



Serving Together,
The Impossible
Becomes Possible.
THANK YOU!



SERVING GREATER CINCINNATI TOGETHER

"...where people grow strong in the Lord." Eph. 6:10

Welcome to 2024!

Wow, it's hard to believe the first quarter of 2024 has come to a close! We are so happy at LGM to be ushering in another year. So far, it's been wonderful. Our after-school program is bustling with volunteers and students who want to learn and connect to adults in a positive way.



We even hosted WCPO Ch. 9 for several weeks as they researched and gathered interviews for an investigative piece (more on that to the right).

Ch. 9 gleaned so much information and were so impressed with the impact we're having on our youth, they did a separate feature on our after-school and boxing experiences in Price Hill: <https://bit.ly/ch9afterschool>.

Our sports are going strong and we're seeing great results, so far, on the impact of our kids' social, emotional and spiritual development.

We've got so many amazing people involved in the ministry and God keeps sending them. We are so blessed! And, as always, we pray, being involved in the ministry is a blessing to those individuals.

In an effort to continue growing our support base, this year we're focusing on several events (see the back of this newsletter for details).

Our hope is to give you and us the opportunity to share with more people, church families, co-workers, and friends, about the wonderful work God is doing through this ministry.

Check these events out and share them in your social circles. We hope to see you throughout the year and meet more of your family and friends.

One of the greatest gifts this ministry offers is the opportunity for you to be a blessing to others. That's an opportunity certainly worth sharing.

Stand firm,
Scott Bowers
Executive Director

Where We Are Is Where We're Supposed to Be

Balinda Wright came to the Lord's Gym Family Activity Center (FAC) everyday to eat and hear worship music.

"I would listen to the Word being spoken during devotional time and I'd pray for God to reveal Himself to me and help me change my life," she said. "I didn't realize then, but do now, that God was doing just that through each and everyone of those who befriended me at Lord's Gym."

Balinda started coming to the FAC in the fall of 2022. She was homeless and addicted to drugs. She felt "hopeless" during her time living and working the streets of East Price Hill. She overdosed dozens of times. She lost custody of her children and watched "helplessly" as friends died from their own addiction.

Overdose deaths are a growing concern in East Price Hill. In fact, between 2020 and 2022, according to the Cincinnati Health Department, East Price Hill led all of Cincinnati neighborhoods in years of life lost to drug overdose.

The Health Department has also discovered that all of Cincinnati neighborhoods lost a combined 25,052 years of life during those three years. Nearly half of that loss of life was due to overdose, homicide, heart disease and infant mortality. More than a third of the losses happened in East Price Hill, Westwood, Avondale, Roselawn and the West End, as reported by WCPO Ch. 9, bit.ly/Ch9earlydeaths.

The alarming data proves that Lord's Gym Ministries is serving where it needs to



be serving. And Balinda's story, which WCPO includes in their report, is the reason why Lord's Gym is doing the work it is doing: Transforming lives for God's glory.

Her, and many others' desperate need for love and God, as well as the data revealed in WCPO's report, underscores the urgency of Lord's Gym's work.

Balinda found great comfort in knowing she was loved at Lord's Gym. The kindness shown to her by Lynn Woods, STORM Chaplain, especially influenced her life.

"Lynn showed me that I was never alone. God never left me nor had He or would He forsake me," she said. "I was doing a lot of bad things but I kept that hope that Lynn gave me. Lynn and everyone at Lord's Gym never stopped loving me."

Balinda said that God kept pushing her to get on the STORM bus or come to the FAC at any opportunity. Over time things changed dramatically for Balinda. In 2023, she got off the streets and into treatment. She recently celebrated one year in recovery.

Proof of Impact: Check Out the SEL Survey Results

Lord's Gym is using a third party organization, Hello Insight, to help us measure the impact of the youth experiences we offer. Results help us to improve upon programming to better and more effectively serve our youth.

The results are also used to prove the effectiveness of youth programming at Lord's Gym. This helps us cultivate new partnerships with other organizations and gain financial support of more foundations

that are keenly focused on measurements and outcomes of the programs they choose to fund.

We want to share with you the findings and hope that they are an encouragement to you, showing you the impact we're able to make because of your support.

Of the 75 youth assessed to date, 90% are advancing in one or more of the four core Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

Continues on back

Growing Strong Series: Plan Ahead and Register Today

Pickleball Tournament

1-4 p.m.
Thursday, June 20
Pickle Lodge
7373 Kingsgate Way
West Chester, OH 45069
Cost: \$60 per team

*This event is not a fundraiser.



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Community Awareness Breakfasts

7-8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 18
Kenwood Country Club
6501 Kenwood Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 25243

Thursday, Oct. 10
Embassy Suites
10 Rivercenter Blvd.
Covington, KY 41011

*The breakfasts are fundraising events and are FREE to attend.



January/February/March 2024

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GO to people in need in Greater Cincinnati neighborhoods.

CREATE safe places.

DEMONSTRATE God's love in practical ways.

DECLARE the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.

DEVELOP disciples of Jesus Christ.

ENCOURAGE self-responsibility.

SEL Results Continued from Front

areas (called Capacities). These include Self-Control, Desire to Learn, Improved Academic Success, and Social Skills.

In addition, 85% of all young people said they are satisfied with Lord's Gym programming.

The BIG takeaway: Research tells us that each young person should be connected with a minimum of 3 supportive adults.

Social Capital represents the resources that arise from multiple adult relationships which young people can mobilize to help them improve their lives and achieve their goals.

Throughout their time at Lord's Gym, 73% of young people ages 11-17 added adults, (i.e. Lord's Gym Ministries staff and volunteers) to their Social Capital.

The impact on our youth is profound.

Consider a Financial Gift

Want to make an impact? Here's your chance. Be the hands and feet of Jesus by giving to Lord's Gym Ministries to help us serve the Cincinnati and Covington communities. Fill out the form below and mail it back to us or donate online at www.LordsGymMinistries.org.



I would like to contribute to the following program(s) (circle):
Lord's Gym STORM FAC As needed Youth Resiliency Ride
We accept major credit cards (circle): Visa Master Disc. AmEx
Name: _____
Exp.: ____ Card #: _____ Sec. code: ____
Amount: _____ Pay 3% Fee? (circle) Y or N
___ Interested in planned giving ___ My company will match
Email: _____

Make checks payable to: Lord's Gym Ministries, and mail to P.O. Box 5099, Cincinnati, OH 45205. Please note, all correspondence must be sent to the P.O. Box.

Text "Give" or "Donate" to 513-372-2356