



### Shower Us With Blessings!

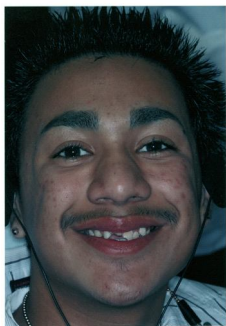
How can you bless Cloud and Fire? We are currently in need of some items you may wish to donate or know how to obtain at discounted pricing. Shower us!

- ◆ Used Veggie Tales DVDs
- ◆ Passes to sporting events
- ◆ Discount coupons for activities
- ◆ Flight miles
- ◆ 45 pairs of steel-toe work boots
- ◆ 45 pairs of work pants
- ◆ 36-passenger school bus
- ◆ Modular classroom buildings

Call (818) 920-0101 to donate!

Visit our NEW website!

[www.cloudandfire.org](http://www.cloudandfire.org)



### BEFORE AND AFTER

Left and Below: Danny damaged his teeth in a bicycle accident.

Above right: Dr. Alan Levy with Danny after the generous Dentist restored Danny's smile



Visit Dr. Levy and tell him Cloud & Fire sent you!

## KICKIN' AROUND IDEAS HOW TO HELP?

There are so many ways to get involved with Cloud and Fire! Whatever your talents, interests, and time, there's a place for you to serve, and a way to help bring hope and change lives. We are always looking for volunteers who love working with children, but we also need a team of professionals who can volunteer in other ways, too. Here is just a SHORT list of some of our current needs:

- Attorney
- Advertising
- Architect
- Bookkeeper
- Carpenter
- Event Planner
- Fundraiser
- Graphic Designer
- Illustrator
- Musician
- Orthodontist
- Proofreader
- Public Relations
- Social Worker
- Therapist
- Urban Planner



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### A NEW SMILE ON OUR FACE!

DANNY HAS BEEN PART OF CLOUD AND FIRE'S AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING CENTER for five years. Recently, when the 15-year-old broke off his two front teeth in a bike accident, his family did not have funds for the costly dental work. But we couldn't let Danny lose his smile! So, we went to work to find a solution.

Fortunately for Danny, Dr. Levy generously offered to restore Danny's winning smile with beautiful new crowns. Dr. Levy also enlisted help from Dr. Jeff Berlin, an Endodontist who provided a root canal on a tooth that was broken off at the gum line.

Thanks to our dental super heroes, Danny's smile is as beautiful as ever! He is definitely thrilled with his new smile, but his biggest endorsement of Dr. Levy had to do with something else. Danny told Melody Rossi, our Executive Director:

*"Everyone there is so friendly! They treat you so nicely, and make you feel at home—like you are their nephew!"*

Thanks for making a difference, "Uncle Alan!"

**DR. ALAN LEVY, D.D.S.**  
5525 ETIWANDA AVENUE, STE 104  
TARZANA, CA 91356  
818. 881.3802

To donate services to Cloud and Fire Ministries, call 818.920.0101

# Summer



June 2010

## WE NEED A SUMMER SOAKING!

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS IN A PERPETUAL STATE OF DROUGHT.** Regardless of annual rainfall, we always seem to have a water shortage. Although this has *always* been the case, recent rationing and increased rates emphasize the fact that we simply must conserve. Thirsty landscaping plants are being replaced with drought-tolerant species, and bathrooms are being overhauled with low-flow toilets and shower heads. By city edict, Angelenos are allowed to water lawns only three times each week or face stiff penalties. These adjustments are not pleasant, but they help us get through the dry season.

Cloud and Fire is aware that like a drought, the current economic climate presents great challenges, as well. Money is more scarce than in recent years, and many of our faithful friends are looking for ways to conserve funds. Consequently, competition among nonprofits for contribution dollars is more intense than ever before. We are all making difficult choices about where to spend, scrimp, and cut back.

Like Southern Californians during the heat of summer, we at Cloud and Fire are conserving resources. We have trimmed costs to the bare bone and have developed innovative partnerships to maximize our ability to serve. We are doing all we can to be wise stewards.

**What we really need now is a summer shower of funds to help us get through this dry season!** We have prepared the soil, planted our seeds, and are ready to take in a tremendous harvest. But we simply cannot continue without an outpouring from God's people. **Will you help us answer the cry of at-risk urban youth?**

*One who waters will himself be watered. —Proverbs 11:25*



I will send down the showers in their season; and they shall be showers of blessing. —Ezekiel 34:26

## CLOUD AND FIRE BRINGS HOPE TO HOMELESS CHILDREN!

**DID YOU KNOW THAT CLOUD AND FIRE PARTNERS WITH THE UNION RESCUE MISSION?** Hope Gardens, the Mission's gorgeous complex in Sylmar, houses women and children who were formerly homeless, and helps them rebuild their lives. The secluded facility currently houses 35 women and 80 children, and prepares them for a new life. But how does Cloud and Fire fit in?

