

The Buffalo Christian Center Outlook

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The Buffalo Christian Center's Mission is to facilitate the gospel and the training of disciples of Jesus Christ, by serving the church and reaching the city for Christ.

Night Out with the Bills 2009

“In a society that looks up to its heroes, we need to have heroes looking up to God.”

700 hundred fans sat in anticipation as the much awaited Buffalo Bills and their wives entered the Forbes Theater for the annual Night Out with the Buffalo Bills, in association with Athletes in Action (AIA) and the Buffalo Christian Center.

As the players and their wives sat on the stage, Fred Raines (Chaplain for the AIA) introduced them and asked questions about their lives and their relationship with the Lord. Many shared from their hearts how much the Lord means to them and how He helps them get through each day. The players and their wives encouraged the kids to model good behavior and pointed to God as a way to accomplish that. The kids thought the event was awesome and seemed to be taking in every word.

Kyle and Jill Williams shared how others could know the Lord personally. One boy who accepted the Lord as His Savior, said

that the evening was “the greatest experience of his life”. An additional forty five people indicated that they asked Jesus into their hearts.

You don't usually think of linebackers having a soft side, but Bryan Scott of the Bills (he just moved from safety to linebacker) played the keyboard and sang “Jesus

You're the Center of My Joy”. He had an amazing voice and the audience erupted in applause after hearing him.

The evening was opened by Stephen Kulu of Christ Records Camp and friends performing gospel rap and getting everyone focused on the Lord.

Names were drawn to win prizes of a NFL autographed football, Bills mini helmet autographed by Hall of Famers and two tickets to the Miami Dolphins at the Buffalo Bills game.

The evening was capped off with the players signing autographs in the roller rink and interacting with everyone that came out. Each child received a booklet with a picture of each player along with their favorite scripture, to get autographs on.



Bryan Scott (43), Teresa Villano, Kyle (95) & Jill Williams, James Hardy (84) John (21) & Angie Wendling; Brad Butler (60); CJ (18) & Tina Hawthorne; Jonathan Stupar (88); Johanna Summerville, Chris (90) & Natalie Kelsay, Jon Corto (57), Fred & Kathy Raines.



James Hardy signing autographs



Fred Raines, Jim Swearingin & participant who won the grand prize, tickets to Buffalo Bills vs Miami Dolphin game.



Moe Badger and Steven Kulu performing

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Saturday at the Center

Open Center Saturday is the best day of the week to be a kid or a kid at heart at the BCC. Now with the snow flying and birds flying south, it is a perfect time to jump into fun from 10am-3pm every Saturday. We have a pool, basketball court, rollerskating rink, and a game room where you can hang out and play putt putt or billiards. Or is it a child's birthday? Why not celebrate it at the Center?

Deserie Toliver and our other terrific lifeguarding staff don't need to tell you twice, the water's perfect for reminding us of warm summer days and splashing your way to good winter exercise. Need more practice? Deserie is now offering **swim lessons from 2:30-3:30 pm** for just eight dollars. Come for the day and grab an affordable lunch at the snack bar.



Kids having fun at the Buffalo Christian Center

What a breakfast! On Saturday, November 21st Jim cooked and served another great Strengthening Urban Churches breakfast. The breakfast was attended by many of our local church pastors and leaders. Jim's vision for the Buffalo churches working together here at the Buffalo Christian Center is growing. Every third Saturday of the month, Michelle Galvin from The Place of Worship ministers here through the Young Esther's Mentoring Ministry. Their focus is on mentoring young woman. It's exciting how God is being glorified in so many ways here on Saturday mornings. Food for thought, what gift of ministry is God calling you to do here on Saturday mornings?

Pastor "Schooled" by Motorcycle Clubs

by Jim Swearingen

My friend Donna recently died in a motorcycle accident. She was a member of a motorcycle club. Back in my day the motorcycle clubs were seen as rough outlaws. In one famous incident, a Hell's Angel Club performed security for the Rolling Stones concert and killed someone. My friend however was out with her motorcycle club on Thanksgiving morning to serve a meal to others when she died.

Friends and family took turns sharing about Donna at the funeral. One of the club members was a truck driver and spoke of how he heard the news and drove three days without stopping to make it back for the funeral. He said my friend was a "soldier" because she was performing her duty as a club member. They believed that you should give to others in need. You see, this friend of mine was a low income, single mother of six. But here she was on Thanksgiving morning serving those more in need than herself. The club leader explained, that was their belief, that you should give to others.

