

Dear Friends,

Don't you think that every kid should have the opportunity to play baseball no matter where they live? Wayside thinks so! The Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League (ANBL) has been giving kids this opportunity over fifteen years. Wayside's ANBL offers at-risk kids this each summer. The ANBL tries not only to teach kids the game of baseball; it also teaches kids Christian fundamentals and the fundamentals of creating and maintaining positive social networks. It is our hope that sowing these kinds of seeds will make a difference in the lives of a kid for years to come.

It's all about coaches . . . building relationships with young people and making a difference in their lives. One of the most important individuals in the life of a kid is his Coach. It is far better that kids emulate and listen to their Coach than a fellow gang member or gang leader!



Coach Cruz reflects on his years coaching in the ANBL:

My name is Cruz Alaniz. This is my 9th year coaching. I started as an assistant coach in 2001. . . . One of the benefits of being a coach in this league is that all of my boys (son) played their little league years. I think if the kids see that . . . parents and coaches care about what they are doing and get involved . . . there is a better chance that they will be successful in life.

Coach Cruz discusses a couple of his former players, Saul Castro and Alejandro Arriaga:

Alejandro is a left handed pitcher . . . the best pitcher that I've coached. Saul . . . an outstanding first baseman and also a pitcher. I never had any problems with these two. They were always ready to play and were well mannered.

Both Saul and Alejandro, now too old for the league, give back by helping Coach Cruz coach his new team.

Coach Cruz is a role model to his players and among his fellow coaches. Coach Cruz exemplifies community leadership and community support. "Over the years, I have never seen Coach Cruz raise a voice, an eyebrow, or in any way appear less than professional. When asked about his calm demeanor, Coach Cruz replied 'I just teach them . . . they know what to do.' He represents a father figure to his players and demonstrates patience and love." Quote from UYM Director, Scot Thurman.

The Urban Youth Ministry provides **free neighborhood baseball, summer camp, athletic mentoring programs, etc. during the summer for hundreds of children in the Aurora Community.** We need your help to continue to provide players like Saul and Alejandro the opportunity to be mentored by father figures like Coach Cruz.

One of the Urban Youth Ministry's greatest strength is in its volunteers. It is coaches and adult Christian role models who sow good seed into the life of a child. Volunteer coaches and mentors are at front lines of our ministry and make a significant difference in the lives of these children. Don't you think that every kid should be allowed the opportunity to play baseball no matter where they live? Wayside thinks so!

A gift of \$95.00 will give a young boy or girl the opportunity to learn the game of baseball, while being mentored by caring coaches like Coach Cruz. Your gift will also provide Christian mentoring for other young boys and girls via the Urban Youth Ministry's other free summer programs.

Just \$95.00 will offer a child all of this and more! I hope that you will partner with us and give a gift for our children. Please send your gift with this coupon in the enclosed envelope. **Join us in honoring Coach Cruz and the many other volunteer coaches who give of themselves to impact the life of a child.** We cannot do this without you!

Thank you for your consideration and generous support of these requests.



Gratefully,

Wayne