

Going into Our World

8th Year of CAMps a Great Success

After eight years, you might think we'd be out of "firsts." Nope! Every participant brings so many new elements to the CAMps, so every one is unique. This summer we sent groups to three new service agencies. This was the second summer that we received youth from out of state. Unfortunately, because of limited space, this was also the first summer we had to turn several would-be participants down.

We had thirty-six first time participants, many of whom attended multiple CAMps. Representing eleven different churches, participants accomplished 1,145 hours over the summer, bringing CAM's running total to **11,113.5 hours** of volunteer time since August of 1999!

We had several first-timers lead devotions: Abi, Alysa, Eli, Mallorie, Mila, and Melissa all did wonderful jobs "spur[ring the others] on toward love and good deeds"; Christian did a great job leading praise and worship (Hebrews 10:24). I was impressed by their willingness to stand before their peers as leaders and examples.

At the CAMps we worked for six to six-and-a-half hours each day, and in the evenings spent time in worship and studying the Bible. We helped six individual widows, seniors and hospice patients; we also worked with nine non-profit organizations, six of them more than once.

One agency was initially reluctant to receive our young participants, doubting how effective they could be. After the volunteers quickly knocked out the assigned work with confidence, care, and great attitudes, however, the leaders welcomed us back anytime! Positive Tomorrows, a school for homeless children, said that our group had accomplished more in two days than many groups had done in several weeks. Little River Zoo was by far the dirtiest place that we volunteered at; we cleaned four large monkey cages and dug a sewer ditch. When at locations with difficult tasks or without air conditioning, our participants encouraged each other to "2:14-It" – to do "everything without complaining or arguing" (Philippians 2:14).

We are proud to be associated with all the youth and adults who took time out of their summer to "Put Skin on the Gospel". Their willingness to see the needs in their own community and the passion and integrity with which they work to fill them are truly inspiring.

What is "Night in a Box"?

Keep your eyes open for this great opportunity to help raise awareness of homelessness in our community! This fund-raising event will take place late winter or early spring at a date to be determined. Night in a Box will allow us to help extant agencies that help those in need. Participants will spend the night outside in a cardboard box and take part in many awareness-building activities that focus on the realities and issues of homelessness in Norman and Oklahoma City. Night in a Box is usually hosted jointly by CAM and the Norman Network of Youth Ministers. Keep a look out for more info on our website!



boxing food at the Oklahoma City Regional Food Bank

Mission Statement

CAM is a non-profit para-church organization providing the Body of Christ with ways to serve the community. We strive to teach young people the importance of helping in their communities, build unity in the Body of Christ by giving young people of all denominations an opportunity to serve God together, and challenge participants to step up to leadership roles in their churches and schools.



participating in a youth-led Bible study

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It's Time to Step Up

Do you love sharing the Gospel? Are you a leader, or would you like to become one? Would you like to help bring the Body of Christ together to serve people in our community? Consider joining the Youth Advisory Council (YAC)!

YAC members develop leadership skills by helping to coordinate CAM's monthly school year activities and summer CAMps. This year they will also design a new t-shirt and help plan the "Night in a Box" event. They will lead devotions, coordinate and lead worship music, write newsletter articles, and much more. YAC is open to all CAM participants between sixth grade and twenty-one years old. Anyone interested must fill out an application and be interviewed by the Board Members. Contact Donna Hooper (405.329.8041) to request an application; the application may also be downloaded from our website.

Meet the YAC

My name is Melissa Mills. I am a senior at Norman North. I am also doing early entry at OKCCC, and am a student at MNTC. In my spare time, I volunteer and hang out with my boyfriend and family. I have been part of CAM for seven years, and on YAC for three. CAM has probably been the greatest influence on my life. I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior at my first CAMp during Spring Break 2002. I love getting to know new people and make new friends! CAM is a great way to spend time with people who share my love for God and the community.

What's Next?

