

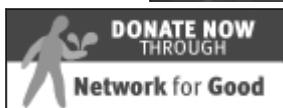
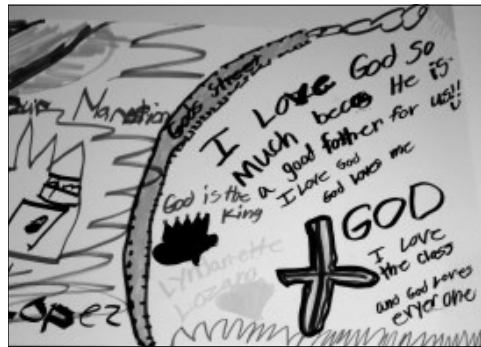
PROJECT TRANSFORMATION

August 2006

Vol. V, Issue 3

For opportunities to serve or make a donation, please see our website: www.projecttransformation.org or call 214-946-3600.

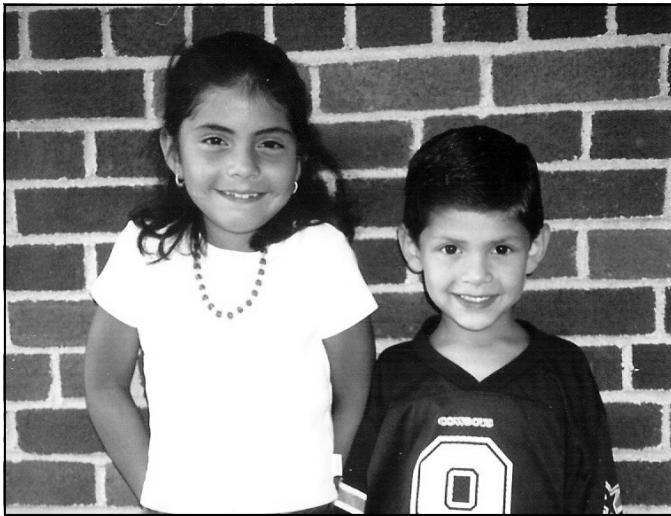
Thank you, Volunteers & Donors, You Made All This Possible!



Want to make an **online donation**? Its easy! Just go to www.projecttransformation.org and click on *Donate Now Through Network for Good* on our homepage.

Lives Changed 2000—2006

A message from Rev. Diane Presley, Oak Cliff UMC



Jovita (left) and brother Alexis Castillo in 2000

In the summer of 2000, first and third graders, Alexis and Jovita Castillo, began attending Project Transformation at Oak Cliff UMC. That was seven summers ago and half a lifetime for Alexis and Jovita. Much has happened in the world since then: 9/11, war in Afghanistan and Iraq, and presidential elections in the USA and Mexico. In their more immediate world, they have become adept at balancing two cultures while preserving the best of each. And, of course, every day they have the relentless pressures of school and friends to deal with. Through it all, **Project Transformation has been a constant** for Jovita and Alexis – a haven for them in a turbulent world.

Now as they are entering the seventh and ninth grades, they are holding fast to their ties to Project Transformation. “Every summer we come back to PT,” said Jovita. **“We always know where to find**

people who care and want to help. At Project Transformation we have fun, learn new things, and have a safe place to be with friends.”

Providing a reliable, loving presence in the lives of children and their families is what Project Transformation is all about. Since 1998 hundreds of children just like Jovita and Alexis have experienced the love of God in very tangible ways. The dynamic combination of fervent college interns and faithful volunteers from Oak Cliff UMC and our many Partner Churches is fanning the flames of the love of Christ in these children. Isn't that what Jesus calls us to be: light in the darkness? Here at Oak Cliff UMC we are making sure the flame does not go out.