CFM's new YouthBuild program helps at-risk youth finish high school and learn hands-on construction at the same time. Our YouthBuild students needed a place to practice their skills, and Hope Gardens needed repairs and renovations. So, the two organizations teamed up. Together, we are fighting homelessness and preventing youth from involvement in gangs and drugs. YouthBuild students love being there, and everyone agrees it's a "marriage made in Heaven!" *Read more about our partnerships at [www.cloudandfire.org](http://www.cloudandfire.org)*



Visit our NEW website!

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Cloud and Fire Ministries

Providing a future and a hope to urban youth for more than a decade!

# Summer Activities Keep Kids Out of Gangs!



Above: The CFM 2009 Camping trip was to Alpine Lake, in California's Gold Rush Country. Besides hiking and swimming, campers learned they are God's special treasure, and how to live for eternal things that will never lose their value.

## CAMPING

**Most inner city youth never go camping.** They haven't seen mountains, or felt the cool, clear water of a rushing snow-melt stream. These young people live in a world with gunshots, sirens, and the loud thrumming of police helicopters overhead, not the quiet lapping of the lakeside on a gentle summer's eve. For them, going camping with CFM gives them a chance to see a world that is bigger than the concrete neighborhood where they live. When they slow down, feel the serenity, and hear the still, small voice of God in the gentle breeze, it's as though a burden has been lifted off of them. The outdoors can bring healing for all of us, but this is especially true for kids from the inner city.

These trips are life changing. Saul Espinoza, a CFM grad who now has his own photography business, has gone on more than 10 camping trips with CFM. Today, he helps plan and lead trips for younger students. He says, "When I visited Yosemite for the first time, that's when I knew my life would never be the same. That trip changed me forever." Saul later explored a wilderness survival course with the Sierra Club.

Become a camp sponsor and change a youth's life forever!

### What YouthBuilders Say about CFM

*"Cloud and Fire helped me realize I didn't want to lose my life over three letters that don't mean anything, and fight over things that weren't mine in the first place. Thanks to Cloud and Fire, I don't have to live that lifestyle anymore."*  
—P. F., 18-year old former gang member



**For only \$150 you can send an inner city youth to camp for an entire week!**

Sequoia, August 2010

## CLOUD AND FIRE YOUTHBUILD

**The BEST way to keep youth out of gangs is to provide them with jobs.** Cloud and Fire's new YouthBuild program helps former gang members and youth who have dropped out of school to learn construction skills and finish high school at the same time. The program prepares these youth for the job market by giving them hands-on training, a strong work ethic, and on-the-job experience.

This summer, continuing YouthBuild students will receive stipends and scholarships for using their new-found construction skills to build classrooms for homeless women and children who live at Hope Gardens in Sylmar. They will hone skills they have already developed, and will learn blueprint reading and problem solving. Best of all, their work will also help needy families stay off the streets.

**Keep our streets safe by providing jobs and training for at-risk youth**

**Just \$25 per day will help train a youth for a lifelong career!**

[www.cloudandfire.org](http://www.cloudandfire.org)



## MISSIONS TRIPS

**Youth from even the poorest communities in America are wealthy when compared to the poor in third-world countries.** In order to help Cloud and Fire youth really understand this, founders Pride Metcalf and Melody Rossi are taking our second CFM team to Brazil to work with indigenous tribes along the Amazon River. Three YouthBuild students and three CFM staff will join members of Bel Air Presbyterian Church for this missions trip. The team will assist in providing medical care and Vacation Bible School for village children.

*"God has changed my life since I came to Cloud and Fire, and now I want to tell other people about His love."* Steven V., YouthBuild Participant

**Pray for Team Brazil! July 4-12, 2010**

*Left: CFM grad and staff member Emma Rios in Brazil, August 2009.*

**Your gift of just \$300 will help develop an urban youth into a global leader!**

**We need \$4,500 to send three YouthBuild students to Brazil this summer. Will you be one of our 15 "Missionary Senders"?**

## SUMMER FUN

**Summer is a time for kids to have fun and make memories.** But for inner city youth, opportunities are limited. Children live in overcrowded apartment buildings with no play areas, and local parks are overrun by gang members and drug dealers. These children are confined to the indoors during the summer months because there isn't anywhere safe for them to play.

Cloud and Fire provides safe, fun activities for urban youth every summer. Swimming, boating, beach trips, bowling, skating, and laser tag are just a few of the outings that we



provide so kids can have fun and really enjoy their summer. The added benefit is that strong friendships are formed and bonds with positive role models are made. This makes youth much less likely to join gangs or get involved with drugs. So, at Cloud and Fire, summer is a time to invest in lives so they can be changed forever!

**Help us keep youth out of gangs**

**Your gift of \$25 will help keep kids safe this summer!**

**To host or sponsor an event, call us at (818) 920-0101**

