

Hartford City Mission

Fall Newsletter, 2019



FORTIFYING THE FAMILY

Reflections on HCM's Gala 2019 by Victor J. Rush—HCM Executive Director

Since Hartford City Mission's (HCM) inception our focus has been on working with children grades 1-12 impacting their lives with the Word of God to help them to grow and develop into transformational leaders who will come back to their communities and make an impact. Our hope was that this changed child would go home and begin to impact their environment causing reconciliation to take place in the home. Although there are countless examples of this change taking place, this year we have decided to be deliberate about reaching and impacting the entire family. Thus our 2019 Gala theme: "Fortifying the Family". Our goal is to impact every family we serve with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *For those family members who already know Christ, we hope to strengthen their relationship. For those family members who do not know Christ, we hope to introduce them to Him in such a way that they will be compelled to accept Him as Lord and Savior.*

Gala 2019 took place once again at the Downtown Hartford Marriott Hotel in Hartford, CT. The evening started with a very spirited reception where several hundred people gathered to reconnect with those they knew and to develop new relationships. Many had gathered to meet our new Executive Director, Victor Rush. The HCM Information Booth was a real hit, many in attendance who had never heard of HCM gathered to ask all types of questions about who we are and what programs and services we provide. Many of our HCM families were featured on tall banners which made the families featured feel really proud to be connected to HCM and showed our guests how committed HCM is to the families we serve. The HCM Children of God (C.O.G.s) let the crowd know that dinner was served by ringing several dinner bells that encouraged all of us to enter the dining hall. The program began with Shane Davis, Worship Leader of Mount Olive Church, Hartford and HBO's "Sunday's Best Contestant", leading us into the presence of The Lord with a song of Worship. Our Emcee, Leslie Mayes, Reporter for NBC Connecticut, was a tremendous hit welcoming over 300 hundred guests to Hartford City Mission's 3rd Annual Gala. Archbishop Leroy Bailey, Senior Pastor of The First Cathedral, Bloomfield, CT prayed a powerful prayer over our food, the gathering and HCM which helped all of us to realize that God was present in the room. Our keynote speaker, Jay Williams, President of Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, set the entire room on fire when He challenged the room to "Come See A Man" (Jesus) who is doing a great work through Hartford City Mission. Jay also encouraged the group to support Hartford City Mission through their finances, volunteering, prayers and partnership. The room erupted in thunderous applause and praise to God as Jay Williams completed his speech. The highlight of the evening was when we first showed a video interview of Tonya Ford (mother of Andrew Norwood) talk about what HCM has meant to her and her family. The video ended and Andrew Norwood appeared on the stage for a live interview with Jarrad McCown, Site Director. When Andrew shared his testimony about coming to HCM as a first grader who was a troubled kid, to now being a 9th grader who is an HCM Leader-In-Training and a model example for all of his peers to emulate. When asked "What was the cause of this transformation in his life?" Andrew responded, "accepting Jesus Christ as his personal savior". Andrew went on to quote his favorite Bible passage, John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". There was not a dry eye in the place as the room once again erupted in praise to God. Our Executive Director, Victor J. Rush, shared with the group HCM's Mission: "Reflecting God's love to unlock the potential of Hartford's youth, families, and neighborhoods". Victor went on to share HCM's Vision: "A City Transformed" and he went on to share how HCM is achieving this vision everyday through the 99 children impacted through Camp Noah, the 29 campers impacted through SB2W CitiKidz away camp, the 60 youth impacted through Noah After School and Nehemiah After School, the 20 plus high school youth impacted through Young Life once a week, the 7 youth impacted by the Leaders-In-Training (L.I.T.) year-round program and the youth whose lives we are impacting through the Solomon In School Program.

(Continued on page 3)



Victor Rush, Executive Director



C.O.G.s singing "Every Praise"



Jay Williams, President HFPG

Meet Our New Board Members



Evelyn Hannah

Evelyn V. Hannah joined the board in August 2019 and is honored to work with HCM in serving the neighborhoods in Hartford. For the past 25 years, Evelyn has worked with children and youth in both professional and ministerial capacities. She has maintained membership at Bible Way Temple Nation (BTN) in Hartford, CT for over 21 years. For the past 8 years, she has served as the Administrator of BTN's Children, Youth, and Young Adult's Department (C.T.Y.A) and is a member of BTN's Clergy Board and Mission's Department. Evelyn has a big and compassionate heart for young people, community work, and outreach. As a humble servant, Evelyn is dedicated to serving God's people and His Kingdom; and seeing lives transformed. Evelyn earned her Bachelor's of Science Degree in 1995 and a Master's of Social Work Degree in 2004, both from UCONN. She is a Licensed Master's Level Social Worker and a Social Work Supervisor employed by the State of Connecticut's Department of Children and Families for over 20 years, where she has worked to protect, support, and serve children/youth and families in CT. Living in the North End of Hartford for over 18 years, Evelyn and her husband, Ja, are proud parents of 3 beautiful children-Nya (16yrs), NaDhari (13yrs) and Joshua (8yrs). She joined HCM's Board in September 2019.



