



**SEPTEMBER
2024**

UNFINISHED UPDATE

Dear Eastside Family,

As we approach the two-year mark of our Unfinished journey, I'm filled with awe at how God has been at work in our lives, our church, and our community. Barbara and I have sensed His activity in our own lives and I'm confident you have too.

Two years ago, we challenged 100% of us as Unfinished People to rally together and commit to a season of generosity discipleship. So many of you stepped up, completing or even exceeding your commitments. I couldn't be more proud of your faithfulness. Thank you for your unrelenting commitment to financially honor God and advance Eastside's vision.

To those who didn't make a formal commitment but have given faithfully throughout this journey, thank you. Your ongoing support is advancing the Unfinished Vision of Eastside in powerful ways. I encourage you to keep pressing on, honoring God, and furthering His work in this world.

As we near the culmination of our Unfinished adventure, we still have immense opportunities before us. Whether you've been giving faithfully throughout or are considering jumping in now, I hope you'll seek God's will to accomplish His purposes. While Eastside's story began over 60 years ago, in many ways, we're just getting started.

It's amazing to see God at work through you, Eastside. I know we'll stay the course to accomplish even more because our story is still unfolding. What has happened over the past two years is setting the stage for an exciting future.

Thank you for your commitment to uncompromising faith in Jesus, unprecedented hope in serving our partners, and unrelenting love to reach those far from God. I celebrate you, celebrate God, and prayerfully ask Him to continue working through us.

As we move forward, let's remain steadfast in our generosity, our service, and our love. Whether you're completing a commitment, giving faithfully without one, or considering your first step in this journey, know that your contribution is making a difference. You're part of something bigger than yourself - a story of transformation, both in our local community and around the world.

Let's continue to write this Unfinished story together, trusting in God's guidance and provision. I'm excited to see what the next chapter holds for Eastside and for each of us as we grow in faith and generosity.

With gratitude and anticipation,



Gene Appel
Senior Pastor



Unfinished Story

At the start of Eastside's Unfinished initiative, our Compassion Team began dreaming up ways, big and small, that we could be a conduit of unprecedented hope to hurting people in our communities and around the world.

Recently, our team was excited to connect with an organization called Blue Skies. This ministry offers hope through beach camps and mountain getaways designed to lift families above the clouds of childhood cancer. Blue Skies has historically served families on the East Coast, with the dream that someday they would be able to bring support, comfort, joy, and hope to families fighting the same fight here on the West Coast.

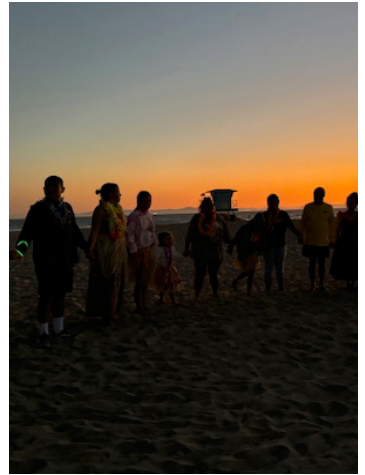
When our Compassion Team learned about their dream and what was needed to make West Coast retreats a success, our team jumped in! The very first 4-day event was hosted in Huntington Beach, and served 11 families with children fighting cancer — including 2 Eastside families!

Because of YOUR generosity, our team was able to step in and provide meals for everyone involved, family members and Blue Skies leaders alike. Eastside volunteers participated in and supported activities each day including games, devotional times, pool time, etc. This not only helped these kiddos feel normal and make memories, but it also allowed the parents of these warriors to connect with each other, get some much-needed rest, and be encouraged.

On the last night of the retreat, a team made up of an Eastside small group and volunteers helped to plan, prepare, and throw a Luau for all of the families on the sands of Huntington Beach. Not only was it filled with fun activities like an authentic hula show and lesson, beach limbo, and s'mores, but we concluded with a medal ceremony for all the warriors and their siblings who have sacrificed and endured so much!

By the vanishing light of sunset, we circled up and prayed a blessing over them as they headed back home for treatments, doctor's appointments, challenging schedules, and the nearly endless demands on their time and energy.

Eastside, your generosity is doing more than you'll ever know to bring hope and joy to families like these, in your backyard and around the world. Thank you!



Now this is fun...

Your generosity made this happen:

1,935 kits donated locally for community partners

344 patients treated in Ecuador

150 students served in Peru

578 patients treated in Kenya

50 special needs families were part of special olympics

120 kids served at camp in Thailand

112 people baptized in the Philippines

305 Eastsiders served in Baja

5,000 pairs of new shoes provided locally and globally

18,555 acts of compassion completed globally and locally this summer!

Our life-changing Next Gen Summer Camps were attended by nearly **600** people, a **15% increase** from 2023! Dozens of students & young adults decided to get baptized as a result, students took steps out of loneliness & into community, and God showed His power!

Our Young Adult Ministry had over **80** people take part in a Global Serving Trip! That's one of the highest totals in the history of Eastside!

Our Young Adult Ministry attenders contributed **1,481** acts of Compassion during Eastside's Summer of Serving!

“

I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

Philippians 1:6