



Wings on their heels

by Cheryl Wagner

With feet flying the little one rolls past, hanging from her sister's arm, with a smile like sunshine.

Small boys with Stanley cup dreams are playing hockey at one end of the rink. Miss Beth is referee and there is no fighting in her rink!

A pre-teen wobbles past and crashes into a wall. As we help him up he whispers confidentially "I've never skated before". Oh, really? You're doing great!

As we look around, we are reminded of the old Sunday School chorus "red and yellow, black and white they are precious in His sight."

This is a typical Open Center Saturday at the Buffalo Christian Center. The children and teens come from a wide variety of backgrounds varying from good church families to life situations that would make you weep. The Center offers a fun, safe place to get exercise in the cold of Buffalo winters and to learn how spiritual renewal can transform a rotten life. With swimming, basketball, ping pong, billiards, foos-ball, putt-putt golf, and the snack shop as attractions, the roller skating rink is still the favorite.



But a dark cloud looms:

"Miss, can I get other skates- this'n here has a wobbly wheel . . . Miss, please may I trade. These skates are poking my feet . . . The stopper fell off . . ."

skates. He doesn't want to be responsible for giving out something potentially dangerous.

We gather for prayer. Churches have donated skates and individuals have been kind, but department store skates don't hold up to the use they get here. Rink quality skates are \$100 per pair. We need at least 100 pairs for youth events. Ouch Lord, if you don't make a way, there is no way.

Lianne uses her keyboard and internet skills to do some research. She finds an ebay auction for 100 skates in new condition and makes a phone call. The gentleman asks if he could call her back in a half an hour.

The phone rings. "Miss, our boss is a very generous man. If you can come get them, your organization can have the skates."

As Lianne calls us with the exciting news, God's full plan is revealed. A staff person is going out of town for a family event and will be about 1-1/2

hours from the skates with a 15 passenger van! When the van comes back to Buffalo, the youth group enthusiastically helps unload. Enough good skates for everyone at their next event! The final count, as we organize and label the new skates is 145 pairs ranging in sizes from child's 10 to men's 11. Thank you, God!

It's Saturday again.

The hum of skates is like thunder rumbling under the rink music.

Laquanda is showing off, teaching the younger ones how to spin. Jose and Jacob are racing. Miss Beth reminds them to watch out for the little ones.

We smile.

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world

Mr. Bruce Gordon - Thank you for the skates!! 1

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Our skates have served us faithfully for 30 years. Lots of TLC and many repairs later, they are well past retirement age. Will we have to close the rink? As the families leave, they wave goodbye with a "see you next week". We smile, sad to know that there may not be a next week, without good skates. One of the work/study students has quit, because of the condition of the

Resident Partner profile:



Resident Partners are ministries that are housed within the Buffalo Christian Center and help fulfill our mission and vision. The **Buffalo Dream Center** is one of our resident partners and is helping fulfill many aspects of our vision including indigenous leadership development.

Prospective leaders are taken through training called "the standard" and the graduates teach the new class. Above is a picture of the teen boys group. There is also a teen girls group.



People who volunteer often say they have a desire to "give back to the Lord", or to "make a difference" when asked why they chose to volunteer. Without volunteers, most organizations could not succeed. Volunteers are a crucial part for most not for profit organizations and the Buffalo Christian Center is no exception. Whether helping out in the office, working with the children during summer day camp preparing food, teaching bible classes, doing creative crafts, life guarding at our pool, or helping to organize events - we can use YOU!

If you or your group would like to volunteer, please call the Buffalo Christian Center today at 856-7495 or e-mail us at beth@thebcc.org. Your gifts and talents will help us be "a beacon of light" for those that come to the Buffalo Christian Center.

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Store Hours: Tue - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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512 Pearl Street, Buffalo, NY 14202
at W. Tupper & Pearl, behind
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email: bccbookstore@hotmail.com

Cheryl Wagner, Mgr.

Ongoing used book SALE

We also carry Church and Sunday School supplies.

Our hearts desire the BCC



The Center is in need of many items and services. Some big, some small. If you or your group have the means to provide any of these items, please call 856-7495.

GAME ROOM NEEDS:

- 2 - Pool tables
- 2 - Air Hockey tables
- 2 - Foos ball tables
- 1 - Ping Pong table & paddles
- Ping Pong balls (large packs)
- Pool table sticks
- 4- Large sofas (3 seaters)
- 25- Golf putters

OFFICE NEEDS:

- Copy Paper
- Inkjet Cartridges: HPQ2612A, Q2670A, Q2671A, Q2672A, Q2673A
- Notebook computer
- Newer computers

THEATER NEEDS

- Air Conditioning
- Video Projector

OTHER NEEDS

- A Lift for in the front foyer
- Licensed Plumber for odd jobs
- Contractor for repairs
- Monetary Donations



Buffalo Christian Center
April 9, 2007

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Pastor Neil Boron, speaker

Call 856-7495 for more information



Jim Swearingen
Executive Director

FROM THE DESK OF JIM



I believe that many churches and Christians in the suburbs want to make a long term impact through the gospel on issues like poverty, crime and the lack of moral values that are destroying lives in many neighborhoods in Buffalo. In the past few months, we have been working on *Strengthening Urban Churches Initiative* and believe it will meet this need. By partnering urban and suburban church and ministry partners together we can establish communication about what is needed and get feedback on our efforts to meet those needs. The BCC is developing this network among churches/ministries that sign up to be Church/Ministry partners.

As we come together, we will be able to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who don't know him and bring the resources to disciple these new believers. If we can develop positive peer groups with Christian values in each neighborhood in Buffalo, it is my experience that most kids will choose this positive peer group. By bringing the suburban and urban churches together we will have the manpower and resources to see this happen. We already have church partners from predominately Native American, African American, Hispanic and Caucausian congregations represented. Partner meetings will be held for urban and suburban church partners to pray and develop the *Strengthening Urban Churches Initiative*.

Partnering city churches and ministries are invited to use the BCC as an extension of their church/ministry. Their members (and those they are reaching out to) can use the facility on Saturdays from 10-3 for only one dollar a person. It is hoped that we will be able to expand this to include two weekday nights in addition to Saturday. The church/ministry matches one dollar for each visit per month up to a maximum of \$50 per month.. Supporting churches and individuals will offset the extra costs of this initiative through their support.

You can be a "partner" by supporting this effort in prayer, volunteering and/or financially supporting this effort. Twenty four dollars will offset the additional cost for one person to come to the center for the 12 week trial period.

Feel free to call me at 856-7495 if you have any questions or if you would like to participate in this initiative.



512 Pearl St.
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 856-7495
www.thebcc.org

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