During the school year CAM holds monthly community volunteer days. The day's activities are determined by the needs in the community. Most activities will be held on the second Saturday of each month. We will meet at 9:00 AM to head to the volunteer site, then work until 3:30-4:00 PM. Afterwards we will go to someone's home for fellowship, devotion and dinner. The day will conclude around 8:00 PM. Participants are free to come and go as their schedules demand. Keep an eye on your e-mail or the website for upcoming activity days, and let us know if you'll be able to join us!

CAM Board Updates

We have had many changes in the CAM Board this year. Curtis and Barbara Williams have decided to resign from the Board due to health-related reasons. Natalie Claflin, too, has resigned following her family's job-related move to Dallas. Thank you all for your commitment and assistance over the past six years; we will miss all of you!

We would also like to welcome our newest Trustees: Tim and Stephanie Young, as well as Craig and Sharla Conaway. We look forward to working with you to bring the body of Christ together to serve our community.

Meet the Board

Tim & Stephanie Young have two children, 8th grader Eli and 4th grader Zoe. They first became involved in CAM last year, when Eli attended a youth group event sponsored by CAM. "We realize that teens can be so influential when they want to be, when they are committed - and we want to give teens the tools and knowledge they need to be influential Christians." The Youngs feel that being a young Christian is not about learning all the "thou shall nots," but rather about discovering all the things that *are* possible in one lifetime when one gives one's life to Christ.

Making a Difference New YAC Members

Hi, my name is **Alysa** Hooper. I'm 12, and I am in 8th grade. I am involved in vocal music and leadership at Alcott. I've been in CAM since it started. (I'm Jerry and Donna Hooper's daughter!) CAM helps our community and also brings kids of all ages and denominations together. One of the most meaningful parts is seeing the faces of the people we helped. This is my first year to be on YAC, and I'm excited! I can't wait to see what God does with another year of CAM!!!

My name is **Abi** Hooper and I'm eleven years old and in sixth grade at Alcott Middle School. I am on the Alcott leadership team. I play basketball and have been participating in CAM since I was three. This will be my first year on the YAC team. My parents started this ministry in 1999 and I was able to be a part even when I wasn't old enough. Now that I am "qualified," I have decided to join YAC as well. I encourage everyone to join!



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From: Positive Tomorrows

Thank you so very much for allowing your youth to help with special projects at Positive Tomorrows. They were wonderful help and a joy to have here in our offices. We greatly appreciate your partnership in caring as well as your confidence in our mission. — Char C.

From: Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

Of all the groups we are fortunate enough to have volunteer with us at the Regional Food Bank, the kids from CAM are among our favorites. We always know that they will have great attitudes, get tons of work done (literally), and leave their work places even cleaner than they found them. I wish all of my volunteers had the chance to work with CAM, to learn what the volunteer experience is all about. — Matthew J.

From: Child S.H.A.R.E.

I really enjoyed working with the kids and their leader at our equipment and clothing co-op this summer. The teens were excited about their jobs and worked together like a team. Much was accomplished in a short time. I look forward to having another CAM group out next summer. Thanks again. — Bob B.



playing team-building games
at the host church

Let Go — and Let God

By: Christian LaFlore



It took me a while to get involved in Community Action Ministries. I knew Jerry and Donna Hooper, the group's leaders, from church, and my friend Melissa talked about CAM often. I wanted to try it out, but I had a few reservations. I honestly thought of it as another junior high camp. There would be gossip, tears, backstabbing, and a bunch of crazy things happening which would end up with someone packing their bags and going home. When the time came for the 2006 summer CAMps, I chickened out.

This year, however, Donna asked me to lead praise and worship for the CAMps. This was a big responsibility -- and I jumped in on it. I'm glad I did!

My first impression of CAM was a very closed-minded one. I was a fish out of water, one of three guys among more than ten girls, most much younger than myself. I felt homesick and anxious. My attitude quickly changed, though, when I saw the group's readiness to serve, accept, and support each other. I fell in love with them -- they became my family.

