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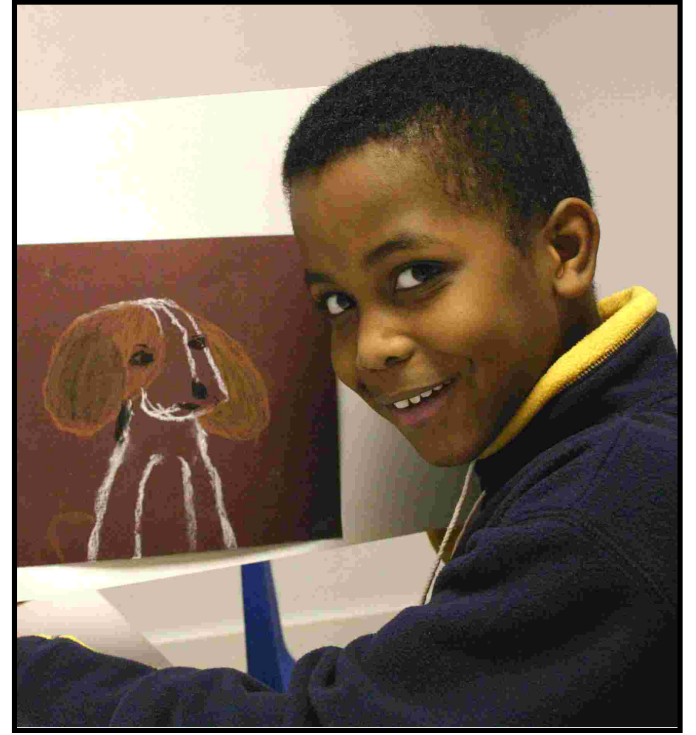


630 Benton Ave  
Nashville, TN 37204  
(615) 292-2303  
www.CottageCove.org

Quarterly

January - March 2004

# Cottage Cove



William in art class

Printing of the [Cottage Cove Quarterly](#) is donated.

## COTTAGE COVE FUN BOWL



A few bowlers at our last Fun Bowl

For the sixth year in a row, Cottage Cove will be hosting its' Fun Bowl. This event is both a field trip for the children of Cottage Cove and one of our primary fundraisers each year. The children that have participated in this outing in the past are quick to speak of how much they enjoy Fun Bowl. They not only speak about the actual bowling activity, but also of the "nice people" that came to bowl with them.

The children earn Fun Bowl as a reward for daily participation in our homework, reading and tutoring programs. Their accumulated homework "stars", combined with good behavior, earn them the privilege of participating in this special event. It's definitely one that many aspire to, as more children participate in Fun Bowl at one time than any other field trip throughout the year.

Since it's obvious that the children look forward to it, you might be wondering why and how you should be involved. If you live, or will be, in the Nashville area on April 17, this is your opportunity to come and interact with the children in a relaxed setting. Even if you haven't bowled in years, you're sure to have a lot of fun. The very fact that you took time out to be with the children is not lost on them, as they are very appreciative of your just being there! Your generous donation of \$20 (per person) enti-

ties you to bowling, show rental, and lunch! Proceeds from your donation enable a Cottage Cove child to come and bowl with you. Come by yourself or bring your whole family or group.

The other way everyone can be involved with fun bowl is through sponsorship. Lane or corporate sponsorships, at any of our levels, enable us to keep offering Cottage Cove's quality daily program at no charge to the children or their parents. Your tax deductible gift makes an investment in lives for years to come!

Family Lane Sponsor	\$50
Corporate Lane Sponsor	\$100
Corporate Bronze Sponsor	\$500
Corporate Silver Sponsor	\$1500
Corporate Gold Sponsor	\$2500

All sponsorship names/logos will be prominently featured during the bowling event. Sponsors, bronze and above, will receive a framed certificate of participation and have their logos featured on our printed publications and web site for the next year. Please phone or email for more details.

**Wanted!**

Cottage Cove is looking for missionary interns and staff. Is God calling you to serve these children?

Teaching the youngest children at Cottage Cove has been a rewarding challenge for me this past year. After our last intern left, to provide continuity, Lisa and I divided all the children for Bible Study. She does the older ones and I have those from Pre-K to Grade 2. It would amaze you what these children can learn, as long as you're willing to have some enthusiasm, persistence and lots of patience. A sense of humor comes in handy too.

One thing that so many children are taught, often implicitly, is that questions are a bad thing. The idea that children are to be seen and not heard has relegated their natural curiosity to something that's only permitted in some school classrooms. Even then many want to restrict or guide the children to only ask certain questions. Get into a tough or controversial area and many discussions quickly cease. This is something that I go out of my way to show otherwise. The only bad question is the one that doesn't get asked. Does this slow down a Bible Study? Sure enough, but the results are well worth the effort. The question, "Mr. Brent, do we have Bible Study with you today?", is one that thrills me. These kids want to learn!



