

June 2007 CAM CAMP Highlights

Our CAM CAMps are off to a great start. We were able to help four different non-profit agencies, three seniors, as well as one hospice patient family.

Thursday, June 14th started out a little wet and we were unsure as to what to do. We were able to rearrange our schedule so that all three groups were able to stay inside volunteering for the morning hours. As noon rolled around, we thought we would try to conquer the yard work. As the one group piled out to begin the work, we were praising God that the rain had cleared up enough to begin. About 1 ½ hours into the project, some of the kids were wishing for the rain, because it was warm and muggy. Well, their wish came true. As the rain came down, they continued to work. They were able to pull vines off trees, trim hedges, clean gutters, get tree limbs off the roof, and pull thousands of weeds; all while laughing and keeping smiles on their faces, and getting soaked.

It was later revealed that CAM was an answer to prayers. The woman of the home had been sitting at her dinning room table praying for God to provide a miracle. Her husband has had four strokes and is in constant need of supervision. Every time she had tried to begin yard work, he needed help and she was unable to accomplish the things outside that so desperately needed her attention. Just as she finished her prayer, she received a phone call from Donna, the director of CAM, inquiring of her needs. She later shared that as she looked out the window watching the group work, she was praising God for sending an army of angels to help her. Because the rain had delayed the morning hours of work, we sent another group over on Saturday to finish the work that had been started. She was astonished at how hard the groups worked and what an outstanding job they did. What an awesome experience knowing that we can all be used of God to answer someone else's prayers.

The three seniors were so delighted to have "honey-do" jobs completed around the home. The jobs ranged from helping to replace some linoleum tiles, putting a doorknob on a shed, general house cleaning, and putting a handrail on the front and back porch, for one of them that had broken her ankle three weeks earlier. The seniors that we were able to help had kind hearts and appreciative attitudes. One of CAM's goals is to share with youth that there are many ways to reach out to help others, even if it is just to play games with a person needing fellowship.

The Regional Food Bank was not disappointed at CAM's great attitude and ability to get a lot accomplished. During this visit, we were able to repackage 7,248 pounds of granola cereal, which is equivalent to 5575 meals, 2416- 3 lb bags. Our favorite part was wearing those funny hairnets and plastic gloves! Wrong! Our group was excited to hear how much they had accomplished in only 6 hours.

Full Circle Senior Citizen Day Care Center was thrilled to have young people come visit. The Hokey Pokey- Little People skit was a highlight of their day. The Conaway's whole family was able to join in the fun. They have a 3, 5, and 9 year old. All seniors love to play with little ones and the children reciprocated the feelings.

East Main Place was in need of cleaning, replenishment, and decorating a vacant room. The youth put a lot of pride and personal touch in coordinating the room, for the next client, a person they have never met. They hoped to make a difference in that persons life. It was fun to see them go beyond the call.

Mission Norman needed help with organizing their new facility. They were also preparing for their summer Vacation Bible Schools, which they hold in local trailer parks and apartment complexes. We were glad we could help prepare some of the crafts and pass out fliers to about 450 homes. The latter was a revelation too many of our participants, being exposed the vast culture here "in their own back yard."

We were able to accomplish almost 300 hours of volunteer time. We have now officially broken the 10,000-hour mark and have 10,263.25 hours of volunteer service under our belt. Way to Go KIDS!

A BIG thanks goes to the following people for leading a devotion: Alysa Hooper who shared on obedience, Melissa Mills who talked about being judgmental, and finally Abi Hooper who gave the group some insightful information on the 12 disciples and how we can learn from their character.

We look forward to our next two CAMps, July 11-14, and August 1-4. We have plenty of openings for the July CAMp, but the August CAMp only has a few vacancies. Come join the fun in serving our community by "Putting Skin on the Gospel."

Donna Hooper