Worship didn't go as planned, however. I stumbled through a lot of my songs; I just couldn't let go and let God do His work. I was very nervous and couldn't get into the peaceful environment of worship. The CAMpers, however, not only treated me with acceptance and maturity, but they also followed me in worship even while I was struggling. My first CAMp really busted my impressions right out of the water. Not only were the other kids different than I had anticipated, but I had failed to meet my own expectations as well.

In July, I began to realize that each CAMp is different because of the different makeup of the group of volunteers. July was fun, but the praise and worship still seemed a bit dry to me. The more I tried to keep a beat, the more I would fail. It seemed impossible to just "play" the guitar.

Rather than focus on these frustrations, however, I tried to concentrate more on the serving and ministry times. The devotions in this CAMp were excellent. The group's eagerness to help each other grow closer to God was inspiring. For me, the August CAMp was by far the best one. I came in dealing with some hurts and issues in my walk with God that prevented me from attending the first night. When I returned the following morning, I found the same spirit of love and support in the CAMpers I'd seen in the previous months.

That night during worship, I let myself go. I decided to just let God be God and my beat matched up. The Holy Spirit flowed through me, and all my troubles and problems seemed to melt away. At last, I hit that place I have found in my room or in a quiet moment. It's just me and God all alone, where I can completely forget that I'm at church, or in an auditorium playing worship for people I hardly know. It's the place where I can abandon my expectations and focus entirely on God -- the place He wants me to be.

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We have seen over and over again how our willingness to meet people's needs helps open their hearts to Jesus. Praise God for all who are willing to give of their time and resources for Him! We could not have had these opportunities if it weren't for people like you whose generosity goes to help support these Local Mission Opportunities. Thank you!

Platinum \$1,000-2,000

Astellas Pharma Tech., Inc
Great Life Church
University Christian Church
Bill and Toni B
Bob and Maria W
Jared and Mel M
Jerry and Donna H
Tim and Stephanie Y

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Dee B

Silver \$499-200

Pathway Services Inc.
Barbara and Dan M
Gregg and Anita J
Jeff and Mary H

Facilities

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
McFarlin Methodist Church
University Christian Church
YMCA of Norman

CAM Board Members:

Jerry Hooper-President/Executive Director
Donna Hooper- Secretary/ Executive Director
Mel Morgan- Vice President
Jared Morgan- Treasure
Mike Finley- Trustee
Michelle Finley- Trustee
Tim Young- Trustee
Stephanie Young- Trustee
Craig Conaway-Trustee
Sharla Conaway- Trustee

Bronze Level \$0-199

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Clay and Dr. Laura M
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Dessie J
Greg and Carolyn H
Greg and Gina D
Gregg and Sandra D
Jamie S
Mark B
Dr. Michael and Julie S
Mike and Michelle F
Norma B
Odell and Rose M
Tim and Cassie R

Goods/Services/Facilities

CiCi's Pizza
Dominos Pizza
Mazzio's Pizza
Homeland
Panera Bread
Wal-Mart

Ten Ways to Support Community Action Ministries

1. **Pray** for our board members and volunteers
2. Become a **volunteer** or adult sponsor
3. **Tell your friends** and church groups about us
4. **Let us know** about volunteer opportunities
5. Make financial donations
6. **Prepare a meal** or snacks for CAMps or volunteer days
7. Volunteer to **update our web-site** once a month
8. Donate new work **gloves**, garden **tools**, or **cleaning supplies**
9. **Photograph** CAMps and volunteer days
10. Introduce us to your church's **youth pastors**

CAM is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to CAM, please include the following information with your financial donation:

Name, Address, & Monthly Commitment or One-Time Gift Amount

Please make checks payable and send to:

CAM
819 Terrace Pl.
Norman, OK 73069