



Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation

Opening the Gates to a Brighter Future

PO Box 89, Altoona, PA 16603

814-949-8838

director@ggmf.org

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Our Mission

The Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation strives to help break the cycle of poverty that can ultimately determine the future of generations. The Foundation works to bring hope, resilience, and direction to children through after school programs that concentrate on academic success and the development of personal integrity. The Foundation wants every child to reach his potential in life regardless of family income.

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“Program”

When the school buses stop at Evergreen Manors, Fairview Hills, and Logan Hills to drop off crowds of elementary students, you can watch the daily race to see who can get in the door first. The kids are running to “program” as they call it. The after school programs sponsored by the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation are ready for this daily race and GGMF staff enjoy cheering for the first student to arrive.

As the kids filter in, they put their backpacks and jackets away, get washed up and settle down with a healthy snack that has been prepared for them. There’s a lot of talking and laughing amidst big gulps of cold milk and second helpings of fresh fruit. GGMF staff members commend the kids on their manners throughout the small meal, and everyone seems to be smiling. “Program” is just one simple word used to designate this safe place to be, the place where people care deeply, and the place where dreams are highly encouraged.

Supporting Families

The family is the biggest influence in a young child’s life. Children model their parents or guardians. As the foundation meets the individual needs of children, staff members are conscious of the role and responsibility of parents. The foundation is prepared to supply a new pair of shoes or a sturdy backpack to a child in need, but parents are consulted first. We want children to view their parents as providers, and we aim to help strengthen families by treating all members with respect and dignity. Poverty can’t be overcome by encouraging the reliance of handouts, but it can be overcome by encouraging the reliance of family.

A Great Turnout

The GGMF after school programs are located in the midst of low income housing developments in Altoona. The enrollment at each site fluctuates throughout the year as many families tend to move in and out of the developments in response to changes in family structure, job opportunities, or lease violations. The GGMF is happy to report that the after school programs have a huge response this year. The enrollment is nearing our maximum of 35 students per site. In past years, children enrolled in the GGMF were able to achieve average math and reading grades of 90%. We are very enthused with the large enrollment and look forward to helping the kids succeed in school.



Where is GGMF?

The Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation office is located in the Fairview Hills development at 118 East Spruce Court, Altoona. The office space is provided free of charge by the Altoona Housing Authority. The foundation has three rooms on the second floor of the office shared with the Fairview Hills management. We are so extremely grateful for this in-kind gift of office space, paid utilities, and moral support.



*Toni Bilik,
GGMF
Executive
Director, with
Brad Kanuch,
Fairview Hills
Administrative
Manager*

Funding After School Program Sites

The Executive Director is often asked about funding. How do we reach sixty to eighty children every school day, give them a healthy snack, help with homework, field trips, special guests, science experiments, crafts and games, and so much more. The GGMF receives money from the United Way, UPMC Altoona, Operation Our Town, the annual "For the Kids" golf tournament and the Altoona Housing Authority. Those contributions meet a little more than fifty percent of our total yearly expenses. We rely on contributions from businesses, churches, families, and individuals. Please consider making a contribution to the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation. Your donation of \$200 will cover the cost of all food and materials that will be provided for one child for the whole school year.

The GGMF is in need of paper towels, paper plates, and 9 ounce paper cups. Please ask your church or organization to sponsor a collection to help. Thank you!

GGMF Gold

The words 'gold' and 'golden' are often used to describe something that is of the upmost value. The GGMF chooses those words to describe the staff members who work at our after school programs. These folks are on a mission, and I could never describe their dedication with mere words. When they are with the kids, they are focused on each child's emotional and academic needs. They care about the children's present happiness and future successes. Some observers would wonder why difficult children aren't immediately dismissed from our programs, but GGMF staff members use all of their talents, experience, and ingenuity to curb problem behaviors before they consider dismissal. Every child is valued. The GGMF would like to welcome back our returning staff members:

Karen Lynch(6th yr),
Jody Christen(3rd yr),
Steffan Housum(3rd yr),
Louie French(2nd yr),
Becca Brown(2nd yr),
and Ryan Alden (2nd yr).
We welcome new staff members Beth Kanski, Allura Pfiester, and Kathy Morgan.



A Healthy Emphasis

It's probably no surprise to our donors that the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation emphasizes good nutrition. Dr. Zane Gates is our founder, and he knows the effect that good nutrition can have on a person's long term health. The foundation rarely serves foods high in sugar or fat with no nutritional content. Ice cream or cookies are used as a treat on special occasions, and are limited to one serving. The children have no problem with this concept. They are accustomed to eating healthy foods at the after school program, and we hope that they will adopt healthy eating habits throughout life

