



# Project Transformation

Transforming Lives Through Relationships



Summary of Results  
2011-2012 Programs

# Project Transformation Summary of Results 2011-2012

In this packet you will find an overview of our 2011-2012 after-school and summer programs in the North Texas area. This includes a description of our results, first-hand testimonials, and photos for the following programs:

## After-School Program

### Summer Day Camp Program

- » Elementary School
- » Middle School

### Volunteer Program

### Leaders in Training Experience Program

### Parent Feedback

### Urban Camp at Camp Bridgeport

### Intern Program

## After-School Program

### Results Overview

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In Project Transformation's 2011-2012 After-School Program, 188 students were served at seven sites across Dallas. Programming was provided from September through May, Monday through Thursday, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. 22 college-aged young adults served as the interns who planned and facilitated the program. Program highlights included a Family Fun Night at the Dallas Museum of Art, a college tour in Austin, the first-ever Project Transformation garden built by middle school students, and thousands of hours spent on homework completion. Thanks to the dedicated work of our interns and volunteers, our after-school participants had a very successful school year, with 89% of our regular attendees improving or maintaining their math grades!

### Program Feedback

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*PT has made me a better person overall and boosts my confidence. It also makes me feel better because I get to help people.*  
6th grader, Elmwood UMC

*I learned how to understand my homework better.*  
1st grader, Elmwood UMC

*The most important thing that I learned in PT is how to help others.*  
5th grader, Christ's Foundry UMC

*I love this program. The young people here are helping shape [the children's] future. Thank you so much for having this program available for us!*  
Pleasant Mound UMC Parent

*I think this is a great program, and I appreciate the help.*  
Oak Cliff UMC Parent



# Summer Day Camp Program

## Elementary School (Grades 1-5)

### Results Overview

694 children participated in Project Transformation's eight-week summer day camp program. Programming was provided Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 3:00pm at eight site locations in Oak Cliff, Pleasant Grove, Bachman Lake, East Dallas, Northwest Dallas, Mesquite, and Denison, Texas. Highlights of the daily program for children (grades 1-5) include:

#### Reading

Children read one-on-one with a volunteer each day to improve fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension as well as to increase confidence and attitude toward reading. Pre- and post-summer reading assessments indicated that 96% of elementary participants improved or maintained their reading level. Additionally, 81% of students reported an increased interest or confidence in reading.

A new reading program, i-Ready, was piloted at our Oak Cliff UMC site this summer. i-Ready is an online tutoring system that offers personalized, data-driven reading instruction for students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. It provides on-level lessons for each child, targeted at his or her areas of improvement and provides immediate corrective feedback to help ensure students are practicing new skills correctly.

#### Daily Nutrition

A nutritious lunch was served to each child attending the program. This summer, over 45,000 healthy meals and snacks were served in partnership with the North Texas Food Bank, in addition to take-home snack bags and fresh vegetables, which were provided on a weekly basis.

#### Enrichment Activities

Other enrichment activities included sports, arts & crafts, Bible lessons, and special speakers from the community, which provided opportunities for fun, fellowship, and friendships to form and be nurtured.



### Program Feedback

At the end of the summer, elementary participants shared how they felt Project Transformation had changed them:

*Now I read more, and I am not scared to read out loud anymore.*  
Pleasant Mound 5th grader

*I feel better about myself.*  
Elmwood 2nd grader

*I watch less TV and eat healthier.*  
St. Mark's 4th grader

*It has changed me by making me more respectful.*  
St. Mark's 5th Grader

*[It] helped me want to work with other people and helps me read better.*  
Walnut Hill 4th grader

# Summer Day Camp Program

## Middle School (Grades 6-9)

### Results Overview

285 middle school youth participated in Project Transformation's summer day camp at seven site locations in Dallas. The program for youth (grades 6-9) was designed specifically for their unique needs and included the following successful components:

#### Book clubs & literary discussion groups

Youth read aloud daily in small groups, enjoying such books as *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *My Side of the Mountain*. This resulted in 95% of youth improving or maintaining their reading levels.

#### Team-building and leadership training

Training in team-building, leadership development, and conflict resolution were part of the weekly curriculum for youth. Guest presentations also helped youth explore career options.

#### Service projects

Youth increased their awareness of community need and felt empowered to make a difference through regular service projects. Each youth team planned and implemented two service projects in the community, which included weaving sleeping mats for the homeless, beautification projects, and volunteering with senior citizens.



#### Mountain biking

Weekly mountain biking trips provided youth with the opportunity to spend a day enjoying nature while staying engaged in physical activity. This summer, 84 youth logged 2,640 miles on trails in Dallas County under the supervision of two full-time mountain biking interns.

#### T.A.G. (Talk About God)

Youth participated in daily Bible study, focusing on applying scripture teaching to daily living.

