



April 2016

MISSION GRANT STORY

PROVIDING HOPE FOR DETROIT – ACTS 2 ENTERPRISE (A2E) \$100,000

Acts 2 Enterprise (A2E) is a strategic and holistic urban outreach of the Michigan District LCMS, based on the work of Jesus and His disciples in the early church, as recorded in the book of Acts. A2E is striving to help in a city with a depressed economy, high unemployment and poverty rates, and gang violence. Their goal is for the churches of Detroit to reconnect with communities, evangelizing the city with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Implementing the A2E strategy is Rev. Christopher Bodley, with 20 years of experience in urban ministry. He is using an approach shared by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 1:4-8. **Immersion in the Culture** ... *we lived among you* (v. 5 NIV). Churches are already located in Detroit communities. **Imitation of God**, ... *you became imitators of us* (v. 6 NIV). A2E leaders strive to imitate God in thoughts, words and actions, bringing others to Christ. **Invitation to Join**, ... *you became a model* (v. 7 NIV). New followers of Christ will share that the Gospel can truly change individuals.

Impact the Region, Paul boasted, ... *your faith in God has become known everywhere* (v. 8 NIV). New believers will witness of the Gospel in Detroit and beyond.

Programs of A2E engage the community in educational opportunities. After school computer classes, improving reading and life skills, and Biblical teaching, all include sharing the Gospel. Lutheran teachers build relationships with students and families through music, sports, tutoring, adult education, and job training. To fully engage the community, A2E is partnering with local social service agencies to provide elder care, adoption, foster care, and housing services to those in need.

A successful and continuing program of A2E is the one-week children's Vacation Bible School/Sports Camp. Held in 2013 and 2014, children learned about God's love for them while gaining sports skills. Volunteers taught children how to break free from fear, bad choices, self-doubt, and lying. The camp is one effective way A2E is reaching out to families in Detroit with the love of Christ.