

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION

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Leighton K. Farrell Award



Project Transformation proudly announces **Russell Bowlin** as this year's recipient of the Leighton K. Farrell Award for **Leadership and Vision**. Leighton K. Farrell, one of the founders of Project Transformation, provided the initial leadership and vision for the organization. Dr. Farrell's commitment to his vision resulted in partner church relationships as well as the effective collaborations with SMU and Texas Methodist Foundation.

We are deeply grateful that an anonymous donor has made possible the Leighton K. Farrell position to remember the leadership and vision of Dr. Farrell. This award provides a tangible way to acknowledge the efforts and focus of the PT interns in exemplifying the leadership and vision of Dr. Farrell. Russell first served with PT in the summer of 2004 as an intern and returned to serve as a site coordinator in summer 2005. In each position Russell demonstrated leadership, compassion, and integrity.

Russell feels that, "**the most significant thing that Project Transformation presents is an opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and into a life of ministry.**" PT is honored to have Russell serve as one of our four house pastors this summer, where he will play a key role in the spiritual journeys of the interns. Russell, who graduated in May from Ouachita Baptist University with a degree in history, will be pursuing a career in youth ministry in the fall.

Will you help our interns and children by considering a donation?

\$25

\$50

\$100

\$165

\$500

Craft supplies or sports equipment for daily activities

8 weeks of summer day camp for 1 child

Provide housing for 1 young adult intern for 1 month

Send 1 youth to overnight camp for a week

Provide 2 weeks of living stipend for House Pastor to support spiritual growth of young adult interns



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.

Mission Opportunities Close to Home

A message from Rev. Albert Fisher, Key Memorial UMC



Key Memorial, in Sherman, TX has a history reaching back more than 125 years! But over the years, as the surrounding neighborhood changed, attendance and income have declined. Project Transformation demonstrated to our church that we can reach out to the neighborhood and have children come back into our building. When I first came to Key Memorial, there were two children at worship. Now we average more than 10 children each week in Sunday School. The children's presence has provided an opportunity to welcome their families into the church as well.

Our congregation is now able to see the surrounding neighborhood in a new light: one of mission opportunity. PT has been a unifying force in our church as diverse groups begin to realize that they all have a part in the transformation of the church in outreach to our neighborhood. We are now united in a **vision of ministry** in a neighborhood of transition.

Key Memorial recently hosted an ice cream social as a way of reaching out to the neighborhood and telling people about Project Transformation. This fun event was also a great opportunity for parents to enroll their children for the upcoming summer at PT. Our congregation is eagerly anticipating the summer activities. We found that the friendliness and warmth of these precious children of God have changed the minds of even the members of our congregation who were initially skeptical about having PT at Key Memorial. Perla, a 12 year old participant last summer shared, "I learned that God wants to heal you when you're sick and when your heart hurts." We are only grateful that we have the opportunity to reach out and share Christ's love with these children.

Another important component of Project Transformation is the outstanding young adult interns who implement the program. We have so many more people who want to host a dinner for them this summer. Everyone wants to get to know these exceptional future leaders of the church. A parent of a participant said about last year's interns, "These great interns all have the ability to be community leaders."

Partner churches have been so supportive in making this program a success at Key Memorial. They have begun to realize that mission outreach opportunities can have a community focus as well as a global focus. Now they see that they can **impact the church and make disciples of Jesus Christ through their efforts close to home**.

All volunteers & partners are invited to PT's annual Celebration Banquets

Dallas Area:
Thursday, July 27 at 7:00 PM
Hitt Auditorium
Methodist Health System

Sherman Area:
Wednesday, July 26 at 6:30 PM
FUMC Sherman

PT Teams up with HPUMC and TeamWorks



Fifty Project Transformation children celebrated the end of the after-school program with a very special day of gymnastics fun generously provided by TeamWorks at their beautiful facility in Mesquite. Joining together to make the day truly special were 20 enthusiastic and energetic Singles Ministry volunteers from Highland Park United Methodist Church. The volunteers adopted Project Transformation's gymnastics event as part of HPUMC's Great Days of Service. Volunteers partnered up with the children and together engaged in balance beam pillow fights, trampoline fun, and an obstacle challenge course.

Thanks to our wonderful HPUMC volunteers and TeamWorks for a truly memorable day!



Executive Director's Note

Eric Lindh



A recent article in the *United Methodist Reporter* highlighted the dramatic decline in the number of young leaders in the church over the last twenty years. According to the study by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, the number of young elders (under age 35) in the United Methodist Church has dropped from 3,219 in 1985 to just 850 in 2005. While this statistic is concerning, I am proud that Project Transformation is playing a significant role in **encouraging young adults to explore God's call** on their lives.

A vital component of Project Transformation's summer internship experience is ministry exploration. Because this occurs on Fridays (when our day camp programs do not meet), this aspect of the internship is sometimes not evident to our supporters. Each Friday during the summer, 78 interns will venture out to various United Methodist churches and institutions to explore different forms of lay and ordained ministry. For example, a presentation by professors and students at Perkins School of Theology might spark an intern's interest in pursuing seminary. A visit with leaders of Community Crossroads Services, a homeless ministry associated with FUMC Dallas, may inspire interns to return to their college and volunteer at a local food pantry. Hearing from a panel of youth directors or children's ministers explain how God led them into ministry may reinforce an intern's calling to work with children and youth as a career. Project Transformation is challenging interns to expand their definition of 'ministry,' seek opportunities to use their gifts and talents, and discern where God might be calling them to serve in the future.

Since 1998, Project Transformation has been preparing young adults to become the community and church leaders of tomorrow. This has been possible through the wonderful volunteer and financial support from people like you. Ultimately, this ministry's sustainability is dependent upon your continued support. Please consider increasing your investment of time and resources in this ministry so that we may continue to have a **transformational impact** on the lives of our young adult interns.

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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Important Dates

5-27-06	78 Summer Interns arrive
6-5-06	Summer Day Camps begin at 9 sites
6-22-06	Family Fun Night at all sites
7-20-06	Family Fun Night at all sites
7-26-06	Sherman Celebration Banquet at 6:30 PM FUMC Sherman
7-27-06	Dallas Celebration Banquet at 7:00 PM Hitt Auditorium, Methodist Health System
8-7-06 to 8-11-06	Urban Camp for Youth at Bridgeport