### Program Feedback

For our Youth participants, the relationships they build with our college interns are essential. Here, some of this summer's participants share their thoughts about the interns:

*They are really awesome, and they always have been there with me.*

Elmwood Youth, age 12

*They feel like family.*

Pleasant Mound Youth, age 14

*I would give all I have for the interns.*

Chapel Hill Youth, age 11

*I can trust them with anything, and they always help me.*

St. Mark's Youth, age 12

*They are important to me because I can talk about my feelings to them.*

Pleasant Mound Youth, age 11

# Volunteer Program

### Results Overview

Our summer program could not exist without the help of reading and dinner volunteers from our 88 partner churches. More than 1,500 volunteers dedicated their time and talents to serve through Project Transformation this summer, volunteering over 11,000 hours reading with children, serving dinner to interns, and hosting Family Fun Nights. The 7,144 hours spent reading one-on-one with children have led to considerable academic gains that have helped to close the achievement gap for the students that we serve. We are truly grateful for the loyal support of these volunteers and know that our programs would not be the same without them!

### Program Feedback

We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their support this summer and throughout the year. For many of our volunteers, working with Project Transformation is a life-changing experience, with some volunteers commenting:

*You all do amazing things for these kids. This week, I saw God shining through all of your personalities. Please continue making an impact in these kids' lives.*  
Chapel Hill Volunteer

*Great work! Thanks for the amazing ministry you do!*  
St. Mark's Volunteer

*I was so impressed at how well you all train, manage, and run the reading portion of the program! The leveled books and personal screenings for the child were right on! Job well done to you all.*

Casa Linda Volunteer

*Wonderful experience! What a warm and welcoming environment/culture for the children and the volunteers!*

Christ's Foundry



# Leaders in Training Experience Program

## Results Overview

This summer, the Leaders in Training Experience, or L.I.T.E., program more than doubled since the previous summer, with 60 students participating at seven sites. The L.I.T.E. program places 10th through 12th grade students who are former program participants in volunteer positions during our summer day camps. This summer, our L.I.T.E.s volunteered more than 6,000 hours over the course of the program and gathered together weekly for a leadership development course.

Program highlights included a service project at the North Texas Food Bank, a “Theater of the Oppressed” presentation where L.I.T.E.s were challenged to think about social and political change, and L.I.T.E. social gatherings, such as a bowling night and a field day.

A post-program survey completed by our participants rated the program this year as a 9 on a scale of 1 to 10. Even more powerful, 95% of L.I.T.E. participants reported that the program inspired them to continue volunteering. Participants noted their interest in volunteering at a homeless shelter, a retirement home, foreign missions, and public libraries. Numerous L.I.T.E.s also reported their interest in returning to serve at Project Transformation as interns!

## Program Feedback

*PT has opened my heart to wanting to help without being asked.*

Shekinah, age 15

*I really see a difference between PT kids and regular kids...Most kids that I know are into drugs and sex, or even worse. I love coming because I feel safe and loved.*

Karina, age 16

*PT is what keeps me going throughout the school year. Just remembering the bonds created and the wonderful friendships and memories makes me strive to finish the school year and look forward to what is to come in the summer. Without coming to PT, I think I would be such a different person. I wouldn't be as understanding and in a relationship with Christ.*

Crystal, age 16

*The L.I.T.E. program has really taught me to be a leader, instead of a follower.*

LeeAnn, age 15



# Parent Feedback

## Results Overview

End-of-program parent evaluations showed that parents overwhelmingly feel that our program is essential to their children's health, spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social development.

Parents value the academic component of our programming, with 98% of parents agreeing or strongly agreeing that Project Transformation helped to improve their child's reading skills. Additionally, parents value the nutrition information provided, with 95% of parents reporting that Project Transformation taught their child to make healthier food choices, and 97% of parents reporting that Project Transformation taught their child the importance of regular physical activity. Overall, 98% of parents were satisfied with our summer program and the activities provided, with many parents noting positive changes in their children.

## Program Feedback

Parent quotes from the summer include:

*The program has been a new and great experience for my kids and me. I hope to enroll them in the program next year. Thank you for an excellent program.*

*We are very happy with the program. We appreciate the time that you all dedicate to our kids. Thank you.*

*For us this program has helped us very much and has also helped us as a church. This is why the program is spectacular.*

*Continue this program—the positive activities influence the children to have a favorable attitude and [give children] the values needed to live in this society.*



# Urban Camp at Camp Bridgeport

## Results Overview

Following the day camps, Urban Camp is a weeklong sleep-away camp for youth participants (grades 6th through 9th). Youth are assigned to a cabin with interns that have been serving with them during the summer. Many of these youth boast that Urban Camp is the best week of their lives and that it is the only time that they are able to leave their communities. Urban Camp had high attendance this summer, with 170 youth registering.



While at camp, youth are able to select four different activities that they would like to participate in, selecting from over 20 choices. Opportunities include archery, horseback riding, high ropes course, fishing, swimming, cooking, and dance, among others. During camp, the youth participate in activities and attend daily worship services. Girls and boys attend meals and activities separately for the entire week, giving participants the opportunity to open up to their cabin and to share the challenges that they may be facing at home, at school, or in their communities.

