



August Letter 2009

Dear Teen Leaders and Parents,

We will be having our first meetings in August! Where did the summer go??? We are excited about our year together, and know there will be lots of fun, lots of learning, and lots of personal growth!

Attached is an **updated calendar** and an **updated contact list**.

Our Goals and Your commitment

The Teen Leaders youth leadership program has **two main goals**:

- #1. To build a community of peace and support
- #2. To experience and grow in ● Leadership, ● Prayer, ● Learning, and ● Service.

Part of being in a community is being reliable. We have a system to help remind all the Teen Leaders of their commitment, but it takes initiative to make the system work. The Teen Leaders are divided into four mentor groups, with four mentor group leaders who assist the adults by staying in touch with the rest of the team, by giving input for decision making. They represent the rest of the Teen Leaders as an "advisory board."

Monthly letters, emails, phone calls:

Your family will receive an email and a letter through the postal mail, reminding you of the upcoming meeting and events of that month. Often the letters are also posted on our website. The Teen Leaders are usually given questions, and asked to supply the answers. Every Teen Leader is asked to call or email their mentor group leader before the meeting/event (the weekend before, or no later than the Wednesday before) so we know they received the reminder and are planning to come. They also are asked to report the answers to the questions.

Then the mentor group leaders report to Lisa.

It is the responsibility of every Teen Leader to stay in touch with their mentor group leader every month.

If your mentor group leader doesn't hear from your son/daughter in time, then there has to be additional time spent contacting your son/daughter or you to establish that s/he received the letter/email, is still planning to come, is prepared, and provides the answers to the questions.

Being on Time

Most of our **training meetings** begin at 8:30 AM and end at 3:00. We expect all the Teen Leaders to be present and ready to begin at 8:30. We often have a raffle at 8:15 to reward those who have come early. When a Teen Leader doesn't arrive at House of Peace until 8:30, s/he usually isn't really ready to begin working for at least ten minutes... that will slow everyone down and waste time. Please be sure your plans are for your son/daughter to be present no later than 8:15, or his/her mentor group leader will be placing a call to find out why s/he is running late. If you know you will be late, please call us that morning, so we don't spend time trying to contact you.

Being Prepared

Teen Leaders will be given **binders and folders** at their first training meeting. The folders are used to keep all of the letters and forms in order. The binder is for use with the workshop, "Hope is Something You Do." Teen Leaders are expected to keep all their letters and hand-outs in their folders, so they don't get lost. They are also expected to bring their folders and binders to every training meeting. Please assist your son/daughter so this responsibility is taken seriously.

The August View

August 22 will be our first training meeting. It's 8:30 – 3:00.... The Mentor Group Leaders will be staying at least 30 minutes afterward, in order to review the meeting and plan for the September retreat. Teen Leaders will be given a light breakfast as well as lunch. On August 22, we will be celebrating the summer birthdays of Teen Leaders. Aug 15. We celebrate birthdays with ice cream cake, and birthday affirmations led by the mentor group leaders. Please bring your **jars and Christmas greenery** on Aug 22.

August 29 is a special meeting – it's not a training meeting. It's a fundraiser support day for Tomorrow's Present. In the morning, we will be making "Christmas Tree in a Jar" items for sale. We have two adults heading up the project for us, and doing the actual selling (at craft fairs and on the internet); however we need the Teen Leaders to help us construct the items. You have received hand-outs asking all families to save jars, Christmas greenery, and ornaments for this purpose. **We will need a few moms and dads to assist us with this project. Please let Lisa know if you are willing and able to assist.**

In the afternoon, five students will be staying to film a short Youtube commercial for a February 7 fundraiser. Lunch will be provided to the mentor group leaders and other students who stay for the commercial filming and the. Because this is an extra fundraiser support day, the Teen Leaders will not be paid for their participation on August 29.

The Longer View

September 19-20 will be our Teen Leader retreat. We start a little later, since we are working later into the evening. The retreat begins Saturday at 10:00 – we expect everyone to arrive no later than 9:30, in order to get settled and be ready to go by 10:00 sharp. (Mentor group leaders will be arriving at 9:00 to assist with this process.) **PARENTS AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED** for Mass (optional) and **FOR BREAKFAST on SUNDAY, SEPT 20**, after Mass, approximately 8:45. Teen Leaders are required to stay throughout the breakfast, since they will also be doing presentations for the parents. More details regarding the retreat will be sent out with the September letter.

The Teen Leaders will begin a "mentor buddy" program this year, which involves inviting a younger person (in grades 4-7, more or less) to three events: The Christmas party on Dec. 19 (12:00 noon – 2:30 at House of Peace), the afternoon of March 20 (12:00 noon – 2:30 at House of Peace), and our Showcase of Leadership at Cardinal Stritch on April 25 (3:00 – 4:30). *These times are approximate.* **So please start thinking about a younger sibling, cousin, neighbor or friend in this age category who might benefit from this program.**

This Month's Questions

Call/email your mentor group leader between August 15-19 with the answers to these questions:

- #1. Did you receive the August email and letter? Do you understand any role you have in the meeting?
- #2. Is all your contact information correct? Any additional emails or cell phone numbers we should add?

#3. How much Christmas greenery – how many ornaments – how many jars – will you be bringing Aug 22?

**Teen Leaders 2009-1010
in Mentor groups:**

Seniors:	Rebecca (leader)		Arthur (leader)	Aqueelah
Juniors:	Joana	Fernando (leader)	Beatrice	Steven (leader)
		Sun		
Sophomores:	Francis	Kayla	Dauson	Keyon
Freshmen/women:	Mykiliah	Khalil	Jasmine	Lucero

Call Lisa with any concerns you may have... 414-545-6006... or email her at Lisa@tomorrowspresent.org.
We look forward to a wonderful year with the Teen Leaders!

Lisa Calderone

Ralph Stewart

Dominique McGee

Brother Mark

Enclosures: ● Updated calendar and contact list ● Christmas Tree in a Jar reminder
 ● August Agenda (Notice any activities you are responsible for – and be prepared to lead!)



Tomorrow's Present
A collaborative ministry of
*The Leadership Center of Cardinal Stritch University
and the House of Peace*
1702 West Walnut Street • Milwaukee, WI 53205
lisa@tomorrowspresent.org • (414) 545-6006
www.tomorrowspresent.org

