

“I Know What God Thinks of Me!”

“I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” This verse, from Psalm 139:14, is Deion’s favorite — one of many he’s learned over the past five years at his local Agape Center, a safe haven from neighboring ... but not always neighborly ... inner-city streets.

What matters is what God says.

The Chicago program is one of 46 S.A.Y. Yes! Centers for Youth Development® nationwide supported by Cru® Inner City. Here, Deion and his friends receive:

- ✓ homework help and tutoring,
- ✓ healthy snacks,
- ✓ discipleship and character development,
- ✓ necessities like school shoes, backpacks,
- ✓ and more.

Deion first heard Psalm 139 at the Center a few years ago — and he’s clung to it ever since. “It’s a verse that’s really helped me deal with a lot of issues at school. It’s like remembering who God created me to be. I’m fearfully and wonderfully made, so it doesn’t really matter what people say about me. What matters is what God says.”



Thanks to friends like you and the unique witness of our S.A.Y. Yes!® Centers, Deion and so many other children know what God says about them ... and it’s good. This wonderful news is touching and transforming children and their families in urban neighborhoods across the nation.

Thank you for making such a difference!

**I AM FEARFULLY
— AND —
WONDERFULLY
MADE** PSALM 139:14

The incredible, life-changing blessing of ... Urban Immersion™

Each spring, rowdy college students make headlines for invading beach towns to party, a volatile cocktail of drug use, overdoses, and even assaults.

What doesn't end up on the news are college students who choose to spend their spring break on more eternal-focused efforts. In Orlando, 12 of them enrolled in Urban Immersion™, a weeklong cross-cultural outreach and evangelism training program offered through Cru® Inner City.

Participating students are matched with Inner City's partner ministries, who already have established relationships within under-served urban communities.

This year's projects included helping with the national Point-in-Time homeless count, food distribution at an extended-living motel, concluding with tutoring and sports camp at Orange County Academy, which serves at-risk, low-income children from the community of Bithlo, a depressed area just outside Orlando. The neighborhood has no clean water, and most kids drop out of school by the ninth grade due, in part, to addicted parents.



Throughout the week, the students met a variety of people, each with unique needs.

- Celeste, a former drug addict who gave her life to Christ.
- Michael, who is beaten by his dad, but says he doesn't have it that bad.
- Dominic, a kid whose house was recently "shot up."
- Erin, who hopes — and wants prayer — for her next meal.
- Chelsea, a 5-year-old girl whose mom is an addict, also prays for food. Her family of 14 lives in one small trailer.
- Charlie, who just got out of prison, is struggling to get off drugs and wants help.
- Derek, a vet who has been homeless for three years.
- Dallas, a pregnant woman seeking help.
- Bree, a med-school dropout and former athlete, who uses heroin after breaking her shoulder in nine spots.
- Morgan, a middle-schooler, who was thrilled an adult was willing to spend 30 minutes playing volleyball with her.

While the focus is serving those in need, recipients are not the only ones receiving ministry. Many of the young adults experienced life-transforming moments, including Caitlyn, who reassessed her own standing with Christ after working with Bree.

"During prayer, Bree was brought to tears and expressed how badly she needed Jesus," Caitlyn said. "She was extremely thankful we talked to her about life and faith.... I gave my life to Christ minutes after."

For Mike, the short-term missions trip propelled him to take uncharacteristic risks.