



LAURA MADSEN EXEMPLIFIES CLEF MISSION

Laura Madsen, a global business development manager for Hewlett Packard and Board member of CLEF, is convinced that anyone can have an impact in the life of a child. "I truly believe that God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others," said Madsen, and she likes to put that belief into practice at New Hope School.

Her connection with New Hope traces back to September 2006 when the CLEF Board held their quarterly meeting there. At that meeting, Madsen learned the story of how Rev. Paul Anderson, and his wife, Judy, purchased New Hope for \$1 so that they could develop a school and give the underserved children in this south side neighborhood a Christian education. The Board toured the

school and met some of the children in their classrooms. "The wonderful story of New Hope and the children I met that day really touched my heart," recalls Madsen.

About that same time Madsen also became familiar with Michael Allen who, at the time, was a first-year teacher at New Hope through the Valparaiso LEAPS Program, which places students in inner-city school positions for two years while they work to obtain their Master's Degree in Education. She was impressed with Allen's



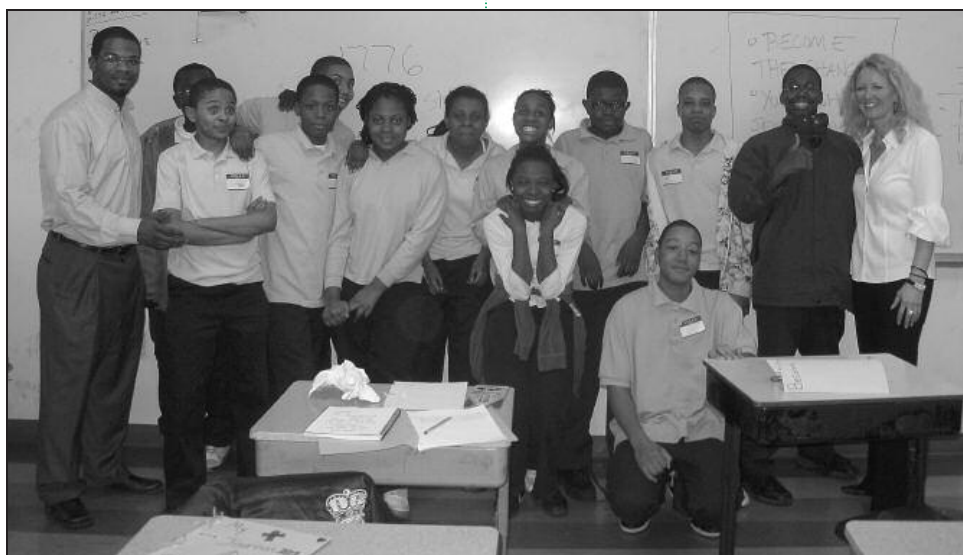
Laura Madsen shares stories and encouragement with students at New Hope, in Chicago's Marquette Park neighborhood. She has been a regular volunteer at the school since meeting the principal and students during a CLEF visit in 2006.

commitment to urban education and the passion he had for his work with his students.

Allen's and Madsen's connection continued to develop through various CLEF events. Then last year, when Allen took over as principal of New Hope, he invited Madsen back down to the school to see again the good things happening there. Madsen was so impressed with the growth at New Hope and the commitment the Andersons, Allen, and the rest of the staff had to the children, and she just knew she wanted to be a part of it.

Last spring, Madsen started volunteering at the school. Whether she's with the children in the classroom or decorating the hallways, she likes to weave in motivational quotations and positive

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Michael Allen, Principal, and Laura Madsen pose for a photo with her new friends at New Hope.

CLEF Networking Conference

DECLARING GOD'S GLORY



CLEF Board President Jeff Blackman and Keynote Speaker Col. Mike Mullane.

Nearly 300 teachers, principals, pastors and friends of CLEF participated in the annual networking conference, held at Walther Lutheran High School in Melrose Park, on Monday, August 17.

Keynote Speaker Col. Mike Mullane, NASA astronaut, opened the day speaking about the educators being team players and the importance of science education.