The Pastor at the funeral pointed out that he learned something from the motorcycle club that day. Many in his church, he said, would not make it across town for someone's funeral in the church, but these club members were like family and came from near and far. The parking lot was overflowing with motorcycles and leather jackets filled the church. These folks served and cared for others. "They got it," he said, "It's not about coming to a meeting on Sunday but about serving and living your life as God would have you live it every day".

As it says in the book of Philippians "Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had."

Donna had a huge impact on her children and on others. When my wife (KJ) was in the hospital for several weeks due to a car accident, Donna had a job at the hospital and would come by every day to visit and encourage KJ. Even when KJ was moved from I.C.U. to step-down, back to I.C.U. and eventually rehab, Donna would find KJ every day so she could tell KJ she loved her. There were many testimonies like this at the funeral of how Donna had impacted the lives of others. And even in her death she had an impact on this past.

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For many attending this was a night of memories that will last for a lifetime.

Jeremy Cooper, the BCC guest host asked some participants: **"What does Bills Night Out" mean to you?**

Below are their answers.

"In a society that looks up to it's heroes, we need to have heroes looking up to God. We do it as a group, so everyone is a part of it. Players stepping out of their comfort zone. Powerful expression of God's power and gives the Bill's wives the opportunity to minister with their husbands." Fred Raines, AIA Chaplain



"Means you can see the Bills, talk with them and have fun with." Peace Miller



"Good opportunity to bring my son out and hear Christian athlete testimony." Chris Gray (in the middle), with his son and Jeremy Cooper, BCC group host.



"Means to actually get to know about the players. I appreciate the time they give, great to know them besides what the media says." Charlotte Kramer (left)



"Gives children a chance to witness the glory of God in peoples lives, especially professional athletes." Dene Dania Anderson

Strengthening Urban Churches invitation to Suburban and WNY Churches

Ever want to help **transform the city of Buffalo** through the power of the **gospel** but were not sure what to do?

Ever want to **help strengthen churches in the city** but were not sure how?

Ever wish Churches & **Pastors in the city** would have a plan and **invite you to participate?**

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then we have a solution for you.

Over 30 Churches in the City are partners in the Buffalo Christian Center ministry to "Strengthen Urban Churches" (SUCH). We have a specific plan that we have put together, and are currently participating in.

In addition to Urban Churches, Suburban and WNY Churches are invited to participate. If you would like to learn more call Jim at (716) 856-7495.

Saturday Arts Program

Beginning January - March, the BCC is sponsoring an Arts Program for 1st-6th graders. It will consist of two one hour classes a month for \$10.00 per month. Space is limited so it is on a first come, first served basis. The art classes will include printmaking, painting, drawing, ceramics and much more.

For more actual dates and times or to enroll, please call 856-7495.

OUR WISH LIST

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| New phone System | Air hockey tables |
| A lift for the front foyer | Pool Table |
| Contractor for repairs | Pool cures |
| 3 seater sofas | Foosball Table |
| Audio & video equipment | Golf Putters |
| Monetary Donations | |

To make a donation, please use the envelope enclosed or send your donation to: The Buffalo Christian Center, 512 Pearl St., Buffalo, NY 14202. For further information, please call 716-856-7495.

CENTER BOOKSTORE

Closed on Sunday
 Store Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Open Thursday til 8:00 p.m.
 Evenings during BCC events



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Serving the Church and reaching the City for Christ

Pastor Schooled *continued from page 2*

God created us to be a part of a local gathering of people that loves and serves the needs of others. When each person becomes a believer in Christ they become a member of the "body of Christ" and that is the "club" we were all designed to be a part of. Like the pastor, I was reminded by this motorcycle club that we too should get out of our comfort zone and make the sacrifice to love and serve others. The Buffalo Christian Center is a great place for an opportunity like this! Our programs and facility bring together people from many different local churches to help those in need. We hope that you will make it a goal in 2010 to come alongside us to spread the love of Christ at the BCC!

Over 3500 visits per month

We count all visits to the BCC and put them under the area that applies. Salvation-attended a meeting where the gospel message was presented Outreach-reaching out through the facility, Unity-showing diversity in the body of Christ, Leadership & resources-training and providing resources for Christian growth, Service-to those in need. Last year our average visits per month were 3000. We have an increase of 500 visits per month for 2009.

Salvation	11,140
Outreach	12,321
Unity	1,859
Leadership	9,990
Service	3,198
Jan. 09 - Nov. 09	Total 38,508

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A family friendly fun-filled facility

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- ◆Skating Rink
- ◆Snack Shop
- ◆Swimming Pool
- ◆700 Seat Theater