

# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A YOUNG PERSON'S LIFE THIS SUMMER.



Youth today, more than ever, need someone in their corner cheering them on. When you support Urban Youth Ministry, young lives are both molded and mended.

*For Coach Mike, baseball was always a passion. Playing in organized leagues through his 20's, he got the crazy urge to return to the game at the age of 46. Like riding a bicycle, the pitching, fielding, and hitting all returned fairly easily.*

*On a freaky Saturday morning in the spring of 2011, however, his second playing career came to screeching halt. At a batting cage for some off-season training, a ball thrown by the machine deflected off an errant ball hit by another batter to become a missile flying erratically at his face at speeds estimated at over 100 mph. An accident that nearly cost him his life succeeded to steal the eyesight of his left eye.*

*As is true of such experiences, even in blindness vision for life becomes much keener. Following a short-lived comeback to baseball that was highly discouraged by his wife and doctors, Michael knew he still had much to offer and baseball was going to be part of the picture in some way. The Lord never wastes our pain and it is hard to imagine such a significant life event not being a catapult to even greater service to Him.*



*Prior to the accident, Michael was introduced to the Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League through involvement with the Aurora Islanders Annual Skills Clinic. Each year the venerable players collect equipment and generously donate their time to introduce and help sharpen the playing skills of youth from the east side of Aurora.*

*In 2013, Michael took his involvement to an even deeper level by volunteering as a coach for the Dodgers. While he is full of good memories of personal and athletic breakthroughs for the young players, his favorite moment last year was seeing several pray out loud to commit their young lives to Christ.*

*While dedicated volunteers give time and energy, it is also the sacrificial prayers and gifts of so many that makes effective outreach to at-risk youth in the Fox Valley possible.*

Because of you, volunteers like Coach Mike have an opportunity to serve and players like those on the Dodgers have an opportunity to hear the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for praying and sharing.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James'.

James Lukose  
Executive Director

PS. Please help make a difference in a young life this summer.