Self portrait (I'm holding the camera backwards) with Iesha (lower right) plus 3 extras

The last few months have taken us on an extended journey through creation with questions like: "Where did God live before He created the heavens and the earth?" Another question, "When did God create angels?" took us on a study of angels, only after taking a long look at how God made mankind so that we could compare ourselves to angels. Of course, questions about heaven led to a discussion on salvation. While examining the idea that people could live again after they die, one little girl in grade one asked a question that made all the other children laugh, mostly because they didn't understand how deep her question was. She asked, "Mr. Brent, to live in heaven again does that mean I have to be born again as a little baby?" I don't think she knew that she was in great company with the likes of Nicodemus of old when he asked Jesus almost the same thing...

"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" John 3:4

Nicodemus' words were in response to Jesus' earlier statement "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. (John 3:3)" After telling all the other children they had no reason to laugh because it was a great question; we looked again at what the Bible says about salvation.

The little girl in grade 1 who asked that question has become a favorite in my class, mostly because she

**Brent Macdonald**

# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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Thank you for your interest in the three ministries in which we are involved. The following overview is provided to help you understand how each work relates and supports the others.

Cottage Cove is our ongoing ministry to inner-city children in Nashville, Tennessee, since 1995. Our mission statement is to **provide educational opportunities and training in the arts through the power and in the name of Jesus Christ.** All donations made to Cottage Cove are utilized for programming, staff, and facilities. Cottage Cove is a non-profit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.



Discipleship Training Institute (DTI) is a program designed to provide intensive bible study combined with a short term missions experience in Nashville, Tennessee. Each morning is dedicated to "discipleship training" with the afternoons reserved for ministering to others. This provides a unique opportunity to "practice what we preach." DTI is a direct outreach of Cottage Cove. All proceeds from DTI help support Cottage Cove.



Lion Tracks Ministries began in 1991 as a means of evangelism and instruction, with a special emphasis on utilizing technology. Brent continues to provide teaching ministry through LTM seminars and their web outreach. Cottage Cove and DTI benefit from LTM materials and technology. Lion Tracks Ministries is a registered Canadian charity governed by an independent board of directors. All donations to Lion Tracks support the development of teaching resources and their speaking ministry. For details visit: [www.LionTracks.org](http://www.LionTracks.org)



Plan to come for Fun Bowl ~ Saturday, April 17, 2004 @ 9:00-11:30 a.m.

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Hi! My name is Cara Berghold, and I have been a volunteer at Cottage Cove for six years. I currently teach cooking class on Tuesday and help with Bible Study on Wednesday. Throughout my time at Cottage Cove God has taught and shown me many things, but the one I am about to share with you is one of the most precious.

My younger sister, Cali, volunteers on Tuesday as well, and two weeks ago she was helping children memorize Bible verses. She was helping a child named Jessica learn John 3:16. Jessica, a third grader, had several questions about how you become a Christian, and what exactly that meant. Cali happily began to explain the verse but just then Jessica's mother came and she had to go home. Cali let Mrs. Lisa know about Jessica's many questions about becoming a Christian, and let her know that if she had a chance the next day, it would be good to talk with her more about becoming a Christian.

The next day I was supposed to help out in Bible Study, but the Cottage Cove staff was pleasantly surprised by extra volunteers (We at Cottage Cove would love for YOU to volunteer, too!). That meant I was free to do something else. Mrs. Lisa asked me if I would like to talk with Jessica. Would I?! Jessica and I sat down together with a Bible and talked for forty-five minutes. She had so many questions about the life of Jesus, how to become a Christian, and even the trinity! I had to continuously pray for God's wisdom in answering her inquires. After we had been speaking for quite a while, Jessica looked up at me and said, "It's really a choice of being on God's team or Satan's team." I agreed with her, and

asked her if she wanted to make that choice. She nodded her head eagerly, bowed her head, and asked Jesus for forgiveness and asked Him to come into her heart. Her prayer was so sweet and sincere that I had to fight back the tears coming to my eyes. Afterwards we both prayed to thank God for what He had done. I asked if there was anyone she would like to tell what had just happened, and she quickly named about a dozen people! She went to Mrs. Lisa first, who promptly told her how excited she was, and not only her, but that the angels in heaven were so excited that they were having a party - just for her! Jessica exclaimed, "A party? Like a slumber party?!" Jessica's excitement was evident and contagious. Thanks to Jesus Christ, her life will never be the same. I am so thankful to God for allowing me to be a part of His work at Cottage Cove, which impacts the life of every person who comes.