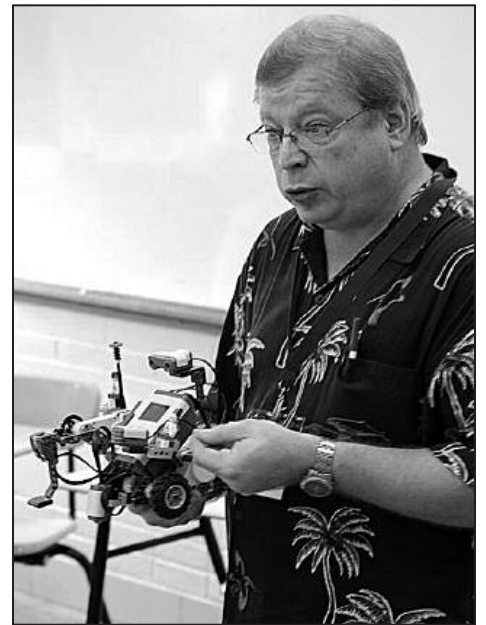
After the keynote address, participants attended breakout sessions covering topics such as brain research, Science Olympics, humanizing history using adolescent literature, robotics and using SMART



Luther North principal, Tom Wiemann and New Hope principal Michael Allen in a class discussion.



Isabel Nuñez instructs a workshop to use a hands-on approach to teach sophisticated science concepts to young children.



Rick Opperman instructs a workshop on robotics.

boards. The conference also provided opportunities for networking and meeting with education vendors. The day was topped off with an ice cream social, courtesy of Walcamp Ministries. ☀

LAURA MADSEN

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sayings to help the children build confidence. “One of my favorite quotations is from Gandhi,” said Madsen. “Become the change you want to see in the world.’ I want the students to know that they, too, can become great individuals if they apply themselves.”

Madsen hopes that the time she spends in the classroom, provides children with the Christ-centered knowledge that they have the power to make good decisions and be an example to others.

“I just want people to know that anyone can be a giver,” said Madsen. “Smiling, lending a helping hand and providing an encouraging word can go a long way, especially for a child.” ☀

Serving Our Lord: CLEF Scholarship Brunch

Join us for a musical celebration where student choirs from Chicago's Lutheran elementary and high schools will raise their voices in praise. On Sunday, March 14, 2010, CLEF will host Serving our Lord, a scholarship brunch at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the CLEF Good News Fund, which provides scholarships, educational materials, grants and emergency financial assistance to 29 Chicago Lutheran schools.

"In addition to the children's choirs, guests will hear compelling stories of faith, service and hope from students, parents, teachers and administrators who are Serving our Lord," said Robin Doeden, executive director of CLEF.

For more information contact the CLEF office at 630-595-9310.

CLEF Scholarship Brunch

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Hyatt Regency O'Hare

9300 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont, Illinois

Individual tickets \$95, table of 10 \$950

Corporate sponsorship opportunities are also available



*Serving
our Lord*

I Cor. 12:5

save the date!

CLEF Scholarship Brunch
Sunday, March 14, 2010

Hyatt Regency O'Hare
9300 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont, Illinois

*J*oin us for a musical celebration to conclude Lutheran
Schools Week 2010!

Student choirs from Chicago's Lutheran elementary and high schools will raise their voices in praise. Hear stories of service and faith from students, parents and teachers across the city. Chicago is our own mission field—be inspired by people *Serving our Lord*.

Proceeds to benefit CLEF's Scholarship Fund for children in our Chicago Lutheran Schools.

Additional information to follow in coming months. To reserve tickets or tables, or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact Robin Doeden, CLEF, 630.595.9310.

UKANDU Mission Trip 2009

UKANDU TOUCHES THOUSANDS IN CHICAGO THROUGH SERVANT WORK AND ACTS OF KINDNESS

YOU might have been touched by a member of the UKANDU Mission Group this past June during one of their many “random acts of kindness” activities. Whether handing out crosses, angels, water bottles or cookies, people we meet on the street were greeted with a smile and a gift and hopefully an introduction to what true Lutheran hospitality is all about!

