



# NEIGHBORHOOD M I N I S T R I E S



Dear Friends:

April 2007

God is restoring hope in the young broken hearts of this neighborhood through the expression of art. Noel Barto, Art Center Coordinator, shares her insight:

**“So many of our kids are so busy raising their brothers and sisters they really need the permission and place to dream”**

**“This is the door our community is waiting for...an opportunity to let the beauty of their own culture spill out from within.”**

**“Why is it that jail is the place where many kids get inspired to draw, write, or even paint? They finally have space and time to feel their hearts.”**

**“So many dreams die needlessly because there is not place to discover them.”**

Art and creativity is another way that Jesus uses to break through those walls of hurt and shame and revive God-given dignity.

*Joseph is an 11 year old and ....very afraid to fail. He arrives to art class ready to paint, but...”the other boys are already the favorites of the artist, and I don’t know what to draw, and now I’m mad because nobody even knows I’m here, and...”. He feels humiliated and angry. As he does at school and at home, he withdraws into himself and stares aimlessly or he runs around and causes trouble. (from his leader)*

Since this beginning, Joseph has learned to create in a safe space with a caring adult art mentor. He is learning to take the daring step of looking within and choosing what to express. His leader knows this when Joseph comes to the activity session with a beaming smile and says, “look at this!” Even though his unstable environment at home is the same, he has found a vehicle of expression that brings joy and dignity to his chaotic life.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ May 11, 2007: A Cord of Three Strands barbecue for the Jeremiah Project! – see back page
- ◆ Spring Parents Store: April 21
- ◆ Kids Club: June 25 - July 6
- ◆ Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) now available – see back page

Thank you to golfers, volunteers, sponsors, and friends for participating in the 2007 Golf Classic at FireRock! Together, we raised over \$25,000 for our summer programs!

For more information, call 602-252-5225 or go to [www.nmaz.net](http://www.nmaz.net)



Noel Barto pulls together all of our art activities into one broad vision across all our programs. You may have seen some of our specially painted buses, which were done by some of our young men!

Thank you for your prayers. God continues to do amazing things in the lives around us.

Love,

  
Kit Danley  
President

**P. S. Are you interested in supporting ministry to those coming out of jail, prison or those who have been in trouble with the law?** Our Jeremiah Project reaches young adults ages 14-21 who are finding hope in Christ out of their past troubles. Together with **two** other like-minded ministries, we are having a fundraising event called:

A Cord of Three Strands

Friday, May 11, 2007

6:45 – 9:00 PM

Orangewood Church of the Nazarene

7510 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Phoenix, AZ

This event will support:

**A House of Refuge** is a working men's shelter providing for their personal, spiritual, and vocational needs to bring about transformed lives.

**Along Side Ministries** reaches the incarcerated with the love of Christ and assists these men and women to successfully transition back into their local community.

**The Jeremiah Project of Neighborhood Ministries**, which instills hope and encourages at-risk and formerly incarcerated youth through building spiritual, life, educational, and professional skills.

Sponsor a table of 8 for \$150 and share this occasion with your friends. For more information, contact [karla.gonzalez@nmaz.net](mailto:karla.gonzalez@nmaz.net) or call 602-434-3964.

**P. P. S.** We will soon be able to provide EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) to those donors who want this service. Contributing to Neighborhood Ministries on a regular basis is getting easier and easier! Please contact Chris Somers ([chris.somers@nmaz.net](mailto:chris.somers@nmaz.net) or 602-252-5225) if you are interested in utilizing this service.

**Neighborhood Ministries**

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