

Urban Village

It is truly remarkable to see God's hand at work in and through the mission of Urban Village. Here are a few snapshots into what God is doing:

- In December, we were contacted by one of our local banks informing us that they were giving us a financial donation in appreciation for the work that we are doing for our community. How did this bank find out about us and what we do? It turns out that one of their employee's children attended summer camp and currently attends the after school program. This child has had a hard time fitting in to other places and with other groups, but at Urban Village, he feels seen and accepted and has found a community that welcomes him. His mom couldn't be more excited about it and so she talks about Urban Village all the time at the bank.
- Also in December, Lyric, one of our after school staff resigned to attend ECU full-time studying social work. This is something that had always been in the back of her mind to do, even though, when hired in December of 2023, she was attending BCTC for computer programming. Through her work with the kids and families at Urban Village, the call to social work continued to grow. She is going to be a great advocate for children and those in need. Within 24 hours of posting the job vacancy we had four applications. Tabby, who was hired to fill Lyric's position, has a huge heart for our kids because she was raised in similar circumstances to what many of our kids have and are experiencing.
- On Martin Luther King Day, we had three new families come to our preschool play time. These families, who each have children with autism, were so impressed with our facilities and staff, that one mother reached out and asked if we would host an Autism Mom Support Group once a month. The first of these groups was held in early February with fifteen kids and eight moms in attendance. All who attended were impressed with the professionalism of the staff as they interacted with the children. One of the moms (who has brought her children back since this day) remarked, "This place is truly a hidden gem in Nicholasville. And it's a great place for kids like ours." The Autism Moms Support Group will be meeting the first Monday of each month from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

I could fill pages with so many more stories of how God is at work using Urban Village to touch peoples' lives by providing a safe, loving, and welcoming space where all people can grow in mind, body, and spirit. I continue to be amazed how *our* vision of what we *thought* we were building continues to be shaped and changed by events and connections that only God could make happen so that Urban Village can be built into God's vision.

Thank you all for your support. We especially thank those individuals and congregations who have donated time, talents, and treasures to helping us grow this ministry.

We hope that you will join us at our Second Anniversary Celebration ('Born *TWO* Be Wild') on SATURDAY, MARCH 29, from 12:00-4:00. We will be having a building dedication at 12:00 p.m. on that day followed by cake, food, games, and fun. Bring your congregation, bring your families, bring your friends and celebrate with us the work the great things God is doing!

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Beth Garrod-Logsdon
Urban Village, Executive Director