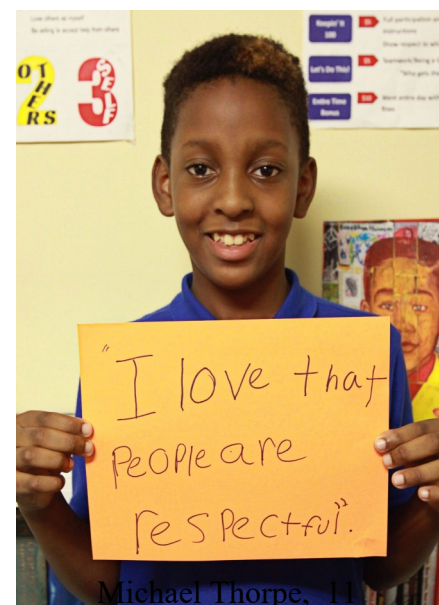
Derek Mogck

Derek Mogck brings to the Board prior Christian non-profit leadership experience, having served on the boards of Elim Park, a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Cheshire, and The Master's School, an independent pre-K to post-graduate school in Simsbury. He became interested in supporting HCM after his daughters served at Camp Noah through his family's church, Valley Community Baptist Church in Avon. Derek is currently a Second Vice President with Travelers, leading its Legal Resource Management and Claim Legal Product teams. Immediately before that, Derek was a litigation partner at Shipman & Goodwin LLP. Derek earned a law degree (with honors) from the University of Connecticut School of Law, a Master of Science in Public Affairs degree from the University of Massachusetts-Boston and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Studies (cum laude) from Gordon College. He joined HCM's Board in September 2019.

Learning about Love and Patience at After School

This fall we kicked off our After School season with 60 students across our three after school sites. We began the year talking about something that even we as adults, can have a hard time practicing...Patience! Students learned about how important it is to have patience in our every day lives AND that God helps us to have patience even when it's really difficult. In order to apply what they had been learning about, students were given the opportunity to practice patience with each other by working together to create patience "billboards" to encourage others to be patient.

Once we completed our unit on patience, we moved into one of the most important units, Love. Focusing on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, we learned about what love is and what love is not. This naturally led to conversations and lessons about how much God loves us and the sacrifice that He was willing to make so that we could live with Him forever. We learned about what love looks like in our lives today, with students giving examples of ways we can love: helping people if they get hurt, giving someone food, serving and helping others, saying sorry even if someone else won't apologize back, and so much more. Michael Thorpe, a 6th grade student at Nehemiah After School, shared about how he was able to show love to someone in his family by helping out while they were sick. He described how this was demonstrating Agape (selfless, godly) love because he was not thinking about himself, but the needs of his family.



Michael Thorpe, 11
Nehemiah After School

It's so encouraging to hear the students understanding these big concepts and learning how to apply them in their everyday lives. Please join us in prayer that our C.O.G.s would continue to put their faith into practice and we could have even more stories to share of kids showing love to the people around them!

Volunteer Highlight—Venice Sterling



Name: Venice Sterling

What do you do?

Program Manager, Diversity in Talent Acquisition for Aetna a CVS Health Company.

Where do you volunteer?

I volunteer at the Ebenezer Site of Noah After School and Young Life at the Salvation Army on Barbour Street in Hartford.

How did you get involved?

I have a little brother and three cousins who attend HCM's After School Programs.

What's your favorite thing about volunteering at Hartford City Mission?

Working with the young kids, getting to see their perspective on life and the way they take in information which makes it easier to convince them about God. With the older kids they are having doubts because they are older and getting them to see that their belief in God is there. They have questions about life issues and God and they need someone to guide them. It is great to see High School youth who are believers in God.

What is one way that volunteering has impacted your life?

It has brought me closer to God. I have not been to church in over a year, but working with these kids has helped my faith to grow stronger. I do now have plans to go back to church.

Fortifying the Family—continued from page 1

Victor went on to share how the new transformation leadership team at HCM is transforming lives and the City of Hartford everyday through the attitudes and work ethic, they bring to work every day. The icing was put on the cake when Kymberli Joye, season 15 Finalist on NBC's The Voice, electrified the room singing the song that made her very popular on the Voice, "Break Every Chain". Pastor Jay Abramson, Senior Pastor of Valley Community Baptist Church, Avon, CT, after hearing Kymberli Joye sing, found it difficult to give a Closing Prayer for the evening, so instead he challenged everyone in the room to leave that night fully committed to supporting the work and efforts of Hartford City Mission and to do whatever God leads them to do to help.

Hartford City Mission would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2019 Gold and Silver Gala sponsors:

Gold Sponsor:



Silver Sponsors:



**The Rooney Swanson Group
at Morgan Stanley**

You are part of the HCM family!

You can support the work to empower transformational leaders and inspire vibrant community by:

- ◆ Praying regularly for our students, parents, volunteers, and staff.
- ◆ Volunteering weekly to support one of the After School Sites or Young Life.
- ◆ Making a donation - HCM is a 501c3 non-profit.

For more information, visit our website or contact Executive Director, Victor Rush at victorr@hartfordcitymission.org



www.hartfordcitymission.org

- Fortifying the Family—2019 Gala Recap
- Meet Our New Board Members
- Learning about Love and Patience at Noah After School
- Volunteer Spotlight
- End of the Year Appeal Letter Enclosed

IN THIS ISSUE:

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
HARTFORD, CT
PERMIT NO. 1575

