



STARTING AN AFTER-SCHOOL GOOD NEWS CLUB

By Ashley Casillas

- 1) Call CEF Mid-Cities office to start the process (562)-943-7188.
- 2) Lead teacher meets with CEF Director.
- 3) Lead teacher and the team meet with the CEF director.
- 4) Lead teacher and club volunteers attend GNC (Good News Club) Basic Training.
- 5) Meeting with the principal.
- 6) Obtain and turn in School Facility Form to principal for School District approval.

Your team cannot start an GNC until all paperwork is turned in and filled out correctly to the director.

- 7) Have a prep meeting with the entire team led by the lead teacher.
- 8) Permission Slips
 - a. Work with the director to personalize forms.
 - b. Get approval of Permission Slip from principal.
 - c. Distribute to children.
 - d. Have signed Permission Slips for each student to be kept on file at the club.
 - e. If the student does not have a permission slip turned in, a verbal agreement by the parent/ guardian is needed.

There must be at least four "Team Members" to start your GNC. It's best to have 5-6 people on your team.

***For more information contact Ashley Casillas at office@cefmidcities.org**

U.S. Supreme Court Ruling
Good News Club v. Milford Central School District
June 11, 2001

It is legal to allow *Good News Club*[®] to meet in school facilities.

On June 11, 2001, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that *Child Evangelism Fellowship*[®] could have access to public school facilities to conduct Good News Clubs. The decision stated that Bible clubs such as the *Good News Club* must be given the same access to school facilities accorded any other non-school-related outside group.



In *Good News Club v. Milford Central School District*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that a public school which allows use of its facilities to secular groups may not discriminate against religious groups. The *Good News Club* case involved an adult-initiated and adult-led after-school religious club sponsored by *Child Evangelism Fellowship*.

The landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in June 2001 confirms equal access to public schools. In the decision the Court ruled:

- Free speech rights had been violated because of our religious viewpoint.
- Restrictions must not discriminate against speech based on viewpoint.
- Permitting *Good News Club* to meet on school premises does not violate the Establishment clause.
- The danger that children would believe the school to be endorsing religion is no greater than the danger that they would perceive hostility towards religion if the club were excluded from this public forum.

In 2010 over 133,000 school children attended an after-school *Good News Club* conducted in over 3,000 public schools in the United States.