Jovita and Alexis Castillo, summer 2006

Urban Camp Snapshot

Campers: **164**

miles ridden in Mountain Biking activity: **360**

nutritious meals served: **3003**

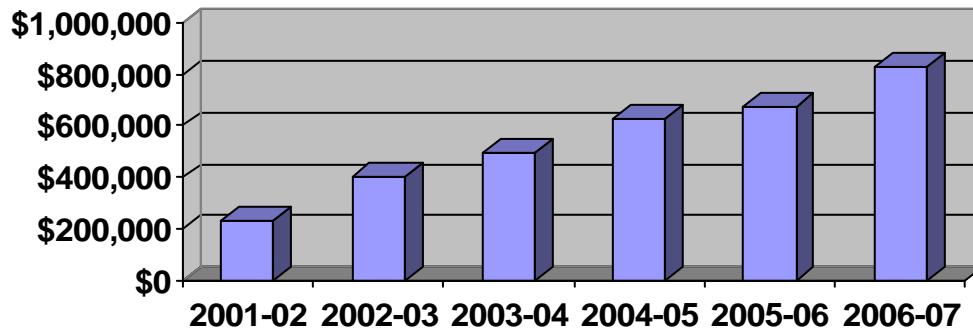
Location : **Bridgeport Camp & Conference Center**

Activities: Visual arts, ropes course, horseback riding, Frisbee, cooking, archery, dance, newspaper, mountain biking, volleyball, soccer, football, archery, fishing, swimming, basketball, and singing



Look how far we've come with your help!

Project Transformation Expenses



Project Transformation has been blessed with remarkable growth since our inception in 1998. This growth is thanks to your continuing investment in this ministry. With your help, we continue to expand our programs to offer more ministry exploration and leadership development internships for young adults as well as increases in our programs for underserved children and youth. As we start our 2006-07 fiscal year with projected expenses of **\$827,200**, we hope that you will partner with us to meet the increased need for Project Transformation's services.

Executive Director's Note

Eric Lindh



I occasionally hear people thank the interns for "giving up their summer" to serve at Project Transformation. While I understand their reasoning, I prefer to view their service differently. Our interns have not given anything up this summer (well, maybe more money and a lot of sleep), rather, they have invested much!

Proverbs 11: 24-25 states, *"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."* To pass something on to another is not to lose it, but to invest it. In conversations with the interns this summer, it was evident that they did not lose anything, but they gained much – **a deeper understanding of 'ministry,' a renewed passion and love for children, a heart for the needs of underserved communities, and a stronger desire to connect their faith with their day-to-day lives.**

As Christians, our possessions, gifts and talents should not only be viewed as God's blessings and goodness, but as opportunities of service which He entrusts to us. I have been truly impressed by our college interns who have taken their possessions (time, energy, passions, talents) and invested those gifts in the lives of children, youth and each other. I believe our interns would agree that they have not given up their summer, but they have invested it for God's purposes.

Although the summer is over, PT continues on! We are looking forward to the start of our after-school program in September at five site locations. Several of our interns had such a powerful experience this summer, they have decided to stay in Dallas and serve as year-round interns in our after-school program. **You have faithfully supported PT throughout the summer, and I hope you will continue to invest in this ministry.**

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION

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Transforming Communities Through Relationships

Our mission is to connect the energy of young adults, the strength of church-supported institutions, and the untapped resources of underserved neighborhoods to meet the evolving needs of children and youth.

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Quotes of Summer

"P.T. has done so much for me. It's given me a direction in my career path and has made me want to make servant leadership a real part of my life."
-Sarah Nwranski, intern '05, '06

"This program was especially helpful in growing my child's heart towards God."
-Parent at All Nations UMC

"One thing that I have learned is that God is always with you."
-Olga Mireles, age 11

"Casa Linda was warm, welcoming and helpful; the interns enthusiastic and wonderful, and the kids were so sweet. We were blessed by the gift of service and all of the beautiful faces we encountered! Thank you for making this program possible so that we could be there to receive the blessings!"
-Lisa Morgan, volunteer from FUMC Sachse