

REBECCA MACKISH MEMORIAL MISSION Kansas City, KS



After-school program

The letterhead used by the Rebecca Mackish Memorial Mission, carries this message: “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” (Matthew 25:40) This has been the “golden rule” of the founder of the mission, Ruth Branch, from childhood, where she grew up in a happy Christ-centered home in the old, original section of Kansas City, KS. Her daughter Barbara Branch is now carrying on her mission.

Over the years, Ruth had seen her neighborhood change from primarily white and middle-class to a racial and cultural mix of African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics. She became concerned about the children who seemed to have no direction or guidance in their after-school hours. Ruth sensed a call from God to establish an after school club to minister to these children’s body, soul and spirit. High school and college students gather on Mondays for after-school activities. Fourth through eighth grade children meet on Wednesday’s, with a girls’ meeting on Thursdays. An evening Bible study for young married couples meets each week as well as adult Bible classes.

None of the staff are salaried; their work is entirely “volunteer.” However, there are costs involved in providing food and supplies. Used clothing is continually being recycled through the benevolence room. Local merchants provide clothing and shoes, much of it new. Volunteers are welcome during the summer months, and are housed in dormitory-type rooms. Assistance is needed with Vacation Bible School, and with maintenance and repair work on the property.

This mission is a wonderful way to reach inner-city youth and adults with the love of Christ. This is accomplished through both spiritual and physical ministry, and is exemplified in Ruth & Barbara Branch’s tireless commitment to those for whom Christ died.

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