God taught me that no matter where I am, He can use the gifts I have. I was finally able to see that I was a strong leader and that God was leading me to work with kids in the area of domestic violence and dance/movement therapy.

As an intern, I also saw how BCM impacted the families of these children. Kids are introduced not only to a community of loving staff but to a person who can change their lives—Jesus Christ. Every day students were exposed to the love of Christ through the staff and through the Bible Club program. Many parents shared with me that they couldn’t imagine their kids going to any other place. They spoke of the love BCM had for them and their situations. By



BCM's 2010 Intern Team

the final day, I knew that God was calling me to continue to serve in EPA, and I left part of my heart there after that summer.

During the following school year, I couldn't keep my mind off of all that God had taught me at BCM. I desired to return and be part of BCM's amazing mission and something bigger than myself. God was calling me back, and I decided to apply for a second summer. When I returned to East Palo Alto in June 2010, I knew God would do great things at BCM. He taught me that His love is the greatest thing that I can show to others. He showed me that children are a mission in which we must invest. They truly are the future. Bayshore seeks to equip the kids involved in their programs to grow spiritually, gain life skills, and develop as leaders. Over this summer, I saw this happen as I invested myself as a servant, as a leader, and as one who loved every child I met. I watched a child in my class grow immensely in the areas BCM emphasizes. This small boy was a brilliant child. He came to my classroom the first day not knowing who Jesus was or what it meant to love yourself and others. I was amazed to watch him grow in his interactions with the other students, his family, and the leaders. The other children in my classroom astounded me in similar ways. I watched one girl transformed through God's love from one of the shyest children to a self confident and helpful young lady. I never thought that I would be able to show students between the ages of six and nine how to live as leaders who love Christ. It truly was God working through me.

I am unable to return to BCM and serve again in the immediate future, but I know that God is working in this ministry, and I would be extremely blessed to find myself back there in the future. This ministry is one that I will support for a lifetime. Thank you for your willingness to lift up BCM in prayer. It is a place where God's presence truly dwells. Here are some ways you can pray for Bayshore Christian Ministries:



- For the start of fall programs: KidSmart, Bible Club, StreetWorkz and LEAD
- For enough passionate volunteers to run our programs at capacity
- That God would continue to call families to join BCM's mission
- That the children who are part of BCM's programs would continue to grow spiritually, gain life skills, and develop as leaders

I pray that God would continue to work through BCM and in the hearts of the people in the community. Thank you again for your willingness to invest time and prayers into their mission,

Rebecca Sikkes (Grand Rapids, MI)

****If you would like to receive these updates via email, please send a message to green@bayshore.org if you have not done so already.***

Upcoming Events

Fallapalooza! (Fall Carnival) – Saturday, October 30th

Open House – Thursday, December 9th

[Bayshore Christian Ministries / 1001 Beech Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 / 650.327.1139](http://www.bayshore.org)

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