In addition to our youth-aged campers, 40 participants of the L.I.T.E. program attended camp as junior counselors. These students applied for the opportunity to attend camp and were selected based on their leadership abilities as demonstrated during the day camp programs. At Urban Camp, L.I.T.E.s participated in a weeklong leadership course as well as helped to facilitate other camp activities. The goal of the L.I.T.E. program is to encourage these adolescents in their faith, as well as to persuade them to finish school and to stay away from pressures they face in their neighborhoods, such as gangs and drugs.

## Program Feedback

*To me, camp is a place where you learn leadership, responsibility, gain friendship, and become respectful of yourself and others.*

Dulce, age 14

*This camp has helped me find peace.*

10th grader, age 15

*Urban Camp has changed my life completely. It has showed me that no matter what happens in life, God is with you all the way. It also showed me that true friends become your family.*

Damian, age 14

*Urban Camp is a place where you connect with other people while being in the hands of God. When I stepped off that bus, I no longer felt alone in the world. I was high-fived, hugged, and swept off my feet from all of the love I have felt through this magical week.*

Estella, age 11

*This camp is amazing! A real life-changing event.*

10th grader, age 15

*Urban Camp is like my home away from home.*

11th grader, age 16



# Intern Program

## Results Overview

90 college-aged interns participated in Project Transformation's ministry exploration and leadership development program this summer. This hands-on ministry opportunity embodies the "transformational" aspects of Project Transformation as these young adults served over 900 children and youth, lived with their peers in Christian community, and strengthened their spirituality. We are confident that this group, like the interns who served before them, will go on to either work or volunteer in some sort of ministry. In fact, our surveys show that 38% of the interns increased their likelihood of pursuing a vocation in a ministry-related field as a result of their experience at Project Transformation. Additionally, 64% of interns increased their likelihood of being involved in service with low-income communities following their summer at Project Transformation.

## Program Feedback

As in the past, this has been a life-changing summer for so many of our interns. Intern quotes from the summer include:

*The relationships that I made with my kids, team, and fellow interns had the biggest impact on me. Everyone just gave so much love—I really felt at home here, and like I had a clear purpose—a clear goal that I shared with everyone here. I felt accepted and cherished. I adore this community and will always be able to call it home.*

*So, how does a team of ten college students come together to radically change the lives of kids? Well, through trial and error, prayer, and collaboration we manage to pull off a pretty great day camp. However, that's not the only transforming that's been going on. The kids have changed our lives. The volunteers have changed our lives. The Friday Experiences have changed our lives. We have changed each other's lives. We are near the end of Project Transformation, and it is happening. Lives are being transformed for the better.*

*It's just a really great experience—being able to spend your summer at SMU with 90 people you don't know and then being able to come together to serve underprivileged kids...it's just a really great thing to know that people all over the U.S. share a common goal of helping serve the community and change lives.*

*I have truly seen God work in the families, churches, and interns that are involved with this program, and I know I will continue to be involved as much as I can.*

*Project Transformation does an enormous job fulfilling the purpose of its mission. I am proud to be a part of it all.*



# Project Transformation Leadership

## *Project Transformation Staff*

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Eric Lindh  
*Executive Director*

Casey Mellody-Camacho  
*Director of Programming & Leadership Development*

Kristin Kelley  
*Director of Development*

Daniel Canafax  
*Programs Manager*

Janalee Shadburn Wiles  
*Volunteer Coordinator*

Anna Hawkins  
*Development Associate*

Mary Norsworthy  
*Administrative Assistant*

Katie Newsome  
*Summer Staff*

Stacey Pool  
*Summer Staff*

## *Project Transformation Board*

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Kim Brannon  
Herbert Coleman  
Rev. Wendy Curran  
Rev. Megan Davidson  
Vin Hoey  
Melissa Lish  
Regina Maloy  
Becky Moore  
Anthony Murphy  
Barbara Odom  
Mark Orland  
Dr. Clara Reed  
Eric Roberson  
Rev. Andy Stoker, Ph.D.

## *House Pastors*

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Christina Hannan  
Chelsea Jones  
Katie Parris  
Adam Wert

## Mission

*To engage young adults in purposeful leadership and ministry, support underserved children and families, and connect churches to communities in need.*

## Vision

*To be a respected national model of ministry and service, through which leaders emerge, communities change, and lives transform.*

## Core Values

*In all that we do, Project Transformation will:*

- » *Encourage young adults to discover their God-given purpose*
- » *Value the gifts and ideas of young adults*
- » *Exemplify servant leadership*
- » *Expect excellence*
- » *Embody Jesus' example of integrity, respect, and compassion*
- » *Create and strengthen meaningful relationships*
- » *Be faithful stewards*
- » *Uphold the Wesleyan heritage of the United Methodist Church*

# **Project Transformation**

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