

## Children's Rights

**"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children." Deuteronomy 6:5-7a**

We believe that each child has rights that are imperative for their development as emotionally, spiritually, and physically healthy human beings. Unfortunately, in many impoverished communities **such as ours**, these rights are often neglected or denied to the children. The church must respond to defend their rights.

Urban Harvest Ministries works to defend the rights of our children and to provide them with opportunities that many of them simply cannot receive. We believe these rights include:

- **The right to be loved unconditionally.**
- **The right to receive an education.**
- **The right to be healthy.**
- **The right to enjoy life.**
- **The right to develop self-confidence and social skills.**
- **The right to have the opportunity to hear the gospel and learn about Jesus Christ.**

**The Right to Be Loved Unconditionally** Children must know unconditional love for complete growth and emotional health. Our children learn the unconditional love of Father God through the love, patience, nurture and support of His church.

**The Right to Receive an Education** Because of the lack of parental support and a devastated and ineffective school system, many of our children are seriously lacking in academic skills. Through our child discipleship and after-school tutoring programs, we provide tutoring, assistance with homework, literacy training, **school supplies** (when necessary), and encouragement and emotional support so vitally important for a child's academic and social success.

**The Right to Be Healthy** The lack of a nurturing, caring family can result in children with poor hygiene and personal health. The health of a child is a vital part of ministry to the "whole person" and crucial for their complete development. **Our children are instructed about personal hygiene and health. As needs arise, supplementary food is provided. When necessary, health problems are addressed in a professional manner.**

**The Right to Enjoy Life** Children are a source of joy and laughter to all of those around them, but the environment in which some children grow and the obligation to assume mature responsibilities such as the care of younger siblings robs children of their youth. Our children are provided with opportunities for fun and recreation in a safe and caring environment.

**The Right to Develop Self-Confidence and Social Skills** Poverty, poor education, broken families, parental substance abuse, and other serious factors can impair the social development of a child. Our children are offered personal attention, unconditional love, encouragement, nurture, and support to help them acquire belief in themselves, develop skills for social interaction, and nurture Godly values.

**The Right to Hear the Gospel and Learn about Jesus Christ** The greatest need of a child is to know the love of God through relationship with Jesus Christ. Through many methods of creative outreach, we seek to introduce children to the love of God. Our children receive regular Bible training with the practical application of Biblical truth to make young disciples.

We believe:

- That God cares about the needs of every child.
- That the most loving thing we can do for children is to introduce them to Jesus Christ.
- That every child must have the opportunity to respond to the Gospel.
- That it is the responsibility of the church to develop minds, bodies and spirits.
- That as children discover their worth to God, their self-esteem blossoms.
- That children who recognize their roles as disciples are a strategic part of today's church.
- That children disciplined in the Word and ways of God become our most potent weapon against tomorrow's poverty and spiritual ignorance, because they are tomorrow's church and tomorrow's leaders in society.

**"Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14**