

# **B.C.B. 2008 REVIEW**

## **Real Ministry Effecting Real People!**

Minister Teresa Boykins-Bakerx – Programs Director

Block Club Basketball always brings excitement to summer at U.C.M. and this year was no different. We started the summer with 12 teams and quickly we realized only 6 were going to play: Trinidad, Youth With-A-Purpose, Reed St., Prospect, Roslyn St. and True Bethel Baptist Church. Roslyn and True Bethel were the new teams in the league this year. As the end of July approached, we were down to four teams and too much surprise True Bethel and Roslyn were still hanging in there!

With only four teams in the league this made it easy to decide the play offs, everyone played! Even though we only had 4 teams, there was no shortage in excitement or talent. True Bethel made it to the championship by defeating last years' number two team in the league, Youth With A Purpose. Roslyn played a great playoff game against the reigning champs, Trinidad. Although Trinidad defeated Roslyn, they had to fight for it so Roslyn had nothing to be ashamed of. The Championship was now set with new comers True Bethel set to play undefeated Trinidad: And play they did. The championship was close throughout the entire 1<sup>st</sup> half with neither team ever leading by more than 4 points. But Trinidad pulled out the win in an exciting 2<sup>nd</sup> half to win the championship for a 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. Congratulations Trinidad!

The excitement wasn't limited to basketball; Kick-It to the Curb was full of great fun as our church partners came out and joined us for terrific children's activities! Everyday there was a team out to do arts and crafts, face painting, play games and share motivating words of inspiration.

The summer of 2008 was an extremely busy summer for law enforcement. There seemed to several shootings and crimes involving young people; however, Urban Christian Ministries was able to reach out to hundreds of youth between the ages of 5 and 18. All of the youth we were able reach, remained non-violent throughout the summer! What an accomplishment. Our goal for the summer of 2009 is to reach at least 8 communities and their young people. Our mission is to bring hope and unity to the communities in the city of Buffalo.

Real ministry effecting real lives and real people, that's what this year's Block Club Basketball was all about.