During the week of June 14th, 19 Chicago-area Lutheran churches, schools and ministries welcomed 215 youth, adults and volunteers from 12 congregations in seven states for a week of servant work. They hosted vacation bible school at nine locations, remodeled bathrooms at two Lutheran schools, painted for four households arranged by United Cerebral Palsy, and canvassed neighborhoods for

various ministry events. Not to mention, making hundreds of contacts with everyday people through the “Random Acts of Kindness Challenge”.

“During our 2008 mission trip to Chicago, one team was assigned the job of doing random acts of kindness around the city,” said Mary Bloebaum, coordinator for the 2009 trip. “That was such a powerful experience we decided to

open it up to everyone this year, and we intentionally pushed people out of their comfort zone and into outreach mode. Our kids and volunteers all shared wonderful stories about the people they met and the responses they received. We touched the city – one person at a time!”

The “Random Acts of Kindness Challenge” enabled teams to use handouts and \$25 in cash for relationship building within the



Volunteers arrive at one of the 19 churches, schools and mission organizations served by UKANDU this past summer.

neighborhood they were serving. As a result, volunteers handed out 1,200 bottles of water, 1,300 candy bars and 67 Bibles—touching the lives of 6,405 individuals during the week. The teams got creative and had fun

with this challenge: one team bought flowers and took them to an assisted-living facility; another team bought a box of groceries then gave them to a family with a car full of kids. “They were so appreciative, it brought the mother to tears,” said Matt

Winkelman, director of youth ministry at Friends in Christ Lutheran Church in Morris, Ill., as he talked about the week.

The “Random Acts of Kindness Challenge” enabled teams to use handouts and \$25 in cash for relationship building within the neighborhood they were serving.



Danielle Howard, a UKANDU volunteer from Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, IL, enjoys her work experience.



Kevin Bonney, from Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in St. Louis, is assigned the job of preparing handrails for a new coat of paint.

Our Saviour and Jehovah.

As you might imagine, this week-long event takes months to plan and coordinate.

Special thanks to the following local individuals and groups who make it work:

- Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, in Melrose Park, for providing a safe and comfortable place to sleep, eat and worship throughout the week.

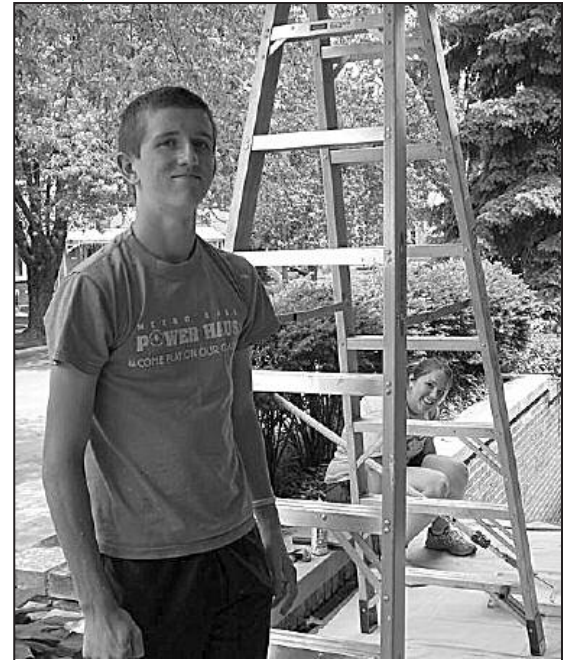
- CLEF Board Member Bill Everson, Redeemer, Elmhurst, who serves as the local point person for projects and sites.

- The North Cook County and Northwest Cook County Chapters of Thrivent, who once again provided significant funds for projects throughout the week.

- Volunteers from Christ the

King, Gloria Dei, Jehovah, Messiah and Redeemer Lutheran Church in Elmhurst who came in each evening to help feed the hungry crew.

- Youth, adults, volunteers and fellow workers at each site location who worked alongside our UKANDU guests to get the work done – and have fun, too! ☀



Kevin Bonney was part of the UKANDU team that worked at Ashburn Lutheran School.

