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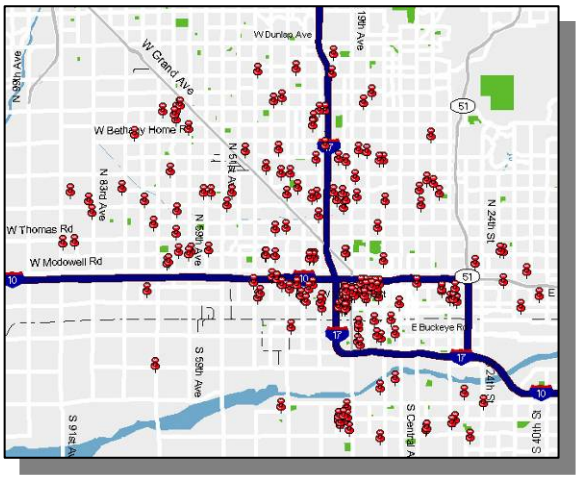
Work in Progress March 2004

Dear Friends:

"The best night of the week." That's what many children say when they come to **Kid's Life** at The Neighborhood Center every Monday night during the school year. Over 350 children in grades K-6 regularly attend **(550 are registered!)** for a small group Bible study and then a stimulating activity with caring volunteers. It has grown enormously in the last 2 years since we moved to our new site. If you came on Monday evenings, you will feel the energy and joy of all these children encountering the love of God through the volunteers and staff. It is overwhelming to see how God has faithfully used Kids Life to begin a relationship with some who are now even parents of new Kids Life participants. Many former Kid's Life members are now volunteering in ministry to junior or senior high students.

The children must have a parent's permission to come and have to be picked up from their homes or apartments and returned safely each Monday. The responsibility of organizing all the vehicles and volunteers each week is enormous. Over 130 volunteers participate (20 come from a different church each week just to bring and serve the food) and get to know the children personally. Many of the small group leaders meet with or call the children in their group during the week to help them with homework or to take them to another fun activity. Some of the children's parents have become involved as a result of a volunteer caring for their child.



Some of the children come because they don't get enough food to eat and are hungry. (An area church group brought 500 cheeseburgers last week and they were all gone in moments!) A few come because their neighborhood or home isn't safe and they feel loved at Kids Life. Many come because a sister, brother, cousin or friend invited them to come along. What keeps them coming back, though, is the love and care they experience from our volunteers and staff. We believe that our mission of being "the presence of Jesus…sharing his life-transforming hope and power" means that we too experience God's hope and power through loving these vulnerable children.

So, what are you doing next Monday night? We'd love to have you visit with your church group or just stop by and see what is happening. More than a few of our volunteers got involved because they came by for a visit.

Thank you for all that you do to support Kids Life and all that we do through The Neighborhood Center!

Kit Danley
President

Richard Speck
Executive Director

P.S. If you haven't signed up for the March 22 Golf Tournament, please look on our website or call the office.