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Reaching children worldwide™

CEF of MI, Capital Area Chapter
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Staff: Doug & Maryann Hammar, Elias Abdi, Vivian Yoder

Capital Clips Jan/Feb 2025

Happy New Year!

We praise God for His great care and provision in 2024, and look forward to what He is going to do this year. Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support in this New Year!

Good News Club[®]

God has provided our chapter with wonderful *Good News Club* teachers and helpers so that we can have clubs in 9 schools, a church, the City Rescue Mission of Lansing, and 2 Release Time Clubs held in 2 different churches. As of December, there are 214 children enrolled in these clubs and 17 children have trusted Christ as their Savior!

One church donated their old pew Bibles and we have been able to give them out to over 20 children at the Release Time Club in Durand. Several children have responded to the salvation invitation at this club. As we ask them questions concerning their understanding of the Gospel, it has been challenging to guide them from false teachings to the truth of God's Word. There seems to be a big focus on "spirits" of loved ones or pets who have died mixed with truths from the Bible. It is very confusing for the children.

For many children who attend, the club is their church and that is the only time during the week they hear the truth of God and His Word. Pray for wisdom for all of our *GNC[®]* workers as they help guide the children to the Savior and teach those believing children what God would want them to do.

We are excited about a new club starting at Greyhound Intermediate School in the Eaton Rapids School District. First Baptist Church of Eaton Rapids has formed a team and is ready to begin this club in February.

Christmas Party Clubs



Christmas Party Club™ is now an official ministry of CEF. We praise God for the two extra Christmas Party Clubs that took place outside of normal Good News Clubs this December.

After doing a Christmas Party Club training for people at Grove Bible Church, they went to a mobile home park in St. Johns and taught the children the true meaning of Christmas.

Elias was able to have people from his church who recently completed the Teaching Children Effectively 1 course help at a CPC at his church where 8 children attended.

Pray for those who conducted these clubs to desire to be involved in ongoing ministry to the children.

On Saturday, January 4, we had a *Christian Youth In Action*™ Blast—a CYIA™ student and staff reunion. The highlights were the Nerf dart war, Guess the Bible Book name, Light the Christmas tree game, and the CYIA True and False game.



Christian Youth In Action is a training that equips teens to share the Gospel with children. These teens work with CEF® during the summer in *5-Day Club*® and fair ministries in their local area. Right now, we have the potential of 11 young people from our chapter attending this training in June.

CYIA 2025 will be June 14—21 at The Springs Ministries in Gladwin, MI. June 23—27 will be a week for practice clubs in the local chapters. Cost is \$400 per student. Go to cyiami.com for more information or to apply.

If you have teens interested in serving the Lord during the summer and might be interested in hearing about CYIA training, please contact our office and we would be delighted to come and share more about the training.

Staff News:

Doug & Maryann Hammar:

On November 21, Doug had shoulder replacement surgery. In late December, he began physical therapy. His healing process is going well.

Right before Christmas, I (Maryann) was diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis. The first week on new medicine was very encouraging. I was able to walk and do basic house cleaning without the normal pain I was having.

We were very thankful for time off during the holidays and the extra time we could spend with our family.



Good News Clubs, training classes, and promotion of the ministry have resumed and our days are full.



We are looking forward to the CEF® International Conference in May 2025. This is an opportunity for CEF staff from all over the world to meet together for refreshing, fellowship, and teaching. The cost per person is \$800 for lodging, food, and Conference fees. If you would like to help us with this expense, we would appreciate it greatly. You can send your gift to help with this conference to

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Please indicate it is to help with conference expenses. Thank you!

We would appreciate your continued prayers for us as we work to move the ministry forward, conduct teacher training courses, get more Good News Clubs started, and plan for *Christian Youth In Action* training in June.



Elias

The Christmas Party Club™ at Cole Academy went very well. Our helpers—Mary, Isaiah, and Asa—did an excellent job preparing for the event. I had the privilege of teaching the Bible lesson titled "Jesus is the Light of Life." We had eight kids attend, and they had a wonderful time. Our theme for the event, "Jesus is the Light of Life," was a huge hit, and the kids enjoyed every part of the celebration, including the lesson and activities. The snacks were delicious, and it was truly a blessed day.