Winkelman was introduced to the UKANDU mission trip while volunteering in youth ministry during college. Now he's on the Chicago planning team, and it's his fourth time around.

“Personally, for me, this trip is awesome,” he said. “It is a trip built on relationships, and it all starts with our relationship to Christ. It's not about the work we do; it is about the work that Christ does through us in our own lives.”

Of the 19 Chicagoland Lutheran churches, schools and ministries served by UKANDU, the following 11 CLEF schools also benefited: Messiah, Park View, Holy Family Ministries, Bethlehem, Ashburn, Christ the King, Gloria Dei, Grace, New Hope,

“It is a trip built on relationships, and it all starts with our relationship to Christ. It's not about the work we do; it is about the work that Christ does through us in our own lives.”



Clayton Reindl, from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, takes his cleanup duties seriously during the 2009 UKANDU trip.

CHRIST THE KING GIVES BACK

Across the street from Christ the King Lutheran Church and School, sat a large, vacant lot the congregation originally purchased in 1994 with the intent to rebuild. In February 2005, as the Chicago 2016 Olympic bid mounted, Christ the King was approached by Olympic and city developers to sell the vacant land.

“At this point, our church leadership was in the process of beginning to revise our strategic plan,” said Rev. John Brazeal, pastor at Christ the King. “We understood that relocating our school across South Lake Park Avenue might not be in the best

interest of our students. We also were looking at acquiring lots to the south of our existing property as a more viable alternative and saw this opportunity as a way of achieving our goal.”

On September 3, 2009, Christ the King sold its parcel of land to local developers.

As a result of the sale, Christ the King was able to purchase two adjacent lots and strengthen their own financial position.

However, Christ the King also chose to share their blessing with 12 other Lutheran organizations that serve families in Chicago...including CLEF.

“As a smaller school, we look to CLEF for assistance,” said Pastor

Brazeal. “CLEF provides us with scholarships, textbooks and instructional manuals. In addition, CLEF has supported us through

physical plant improvements by building a new entrance for our church and school, providing new playground equipment and installing a new roof.”

Christ the King is refocusing its efforts on becoming a

community-based ministry.

“We have a long-standing partnership with CLEF and together we are expanding our ministry to be an academic and spiritual provider to the young children in our community.” ☀

Christ the King also chose to share their blessing with 12 other Lutheran organizations that serve families in Chicago...including CLEF.



Orsini Group Donates Backpacks, School Supplies for Students' First Day

Special thanks to Anthony Orsini and his staff at the Orsini Group, in Elk Grove Village, for donating 140 backpacks filled with school supplies for students to start the new school year! Students from Ashburn, Bethesda, Christ the King, Grace (28th & Karlov), New Hope, Park View, Pilgrim, Resurrection, St. Andrew, St. Paul (Dorchester) were grateful recipients of this very special gift. ☀



ONLINE SITES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO GET TO KNOW CLEF

Friends of CLEF are encouraged to visit the CLEF website, www.goodnewsfund.org, or the Facebook page, <http://companies.to/clef/>. GoodNewsFund.org has a school locator function that allows users to search for nearby schools via zip code, as well as a list of CLEF schools with each school's contact information and links to their websites, and a city map that pinpoints each school. Friends of CLEF may be interested in reading thank you notes from students, parents and teachers as well as accessing the newsletter online!

GoodNewsFund.org also has resources for teachers. A database of the contents of the CLEF Library is available under "Benefits for CLEF Schools" on the page For Educators, as well as information and applications for the Teacher Scholarship Program and links to helpful educational websites.

The CLEF staff is currently working with BolderImage Web

Media to revamp GoodNewsFund.org. "We realize this makeover is long overdue, and we are excited to work with the consultants and designers at BolderImage to rework our website so it is more user-friendly and easy to navigate," says Sandy Wackenhuth, Education Coordinator.

