

**Going Strong:  
CAM's Local Mission Successful**

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Community Action Ministries' (CAM's) second community service summer CAMp, held on July 12-14, was a great success. Hosted by [St. Joseph's Catholic Church](#), the weekend CAMp gave participants the opportunity to work for both large-scale nonprofit agencies in the OKC metro and individuals needing assistance.

Though the unseasonably rainy weather prompted some last-minute rescheduling, the participants were still able to accomplish almost all the tasks set out for them. Rather than the yard work that was scheduled for the first day, a large group bagged and boxed frozen carrots at the [Oklahoma City Regional Food Bank](#). While there, CAMpers also invented a new sport: carrot skating! Apparently the spilled carrot pieces made the concrete floor fairly slick, and participants had fun navigating (and, before they left, cleaning up) the slippery mess.

At [Food & Shelter for Friends](#), participants served food to Norman's poor and homeless. At [East Main Place](#), they cleaned a transitional apartment after the occupant's successful graduation from the program, preparing the efficiency for someone new. Some participants entertained and visited with seniors in [Full Circle Day Care](#), an adult day care facility held in the Community Services Building in Norman; others helped [Great Life Church](#) prepare for the Grand Opening of their children's facility. A small group also pulled weeds for the [Mary Abbott Children's House](#), a facility dedicated to serving children who may have been abused or neglected. Most participants spent the final day boxing personal hygiene packages and prepping school backpacks at [Feed the Children](#).

Smaller groups used the first two days to work for and spend time with a few senior citizens in our community. At the home of wheelchair-bound WC Holden, youth painted a spare bedroom and bath to help in WC's search for a housemate. WC, who rarely has visitors who aren't there for "business," immensely enjoyed our visit. His sparkling sense of humor and interesting stories made the time pass quickly; the following day, another group returned to deep-clean the rest of the house and to spend more time chatting with WC.

Other seniors assisted included Dee Black, a longtime friend and prayer partner of the ministry who needed help with her yard, and Dessy Johnson, where some CAMpers spent time visiting and others cleaned and painted her ornate patio furniture.

As well as ministering to the community, this CAMp also saw participants ministering to one another. Setting the tone for the weekend, Mallorie led an insightful and uplifting discussion about prayer on Thursday evening. Eli encouraged the participants to view their youth as an asset in ministry, rather than a liability; he led a discussion that, while covering a variety of topics, challenged the group to "not let anyone look down upon you because you are young, but set an example for all believers in life, in love, in faith, and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12, NIV).

The CAMps always attract exceptional young people; this group was no different. There were many new faces at this CAMp; rather than isolating or ignoring the first-timers, however, the

long-time participants welcomed them and made them feel, as one participant said, “so accepted.” The participants treated each other with respect and encouragement, doing all of their (sometimes arduous) work “without complaining or arguing” (Philippians 2:14, NIV). Not only that, but they also consistently sought out things that needed to be done.

The leaders who attended this CAMp came away blessed; we are proud to be ministering alongside of such incredibly talented and dedicated young people. As always, I come away from this CAMp with an excitement about the future of CAM and the community of which we are a part.

“Every CAMp is different,” Donna Hooper often says. “I’ve learned that God has His own plans for them, and even though we put a lot of work into making them happen, He is ultimately in control – and He makes it a success.”