*"Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, TO HIM BE GLORY in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*



Jessica (striped shirt) in Cara's cooking class

**Cara Berghold**

thinks long and hard about everything. Her name is Iesha. I can only hope that if this is cultivated at a young age, she will have so much possibility in front of her as she gets older.

I need to give you one more example of how Iesha thinks about everything... In the Bible Study room, we have a fish tank that serves as a reward for a couple older children to look after, and a calming influence as well. Since the youngest children are only in this room for Bible Study, the first few days I had fish questions interspersed with Bible questions. So, I quickly made the rule that I would only take two or three fish questions and they had to be right at the start.

Anyway, we originally had only one shark and he got sick and died. Since his absence would be quite noticeable I decided to address it right off and stop any question coming up later, when someone might then notice he was missing. I began by telling them that he had died. After all the "awws" died down, the first question was typical, namely, what did I do with him? After explaining that Jeffrey and Lashonda had fished his body out and had put him in a bag, I then told them I was going to take him back to the pet shop. That was

that. We began Bible study. About ten minutes into Bible study, Iesha -- who always sits right in the middle towards the front (look for her in pink below) -- raised her hand. Figuring she had another great question, I called on her. "Mr. Brent... how is the pet shop going to help the dead shark?!", she asked with a deeply perplexed look on her face. At that moment it didn't even really matter that the question wasn't about the Bible Study, I just loved that she was thinking about everything -- and I was trying so hard not to laugh myself!

Iesha still asks lots of great questions and so do many of the other children. I usually have a bunch that gather round me after they are dismissed to ask "just one more." Some days Iesha will be there waiting patiently until everyone else is gone... more than once just to wrap her arms around my neck and say "Thanks Mr. Brent!" before she heads off to her next activity. It's moments like this which remind me, I have the best job in the world.

And for those of you who are dying to know what the pet shop does with a dead shark... they took it back and gave us two new ones. I can only hope, as did all the children, that they gave the old one a decent burial.

Plan a missions trip! Groups or families, eMail: [dti@cottagecove.org](mailto:dti@cottagecove.org)

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My view during Bible Study

A few newsletters ago my article talked about the changes at Cottage Cove. It was all around me: a new boss, a new co-worker, a new name (mine), and new children attending. This time around the big change is no change. It can be a little difficult adjusting to no adjustments. We did say "good-bye" to Alison in September and that was very difficult. Since then...nothing. No new boss (thankfully), no new co-worker (cleaning volunteers have saved my sanity), no new name, and only two new children since August. That is because of the waiting list and the one and only new thing we have seen lately - consistency.

[lisa@cottagecove.org](mailto:lisa@cottagecove.org)

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Last year we started a waiting list for the first time. It was so hard! We decided that we could handle about 80 children safely without taking chances. Not every child comes every day so our active list is actually 87. We sent a letter to the families on the active list and told them that the minimum to keep their spot was attending 3 times a week. At one point there were 21 children on the waiting list but they didn't stay there very long. By the end of the school year we had moved everyone off the list, a wait of less than a month and a half. That was because many of the children on the active list were not very consistent. In the past they could take a few months off and come back without a wait. Like every other year we saw a lot of children drop off after the first few weeks of school and even more after Christmas. A few moved away and others joined after school activities.

This year would be the same, right? Not even close! The children this year are the most faithful I have seen at Cottage Cove. Some amazing things have come from this consistency. First, Bible stud-

ies have been really fun. We are studying the book of Genesis. Since the same children come every day we are able to dig really deep into the passages. We have only finished the first chapter after 4 full months. The second thing is watching the children who have been here awhile help and teach the new children. They are the ones to explain the rules and the schedule, give a tour, show where the bathrooms are, and introduce them to the other children and the adults. Third, we have seen an increase in our older children. 10 of the 87 on our active list are 5th grade or older and 9 of them ride a bus from school to come to Cottage Cove every day. The fourth thing we have noticed is that some of the children have grown up right before our eyes. Some of you who were here over the years would probably be surprised to see that some of the children are still here, just bigger. For instance, we met Christina and Lashonda when they were in kindergarten and they are now in 4th grade!!! KeAndrea started here in 1st grade and now she is in 6th. And, if the child is not still here their younger siblings probably are. One family has six children. We first met Dameshia five years ago.



Since then we have seen her brother Lee, her sister K'neshia, her sister Cortnee, her brother William, and now her sister Miracle.

I look back at the time I have been here and realize that it is an honor that I could never earn or deserve. "Thank you" to everyone who has put their time and/or resources into these children. They are growing up into such sweet and precious people. And the way things are going these days we will continue to see them grow for quite a while.

**Lisa Wiley**