



**NEIGHBORHOOD
CHRISTIAN
CENTERS, INC.**

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Bringing the Country to the Kids!

Memphis, Tennessee – March 12, 2008 – Each year, thousands of Memphis children are rewarded for their hard work in school with Spring Break vacations to places such as Florida, California and even Mexico . . . and each year, *thousands of underserved Memphis children remain in their homes during Spring Break, only dreaming of vacations to faraway places.* For the latter group of children, traveling to another country or even another city or state has never been a reality.

Even though some young people will not be able to see the world during Spring Break, Neighborhood Christian Centers, Inc. (NCC) is committed to bring the world to them through what is called “Spring Jam,” an annual event in which children from all over Memphis are offered fun-filled activities to experience aspects of another country. Spring Jam has featured Brazil and Mexico in the past few years, and this year features **China, scheduled Saturday, March 15, from 9am – 3pm, at NCC, 785 Jackson Ave. The event is free of charge and open to kids from all neighborhoods.**

“It is a must see,” said Youth Ministries Supervisor Carlos Webster. “You walk in and you are blown away. It’s literally like being in another country with all of the decorations, music and everything.”

Kids will start their out-of-country experience by entering a gym that looks nothing like a gym, but instead like China. First though, they go to the “post office,” where they get their passports, then the “bank” for money, the “physician’s office” for needed immunizations, and finally the “airport” to fly to China. Once in “China,” the Welcome Center is where they may pick up a map of the country, as well as informational facts like what to do, what not to do, etc. Then the kids get to experience the food, music, shopping, and other aspects as if they were visiting China. Of course they must go through “customs” before leaving, to report what they’ve purchased.

This year, kids will experience The Great Wall, a Chinese Dragon, as well as a Chinese market, restaurant, school where the language is taught, martial arts, calligraphy and stationary paper, finger locks, yo-yos, fans, and Terra-Cotta Soldiers for Xian.

Spring Jam is possible thanks to the NCC staff who put it on, and from others who have additional knowledge and resources – with help this year from Rhodes College and the Greater Memphis United Chinese Association. Donations can be made to the Neighborhood Christian Center at 785 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38107 for this event as well as others. Please call (901) 881-6013 for more information.

Neighborhood Christian Centers, Inc. is a non-profit organization in Memphis, Tennessee, whose mission is to provide compassionate, Christ-centered ministry to the practical and spiritual needs of the city’s poor. This year, NCC continues its legacy and is proud to celebrate 30 years of serving the Memphis community! NCC serves approximately 100,000 individuals each year, addressing the development of the whole person through educational tutoring, mentoring, college prep and assistance, arts/cultural activities, money management training, career guidance, Biblical teaching, and food/clothing/financial assistance. Thanks to NCC, kids are learning more and becoming productive citizens, parents are becoming more resourceful and providing a stronger family foundation, and NCC volunteers and donors are contributing to the success that is taking place in Memphis!

