



# THE WYN WALL

## The WYN Way: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**“...And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man...” Luke 2:52**

We use this verse to guide our programming with youth, focusing on 5 core areas of development: physical, mental, social, spiritual, and cultural. As an organization and team, we too should grow in favor with God and man. When the neighborhood talks about Westlawn, we hope they say, “Westlawn’s doing good things!” As we connect in the neighborhood, we have heard that phrase more and more often. We found community engagement to be a Spirit – led focus of 2011 for WYN. Here is a look at some of the intentional choices we made in order to have a deeper community presence:

**Tutoring in Crown Elementary** – Crown is directly across from our youth center. From September to date our team has logged 181 hours and 45 minutes of volunteer time in classrooms!

**Junior Leaders Job Program** – We brought this program back through the help of financial supporters. Providing job opportunities for youth is important in our community.

**Peace Events**–This summer we hosted a Peace Festival with music, and food in the hope of encouraging peace in our neighborhood. This Fall Our joint March & Peace Vigil (see other side) also had an important impact.

**Thanksgiving Meal** – Our team member led the way for a WYN Thanksgiving Meal, open to anyone in the community. There was a great turnout and appreciation from the community!

We want folks to know of our love, but even more, of God’s transformational love in the world. As you reflect this Advent season, we encourage you to consider Jesus’ coming to this world. He came as a helpless babe so that he could lead by example: growing in, “wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man,” and leaving so that one day He can return as an all powerful, peace bringing King.

**Would you consider a gift of finances or other resources to WYN this Christmas?**

**Help us continue this good work in 2012!**

Mail: Westlawn Youth Network, P.O. Box 695 Bellwood, IL 60104

Online: <http://www.westlawnyouthnetwork.org/> click “give.”

### WE’RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.WESTLAWNYOUTHNETWORK.ORG](http://WWW.WESTLAWNYOUTHNETWORK.ORG)



December 2011

### Program Notes

**Diva Princesses** is thriving in its second year. They have developed *Diva Princess Leaders* for the girls who show exceptional leadership potential.

**Junior High Club** came back with a bang this year with record numbers! Because it is such a critical age, we’ve collaborated with other youth programs to ensure there are plenty of activities every day for this age group.

**I Plan to Be a Man** also divided into 2 segments this year. The leaders of the group are actively practicing the 7 ingredients of manhood.

**Open Gym** – Verse of the Week is New this year. The kids start the time learning a verse before free-time.

**High School Bible Study** The highlight has been prayer journals. Sharing prayer requests & prayer has shown God’s power.



Kristen Teaching at Diva Princesses



Plan 2b a Man trip to MI



DIVA Leaders

## Contact Us

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### Check out our photoblog!

Updated Weekly! — The WYNdow  
<http://thewyndow.posterous.com>



March & Prayer Vigil  
3 Churches in front of Westlawn

## A Word from Derrick and Mark

### Christmas and year-end greetings from Chicago!

We are so grateful for your partnership with us in building “signposts of the Kingdom” here in the Lawndale neighborhood on the west side of this great city of Chicago! Through your prayer and financial gifts, we are able to participate with God in His mission of redemption here in this place! Whether it’s Diva Princess or I Plan to Be a Man, Junior High Club, High School Bible Study, tutoring in Crown Grammar School, or the many special events, we see God’s transforming power at work in us as well as in the young people who call this neighborhood home. Thank you for working with us!

Hey, we’ve got some NEWS! We are finally on the Worldwide Web!! Come visit us at [www.westlawnyouthnetwork.org](http://www.westlawnyouthnetwork.org) and send us your feedback. We like our new logo and we look forward to being able to share more and timely information on what’s happening here on the west side.

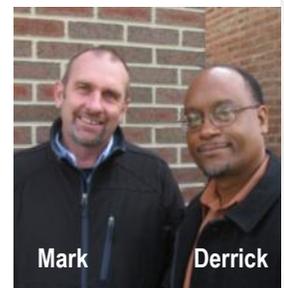
Here in the city we are often most transformed by experiences that are the most difficult. This past October was one of those moments. In the course of just a couple of weeks we had several violent and tragic events that took place between our neighborhood of Lawndale and the Hispanic neighborhood of Little Village just south of us. It seemed the law of violence and revenge had escalated to a point of no return..But God!

In response to these events, we reached out to our Hispanic brother’s and sister’s from the two churches we partner with in our Summer Day Camps. All 3 churches had connections with families affected by the recent violence. Leaders of these churches met at Westlawn Gospel Chapel and prayed together for repentance, healing, and peace. We asked God to show us how we could respond in a way that represented His Kingdom. We also met with the local police commander and sergeant to address some issues including slow response time to neighborhoods like ours.

The culminating event was a combined march and prayer vigil on Sunday. Nueva Vida and La Villita marched from their churches in Little Village to our church in Lawndale. Under the cross on our building, close to 200 of us sang, read scripture, prayed, and declared God’s alternative and upside down kingdom in the streets! It was a powerful demonstration of God’s people responding to the kingdom of this world with the kingdom of God. Heaven touched earth as Brown, Black and White brothers and sisters held each other as we declared God’s glory and His plan for the redemption of all creation!  
“...Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!”

Blessings as we celebrate Heaven touching Earth in the coming of Jesus the Messiah!

Derrick Rollerson & Mark Soderquist  
President Executive Director



Mark

Derrick



Plan 2b A Man



Open Gym Verse



JH Lesson



Girls at JH Club