

Dear Urban Impact Family and Friends,

I wanted to share some big news that brings feelings of both sadness and gratitude. Our Founder, President, and friend, Rev. Harvey Drake Jr. will be retiring from his role as President of Urban Impact at the end of 2023.

Harvey and Andrea are all about family – that is why they will be relocating to Dallas, Texas to be closer to their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. We are excited for them to step into this new season of life.

While we are sad to see Harvey go, we are so honored and humbled by his nearly 40 years of service to the greater Seattle community. His leadership at Urban Impact and in the region has been invaluable. He pioneered the work of Christian Community Development in Seattle’s Rainier Valley that has impacted so many lives and been a model for many to build on. He has been a friend, partner and leader who faithfully served and led us all toward Biblical justice and reconciliation. We are so grateful God sent the Drakes to Seattle.

Urban Impact’s vision continues and is as strong as ever to see all people reconciled with God, where everyone is engaged and thriving in community. We have a committed Board, Staff, and Leadership Team.

Steve Bury, Harvey’s long-time co-laborer and friend, will continue to serve as our Executive Director, as he has since December 2004.



Andrea and Pastor Harvey Drake Jr.

For all of us, this transition brings a new version of life ahead – and we are blessed and excited to experience all that God has planned.

With Gratitude,

Harry Thomas
Urban Impact, Board President

HOMework CLUB A HAVEN? Kanisha's Story

Homework club has become a haven for *Kanisha. It is a place where she can just “be”. Because of you, there is always a plate of warm food for her and leaders ready to give her a warm welcome.

She lives in what many would describe as an unstable living situation. Kanisha lives with her mother who carries a lot of responsibility in supporting her and her other siblings who live in other places.

When we first met Kanisha, she often talked about her involvement in fights at school and clearly relished the drama of it all. But in softer moments she talked about her insecurities. We kept welcoming her to our programs – asking each day how school went, encouraging her to think about where the fights would lead and affirmed her when she showed kindness to the other children.

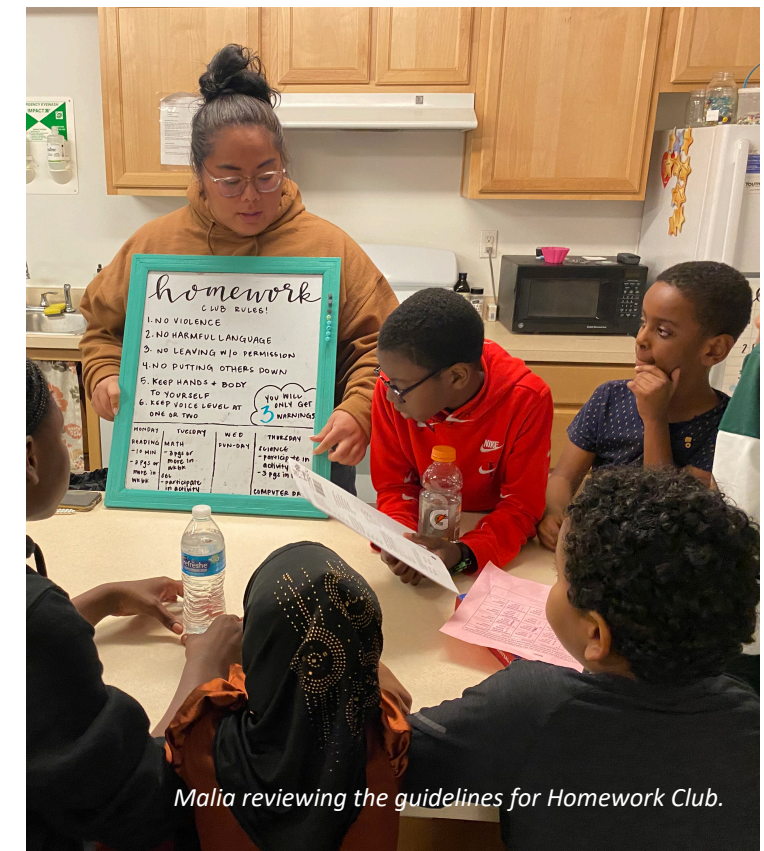
We saw significant progress during our Summer Enrichment Camp – a camp made possible by donors like you. A gentleness and sweet spirit became her most prominent characteristics. This was great timing as she was about to enter middle school.

