



The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program has made a significant impact in our presbytery. This year approximately 100 kids and their families were impacted, two young adults lives have forever been changed, several churches have begun exploration into what real partnership means and have made commitments to participate in our next program year.

The Cincinnati Presbytery YAV Program has had the pleasure of hosting Maddie duBreuil and Sara Bryant in our twelfth year as a program.

Maddie has served in ministry at College Hill Presbyterian Church with their youth ministry program (CRASH). In this ministry, she has had the opportunity to teach scripture, lead retreats, mission trips, and other youth events. Maddie has cooked, cleaned, played her percussion instruments and even played with numbers (budgets). Reflecting on this journey in ministry, Maddie notes, *“My faith has been challenged to move beyond what is comfortable and more into the nitty gritty of serving Christ. I have been called to trust Him more and abandon what I believe my needs and wants to be and to pursue what His needs and wants are for me and my life”*.



Sara served at GLAD House through a partnership with Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church. GLAD House serves children who have mental health and behavioral problems as a result of living with a family member suffering from an addiction. Her ministry included tutoring, leading songs and games, assisting in therapy sessions, field trips, and providing administrative support within the office (designing/implementing a new data base). At Pleasant Ridge, Sara led in worship and interpreted the ministry of GLAD House. Sara’s faith has developed in learning to trust God through a ministry of presence. *“One small thing that happened at GLAD House that meant a lot to me was that one of the children had seen me scribble a few lines of poetry on a scratch paper. Later, this young girl came up to me and asked me to read something. It was a poem she had written. Then, she said, “See, I’m a poet just like you.” That made me see how God has been at work in the site placement. It is great to be given the opportunity to be a positive role model in their lives.”*

This year, we experienced the joy of a suburban church partnering with an urban ministry agency to provide a YAV placement. We saw first hand how working with a YAV can assist a suburban congregation in building a stronger and more effective bridge to understanding the unique challenges faced in urban situations and to increasing the inter-connectedness of suburban and urban ministries.

The Oversight committee began its work this spring to assist in the development of additional partnerships. For the upcoming year, we will work to recruit young adults who might have a particular interest in working in a partnership environment. Our goal is to host 3-4 YAV in the 2011-12 program year to work in partnership sites. We are excited to share this ministry with our Presbytery and we believe Presbytery’s investment in partnering churches through the YAV program will strengthen Presbytery’s mission.