



# Tall Turf Times

Equipping Youth for Lives of Reconciliation in God's World

Volume XVII

Issue II

Summer 2013

## Rebuilding Relationships



2013 Summer Staff play the "name train" during orientation.

**By: Kyle Lim  
Marketing and  
Fundraising Coordinator**

Recently, I read over Tall Turf's vision statement and was caught by the phrase: "rebuilding relationships." For us at Tall Turf, rebuilding relationships is part of God's vision for unity and justice in our city and the world. Rebuilding relationships takes many forms at Tall Turf, but one of the ways I see us doing this best is with our summer staff.

For me personally, it is always a joy to see young children from different backgrounds having fun and playing together. But for a variety of reasons, growing up seems to separate people. We tend to stick more with

"our people." People who think, act, and more often than not, look, like we do.

It is this reason that makes me so proud of our staff. Not only are they from a variety of backgrounds and life-experiences, but they are intentional about sharing their experiences and learning from each other.

The depth of relationship that is formed by this group of people over the course of a summer is a wonder to behold. There is a kind of contagious joy that makes you want to be around them longer, to share in their experiences, and be a part of the work that they do with kids and with each other.

We are so excited for this group of young people! We are excited for what they can teach kids and we can't wait

## Send a child to camp!

We believe that one of the best experiences a child can have is the experience of spending time at camp. While at camp, children can be children. They are free to run, swim, laugh, shout and perhaps most importantly they are free to learn. Tall Turf creates a fun, safe environment for children to learn about nature, God and each other. Our wonderfully diverse and skilled group of summer staff will make sure that they are well cared for!

**This summer, we ask that you consider sending a child to camp. It could be yours, or it could be somebody else's!**

For more information on how to send a child to camp, give us a call at (616) 452-7906 or email Kyle at [kyle@tallturf.org](mailto:kyle@tallturf.org)

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**LIT's protest violence**

**By: Kyle Lim**  
**Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator**

In our winter newsletter I wrote a piece about the children who protested the injustices that were occurring in their communities and in our country. 50 years later, that legacy of silent protest lives on with our Leaders In Training who took the initiative to conduct a silent protest against the violence that inflicts our community.

Our teens partnered with youth from Madison Square church and took to the streets of South East Grand Rapids, showing our community that not all young teens are "gang-bangers," but rather that there are young people who are invested in seeing our community heal and improve.

At the 2013 Grand Rapids Initiative for Leaders graduation ceremony, Tall Turf LITs were awarded the city's Youth Impact Award for their work.

*"[Our] silent demonstration brings the awareness that this is our community and we want it back."*

**Robbyin Bell - Tall Turf LIT**



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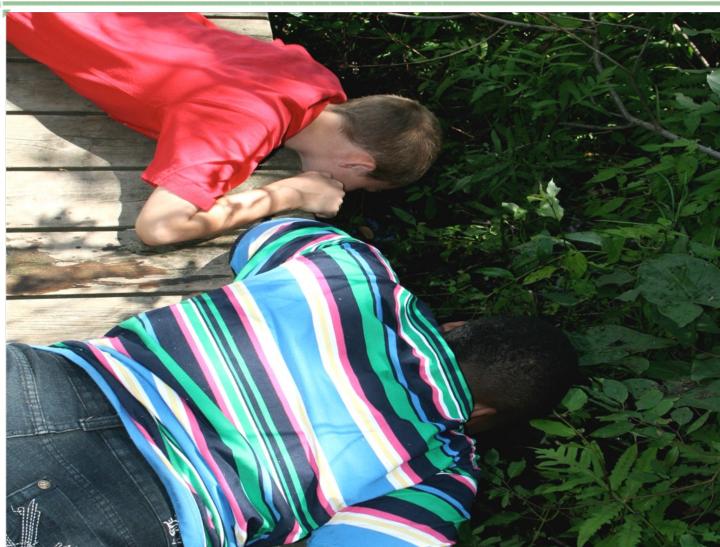
**In Memory of Maria (Hoogstrate) Wetzel**

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**In Memory of David Scott Sypytkowski**  
 Lee ad Larry Gravelyn



Looking for some FUN? Find it this summer at

**Camp Tall Turf**

## Camp Tall Turf 2013 Summer Dates

**1st Session (ages 8-13):**

June 26—July 3

**2nd Session (ages 8-13):**

July 8—July 12

**3rd Session (ages 8-13):**

July 16—July 23

**4th Session (ages 8-13):**

August 6—August 13

**Latino Family Camp**

July 5—July 7

**Single Parent Family Camp**

July 26—July 28

**Adventure Camp (ages 14-17)**

July 30—August 3

**Register now: [www.tallturf.org](http://www.tallturf.org)**

**Questions Call: 616-452-7906**



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## The Racial Justice Superhero By: Kyle Lim

Early last year, I stumbled upon this helpful guide from ColorLines and have had it pinned to the cork board in my office as a reminder that there is still a lot of work to be done. I have included an excerpt from the article as I thought it was very helpful:

"Begin by thinking about the institutions that you routinely interact with—stores, banks, media outlets, health facilities, schools, your workplace, community or religious organizations, city governments and so on. Pick one and ask:

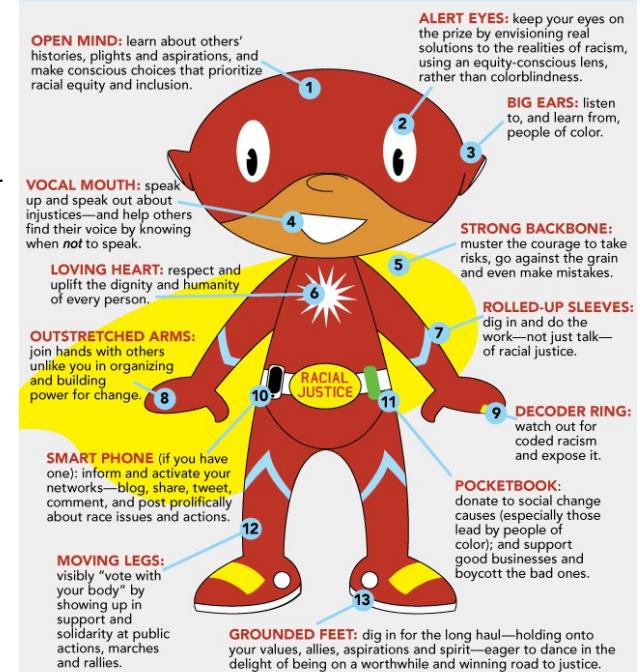
- Are the policies and practices, and their impacts, racially inclusive and fair?
- Who are the stakeholders and how can they be engaged in making change?
- What concrete equitable changes can you envision and propose?
- How can you focus your collective power to influence the power-holders?
- What purposeful action steps could lead to real change and when can you begin?

It doesn't involve rocket science or supernatural powers. In fact, **all it takes is to be simply, but fully, human.** Indeed, [achieving racial justice] is a full-body endeavor, involving an open mind, open heart, open arms, and often, an open mouth." (Terry Keleher, ColorLines)

To read the full article visit [colorlines.com](http://colorlines.com) and search "racial transformer."

## HOW TO BE A RACIAL TRANSFORMER

Here's a sample illustration to remind you of the many possible ways to use your power—your superpowers—as a Racial Transformer.



Racial justice superhero courtesy of **COLORLINES.com**