The children were a bit upset when they heard of my plans to travel to Ethiopia, although they understood that I needed to be there for the arrival of my new baby girl. They asked questions like, "Are you going to bring the baby to *Good News Club*?" and "What did you name her?" I reassured them and explained my plans. I am happy to announce that this club will continue via Zoom while I am in Ethiopia.

Additionally, I held another club at my church, encouraging my new Teaching Children Effectively™ 1 students to start their own *Good News Club*. The Christmas Party Club served as their first event, and it went really well. It was exciting to see their enthusiasm and passion for reaching others.

Personal Update & Prayer Requests

On a personal note, I will be traveling to Ethiopia on Wednesday, January 8, to be with my wife and welcome our first baby girl in mid-February. We are also preparing for our immigration interview on January 30. As I will be away from work, we won't have another income source while in Ethiopia. During this time, we plan to volunteer with CEF Ethiopia, continue TCE 1 training, and run a Zoom *Good News Club* here in Michigan in our extra time.

If the Lord leads you to support us during this time, you can send your support directly to Elias Abdi. A coworker will deposit the funds for us to use while we are in Ethiopia.

Thank you for your prayers and support. May you have a wonderful and prosperous year in 2025!

Vivian Yoder:

As we are gearing up for the New Year and all the wonderful ministry opportunities it brings, I look forward to continuing the three Good News Clubs I assist with, sending out the prayer and praise each week and beginning to prepare for events that are coming up.



The holiday season was quite a whirlwind of wonderful events. I loved being able to gather with the committee members on December 10, the Capital Area teens on December 14, and the CYIA™ teens on January 4. I enjoyed planning games for the teens to take part in for the latter two events.

I am also quite excited to take TCE™ 2 this semester. I pray that the Lord will help me to complete all work that is required of me and prepare my heart for learning how to better reach His children.

Stay warm out there!

THANK YOU!

We are so thankful for all the “extra” funds God provided this past month through you! The financial books for the chapter look healthy going into 2025.

In order to meet the needs of the 2025 budget, the total needed per month is \$12,357. This includes all of the specific needs listed below. Currently, monthly contributions are averaging \$10,744.

Staff support:

Doug & Maryann Hammar—\$5,104 (current monthly contributions average \$3,442)

Elias Abdi—\$2167(current monthly contributions average \$1,539)

Vivian Yoder - \$680 (current monthly contributions average \$73.37)

Summer Ministry expenses:

CYIA Student Scholarships: \$2,000 (Goal: 10 students at \$200 per student)

Staff expenses for CYIA training: \$1,200 (\$300 per staff—Doug, Maryann, Elias, Vivian)

Wages for a paid summer missionary: \$2,423 for 6 weeks of ministry

Fair expenses: \$1,150

Mileage reimbursement for Staff: \$2,000

The Pancake Breakfast we were planning for February 1 has been canceled. It was brought to our attention that we would need to get a temporary food license to comply with FDA regulations for food fundraisers open to the public, The local committee decided not to go through the expense and the process to make that possible. Instead, we are sharing the need to help with these expenses here and trust God to provide.

Ways to donate:

Online: Go to capareacef.org/donate. There are three ways to give: PayPal (they take three percent out for fees), Venmo, or *Zeffy. On any of these platforms, you can indicate where you want your donation to be used.

You can also send a check to: CEF of MI, Capital Area Chapter, 4215 W. Mt. Hope Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917. Please us the reply slip to indicate where you want your donation to be used.

*If you want to pay with Zeffy, there is a place to make a donation to Zeffy. You can click on the suggested donation and make that “0” if you do not want to make a contribution to Zeffy.

Child Evangelism Fellowship® will make every effort to honor the contribution designation of the donor, yet contributions must be under the direction and control of *CEF*. *CEF* has the discretion to determine how to best use contributions to carry out its functions and purposes. Such control of the funds by *CEF* is required to ensure the donor’s contributions satisfy requirements for tax-deductibility.

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, April 24, 2025
CEF of MI, Capital Area Chapter
Annual Spring Banquet

Time, Location, and cost are yet to be determined.