

Dear Friends,

We took a significant risk two years ago in establishing our LEAP Year program. Questions that went through my mind:

- Can we attract motivated young adults who will serve at PTM for housing and \$500 per month?
- Can we save PTM money by investing in LEAPers? Can we provide LEAPers with a meaningful experience?

We currently have 3 LEAPers (Abbie, Lakeyia, and Nicole) who are doing an awesome job filling jobs that were formerly filled by permanent staff. Having them serve as key staff has not only saved PTM costs, it has allowed for even more attention to these responsibilities. One of our current LEAPers will be working full-time next year as part of PTM's permanent staff. They wrote together a beautiful poem (below) which expresses the ways they have benefitted from this year-long internship.

Seeing these young adults add so much value to PTM (and PTM add so much value to their lives) has given us the confidence to double down on the risk to growing this program. Thanks to an incredibly generous 0% interest loan, PTM has been able to purchase a home near Charlotte Park (610 Westboro Drive). It has enough space for up to 8 interns and over a 15 year period will cost less than the rental of two apartments (plus we will gain an asset anticipated to grow in value). On top of the financial benefit of buying this home, we will now have more ability to create a safe and predictable living environment for young adults making such a big impact at PTM.

Below is a brief biography of the five interns moving in on July 31st. Each one will work at PTM at least 40 hours per week for an entire school year:

- **Amy Goodwin**, a December, 2015 graduate of Missouri Southern State University. She has been a camp counselor for over three years and is a Dean's List student.
- **Rachel Knox**, a 2015 high school graduate who is taking a year off from Belmont University. She has been a dance instructor for over three years and while at Belmont performed a semester of work study at PTM.
- **Jordan Taylor**, a May, 2016 graduate of Lipscomb University with a degree in Education. She has served multiple times on mission trips to Mexico.
- **Bethany Jones**, a May, 2016 graduate of Abilene Christian University. During her college years she founded and led an afterschool program for at-risk youth living in a low-income apartment complex.
- **Maggie Blanchard**, a May, 2016 graduate of Florida State University. She has worked at Winshape Camp for the past three summers and has led musical worship for her collegiate ministry.

In order to prepare this home for these awesome additions to our staff, we will need to spend close to \$50,000 in renovations (additional bathroom, replace deck, repair drywall, finish floors, paint,

etc.). We are building a team of volunteers to conduct as much of the work as possible, but still expect to spend \$50,000. Would you be willing to help with this project—either as a laborer, or as a financial supporter, or both? If interested, there is an envelope enclosed for you to indicate a gift for 610 Westboro Renovation.

I am grateful for the role you have played in building PTM and for the incredible opportunity we have to continue recruiting outstanding young adults to help serve more youth across Nashville.

Very gratefully,

Chan Sheppard
Executive Director

LEAP Year: Beautifully Broken

A Year exposing our weaknesses gently, but more so highlighting our strengths.

A Year causing tears of frustration, but also tears of joy.

A Year draining us in some moments, but fulling us to the brim in others.

A Year exposing some of the ugliness of community, but also the beauty of living with other believers.

A Year humbling us through moments of failure, but the next filling us with enough pride to feel like we can run the ministry graciously entrusted to us.

A Year serving in a workplace radiating Jesus' light, but around us a community is bleeding darkness.

A Year encouraging us to be more and do more, but teaching us to rest where Jesus has us now.

A Year teaching us the true heart of Jesus, but at moments causing us to question His goodness.

A Year seeing the redemptive powers of Jesus in this world, but also seeing the absence of full reconciliation until His return.

A Year worshiping Jesus.

LEAP Year is the most beautifully broken experience. A true example of the Lord breaking down our comforts, our idols, our pride in the most glorious of ways to show us grace, growth, humility, love, peace, trust, and HIM.

LEAP Year is hard, sweet, difficult, beautiful, and challenging but these are the times the Lord has given as a true gift. Clearing our vision so all we can see is His light and His goodness.

PTM's LEAP Year has brought urban ministry into our thoughts to challenge, community into our home through grace, and Jesus into our hearts with love.