Robin Doeden, Executive Director, anticipates using this site to increase awareness of CLEF in Chicagoland, "There is so much happening in our schools that I think our friends will want to know. This website's new format will help us share the good news our friends are making possible through their contributions to CLEF."

Facebook, a social networking site, allows members to keep in touch by photo sharing, event invitations, status updates and discussion boards. CLEF currently has 20 photo albums posted from past events and activities, particularly, Scholarship Dinners, Teacher Recognition Dinners, Networking Conferences, UKANDU Mission Trips, and teachers' classrooms. Diana Knight, Office Administrator,

activated CLEF's Facebook page as a way to share news with CLEF's circle of friends and to open communication lines between teachers and the CLEF Office. "In many cases, the CLEF staff is only able to communicate with the school's principals, so I wanted to be able to create a way for teachers to find CLEF. CLEF has resources and events specifically for teachers, so I want to make it as easy as possible for our teachers to access these benefits." She also hopes that friends of CLEF enjoy more frequent news updates through Facebook and encourages anyone interested to become more involved.

"I have been visiting our schools recently, bringing the CLEF library to our teachers. It has been great to have face-to-face contact with our teachers and to meet our students! Seeing the children's energy and excitement in their school is an immediate reminder that what CLEF does is important and special," Knight asserts.

So, log on, join the conversation, and help share the good news! ☀

GOOD NEWS FUND
Helping Kids Achieve

HOME
INFO
PLAN A GET
SCHOOLS
NEWS
LINKS
CONTACT US
FOR EDUCATORS
FAMILY PAGES
PRESS ROOM

About Our Schools

THE GOOD NEWS about Chicago Lutheran schools never makes headlines, but it should.

Teachers are teaching, students are learning and parents are actively involved in their children's education. Their stories are full of faith, hope, sacrifice and success, even though many of their neighborhoods are plagued by gangs, violence and abuses of every kind.

Students in Chicago Lutheran schools test one to two years above the national average. Many children who lag academically in other schools thrive in Chicago Lutheran schools.

Children of all races, creeds and economic backgrounds learn and achieve in Chicago Lutheran schools.

Good schools in the heart of the neighborhoods

Lutheran schools are neighborhood schools. Located throughout the city, 31 Lutheran schools serve children of all races, creeds and economic backgrounds. They are an irreplaceable educational alternative for many families, a safe haven where children can learn.

Each Lutheran school operates independently and is financed primarily by student tuition and family contributions. Great effort is made to keep tuition affordable. At the same time, teachers and parents are committed to quality education.

Good families who truly value Christian education

Families sacrifice to send their children to Lutheran schools. For them, Lutheran schools are fortresses of Christian love, values and responsibility. For single parent and low-income working families, these schools are special blessings in their lives.

Each school is like a "family of families" where children learn Christian faith and values, and live them every day.

Kids who are the pride of Chicago

Thousands of children are learning to achieve in Chicago Lutheran schools.

Committed, caring Christian teachers help each child discover his or her special abilities. Strong academic programs ensure that each child masters basic skills, and consistently high scores on standardized tests are proof. Children in Lutheran schools learn to expect a lot from themselves.

SCHOOL LOCATOR
Enter your ZIP code
ZIP CODE
Search

Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation
CLEF Good News Fund
161 S. Church Road,
Bensenville, IL 60106 (630) 595-9310

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GOOD NEWS FUND
Helping Kids Achieve

HOME
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PRESS ROOM

News From the CLEF Good News Fund

THIS IS A CALENDAR of current programs, projects and events in support of quality Christian education in Chicago.

We invite you to participate in the events and projects sponsored by CLEF. For more information, contact the Executive Director of the CLEF Good News Fund at 630-595-9310, cmail@gnf.org, or write: CLEF Good News Fund, 161 S. Church Road, Bensenville, IL 60106.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Lutheran Schools are waiting for your child!

Use the Zip Code Locator on the left to find a Lutheran school near you!
Call individual schools for more information.

