

SEPTEMBER NEWS



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Mission: St. Louis has started an 8-week Jobs for Life skills training course for young men in our city that are seeking the professional skills needed to prepare them for a career. We need men in the workplace to come alongside these guys and offer advice, both professionally and spiritually. This is a chance to participate in what God is doing in our city, one life at a time. Please consider donating a couple hours 2 times per week for 8 weeks to make this course a success! Contact [Darren Jackson](#) to find out more details.

A MESSAGE FROM Mission: St. Louis



WHAT YOUR MONEY DOES

It costs us anywhere between \$100-\$700 to print flyers for one event. This cost is dependent on paper size and style, the amount of flyers printed, and



A STORY OF RENEWED FAITH & FRIENDSHIP

If you've ever had the chance to meet Maurice Banks, within minutes you're sure to hear about a man that means the world to him, his best friend, Jim Thayer. Four years ago this month, Jim and Maurice met and began an unlikely friendship which crossed all racial and socio-economic lines. Yet within the story of these two men exists a larger story, a story Mission St. Louis works toward every day: lives and entire neighborhoods being restored, drugs and crime abated, friendships and lasting community formed.

Maurice Banks lives in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood of St. Louis city. He tells of the drastic change that has occurred there over the last several years. His neighborhood was once filled with heroine, crack, and marijuana. One block south from his home was called the "Million-Dollar Corner," named for its annual revenue in drug sales. The streets were not safe to walk after dark, certainly not if you weren't from the neighborhood. Yet Jim Thayer showed up one evening with a few others as part of a community program Mission: St. Louis now calls "Cross the Street." It's a simple concept; Mission: St. Louis encourages individuals to go into neighborhoods and get to know the people who live there. These relationships are the building blocks of transformation as folks hear about a God that loves them and can truly change their lives for good. Maurice remembers the occasion well. He considered getting the water hose out to drive the group away but instead questioned them. "What are you sellin'?" asked Maurice. Jim retorted, "Jesus. Wanna talk?" Maurice wondered why these folks would enter his neighborhood. He knew the danger better than anyone, but he noticed something different about them. After a few minutes, Jim opened Maurice's outside gate to come closer, but he had gone too far. Maurice got angry, telling him to "Get outta here, and don't come back!" Jim did not heed these harsh words and honestly does not remember hearing them, even to this day.

Maurice fondly recalls the church being an integral part of his childhood. His father was a preacher. He sang in a church quartet and heard about the Word of God as far back as he can remember. But when Jim appeared at his house four years ago,

UPCOMING 4TH ANNUAL NIGHT FOR THE TOWN

Tickets are now on sale for the premier event of the year, our annual Night for the Town fundraiser! The event is being held on October 15th at the Moto Museum. You won't want to miss this evening filled with delicious food and hundreds of auction items that have been generously donated to help us make an impact in our city. Mark your calendars for this fun and worthwhile night of entertainment! To purchase your tickets or sponsor the event, [click here](#).

WANTED: AUCTION ITEMS FOR UPCOMING FUNDRAISER

Do you paint, knit, or teach Yoga? Own a timeshare or vacation property somewhere beautiful? Have a friend who is an incredible chef and wants to provide a dinner experience or a signed Brett Hull hockey stick? Consider donating your item so that Mission: St. Louis can make a difference in our city! Through the month of September, we are asking for donations, large and small, to be auctioned off at our upcoming Night for the Town event. Your collectibles or artistic talent can be used in amazing ways to benefit people in St. Louis. Contact [Amy Bulgrien](#), or drop off your item at our office (4366 Manchester Avenue, 63110).

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Peter and Leslie Rodick

the number of colors on the print. Flyers are only one piece of our communications strategy - other pieces include our website, social media, emails, and monthly newsletter. Want to give us input on our communications? Click [this link](#) to fill out our annual communications survey. It should only take 5 minutes and is easy to complete. We value your input!

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Last month, hundreds of people rallied behind our School Supply Drive, collectively raising more than \$9,000 in needed supplies for low-income children in the St. Louis Public Schools. We are continually blown away by your generosity! Thank you so much for giving to this cause. You have provided kids the necessary tools so that they can achieve exponentially more.

Maurice had fallen on hard times. He was struggling with heavy alcohol and drug use. His wife, Stella, had left him. His only remaining friends were drug addicts. When Jim showed up to the house a second time, Maurice could hardly believe it. "He was consistent; I would not have thought this guy would have the nerve to come back the next week!" By the third visit, Maurice was waiting for Jim. He would be sober when Jim arrived so that he could talk about God with a clear head. After only a few visits, Maurice was so concerned about Jim's safety walking the neighborhood that he began to accompany him for protection. When Maurice asked for some literature to read about God and the Bible, Jim drove down with tapes of sermons that Maurice still listens to today. As Maurice talks about sermons from Adrian Rogers and Darrin Patrick, his face lights up. It took many months before the drinking and drug use ceased, but eventually Maurice stopped and never looked back. He recommitted his life to God. He went to Arizona and brought his wife home.

By talking to this man about what God has done in his life, incredible faith and gratitude can be clearly seen. He says frankly, "If the Lord had not brought these guys into my life, I'd still be getting high." Maurice and Jim have not only become the best of friends, but they've become partners together in what God is doing in the FPSE community.

[\(Click here for full story\)](#)



Peter and Leslie saw an opportunity to serve young kids in the neighborhood, and they started summer Sports Camp and kids Bible study in the FPSE community. "As these kids get older, they will face some really tough decisions, and we feel very passionate about giving them a firm foundation and preparing them to make good choices in the future." Peter and Leslie are loving married life (they were just wed in July)! They are avid skiers and can be found playing kickball in Tower Grove Park during the summer and fall months. Mission: St. Louis is so grateful for this couple and their service to our city.

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