In February, Malia, the director of our Expanded Learning programs, went to Kanisha’s middle school to participate in her teacher conferences.

One teacher shared that Kanisha started the year strong but in a few weeks she stopped turning in her work. Another said she was more interested in being “social.” Malia assured the teachers that she and her team would love and support Kanisha in both her academic, social and emotional development.

Because of you, we get to be in Kanisha’s life and help her navigate the road ahead. We are encouraged by what we are seeing in Homework Club as she often helps the other children with their homework. We are praying that she will make decisions that will put her on a good path for each day and the future. Will you join us?

**Name has been changed.*



Malia reviewing the guidelines for Homework Club.

URBANIMPACT

MY GIFT TOWARDS GOD’S WORK IN SOUTH SEATTLE!

YES, Steve! I want to make sure that every person in South Seattle has access to the programs and services they need.

\$30

\$150

\$75

\$_____ to provide as much help as possible

YOUTH AND FAMILY OUTREACH

Youth work was what brought Urban Impact into existence and has been a crucial part of our ministry ever since.

KCYC, Paraclete46, Cultured Aftercare and Support Teams, and Seasons of Life are all ministries that operate as programs of Urban Impact, but have funding sources independent of our general budget. We provide training, financial and HR infrastructure, and guidance as needed. We have highlighted two of the programs below.

You can see by their work the value of collaboration and why we are so committed to their success!

King County Youth Chaplaincy

from Jon Abe, Director and Chaplain

“We continue to build life-changing, Jesus-led relationships with our young people, some we have now known for over a decade. Despite Covid-related restrictions and hurdles last-year, our team engaged with 103 youth we know by name.

At Echo Glen and King County Juvenile Detention: we continue to interact with youth in fruitful conversations and chapel services.

Post-incarceration: we continue to support them, helping acquire necessities, praying with and for them, and growing in mentoring relationships.”



Jon Abe and a young man he has known for over 6 years!



David Hughes and Rainier Beach Student Athlete.

Paraclete46

from David and Holly Hughes, Founders

“Our Urban Student-Athletes and their families have faced some extreme challenges this year. We were honored to walk alongside them.

We were able to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas Blessing Baskets to 23 families. We heard their stories of how, for most of them, their family’s situations had improved.

This year four of our students received full rides to attend college and play football! Three others are still deciding where they will attend D-3 colleges.”

COMING BACK FROM A TWO YEAR HIATUS

This January Rainier Health & Fitness (RHF) hosted an 8 Week Fitness Challenge. This team fitness competition has a long history at the gym. It aims to build community and create accountability in helping people reach their health and fitness goals.



There were a total of 29 members of all ages participating for 8 full weeks. Our favorite part was the weekly group workouts led by various RHF trainers, where participants could encourage each other and sweat together.

The RHF Team always enjoys opportunities to leave the gym and go out into our community where we get to see familiar faces and meet new individuals. The team has long been advocates for ensuring that ALL members in the community can engage in health and wellness activities.



Recently, our trainers Marla and Jessica led a few fitness activities for students at Graham Hill Elementary during their annual "Heritage Night."

The students enjoyed racing through an obstacle course where they got to practice jumping over hurdles, side shuffling around cones and running through ladders. They also developed team work skills as the older kids were helping the younger kids learn how to do everything!

All kids got to take home a jump rope as a prize for participation!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



May 25th - 6:00pm Sharks At the Beach Annual Pitch Event

Sharks is a program aimed at supporting aspiring entrepreneurs from initial concept to launch. The program concludes with a Shark Tank styled pitch event for an opportunity to win seed capital.



September 30th - Noon-3:00pm Thrive is Back! Amazing food, live music, great raffle items and an insiders look at the work you make possible and so much more!

When Communities Thrive, People Thrive

When People Thrive, Communities Thrive