November 18, 2009	CLEF Library visits Resurrection
November 18, 2009	"The Deadly Effects of 'Tougher Standards': Challenging High-Stakes Testing and Other Impediments to Learning" Speaker: Alfie Kohn Location: Chapel of Our Lord, Concordia University Chicago Time: 7:30 p.m. Contact Sarah Hickman for registration information.
November 19, 2009	Language Arts Series Location: Gloria Dei Lutheran School
December 3, 2009	CLEF Library visits Luther High School North
January 22-23, 2009	Administrators Conference Location: Itasca, IL
March 14, 2010	CLEF Scholarship Brunch Location: Hyatt Regency O'Hare Tickets required Call 630.595.9310 for more information or send.us.an.e-mail .

NEWSLETTERS

Click on the newsletter you would like to view:

- Good News Report - Spring 2009
- Good News Report - Summer 2008
- Good News Report - Spring 2008

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"MISS ROBIN, COME!"

This is what I hear whenever my two-year old neighbor sees me in the backyard – complete the picture

with jumping, giggles and clapping hands.

Yes, I feel like a rock star. But how can I possibly resist this warm, friendly call?

Today, students throughout Chicago are calling out to you.

During the past 16 years, caring friends like you have answered the call with

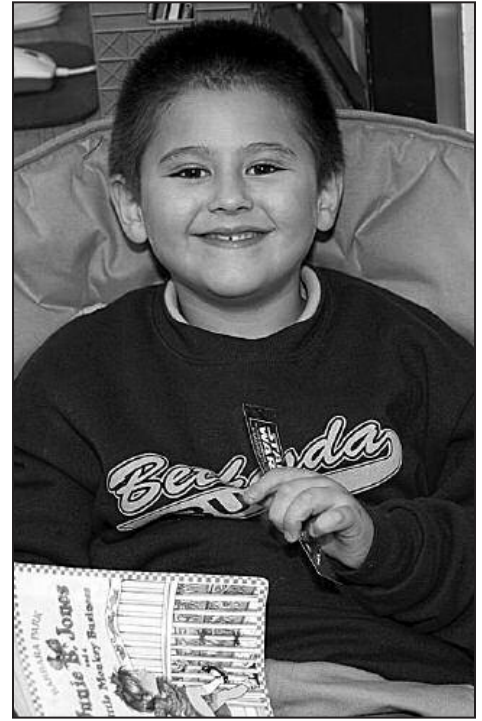
enthusiasm and generosity. In fact, 30 Lutheran schools across Chicago

were able to open their doors this school year to welcome students from across the city because of your continued support.

This year, more than \$500,000 in scholarships has already been given to our schools. We have also fulfilled many of our school's wishes for new books, new athletic equipment, preschool furniture and computers. In addition, more than

150 students were blessed with backpacks filled with school supplies for the year.

*A generous family
has agreed to match
every dollar received
from friends who
answer the call this fall,
up to \$10,000.*



Today, I ask you to please answer the call of Chicago's Lutheran school students once again.

A generous family has agreed to match every dollar received from friends who answer the call this fall, up to \$10,000. That means that every dollar you give will be doubled in value! What a wonderful gift to our children and our schools!

We are so excited to put your gift to use for more scholarships, more books and classroom materials, more furniture and computers, and even to complete minor repairs.

If you have been waiting for the perfect time to make your gift to CLEF – this is it! Use this opportunity to double your gift today!

I guarantee the next time I hear that little voice call to me, "Miss Robin, come!" I will smile and walk right over. I pray that you respond the same way to the call from our students. Yes, you are a Rock Star – and you always will be in the eyes of Chicago's Lutheran schools—our staff, our parents, and most importantly, our students! ☀

Here is my commitment to the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ annually
(\$ _____ per month) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,200 annually (\$100 per month) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 annually (\$125 per month) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 annually (\$85 per month) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 annually (\$42 per month) |

I wish to contribute by:

- Enclosed check
- Charging my credit card
- Visa Mastercard
- Monthly Quarterly One-time gift

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Name (as it appears on card) _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Please mail your gift to: CLEF, 861 S. Church Rd., Bensenville, IL 60106.
Or contact us at 630.595.9310.