

WOW, what a BUSY month Dec. Was for CAM
and we are already off to a great start for 2009

CAM received a \$500.00 grant from eastside Wal-Mart to help make a few kids' holidays a little brighter. On Dec. 13, the day began at 1:00 PM, with the YAC (Youth Advisory Council) meeting to purchase gifts for a family with young children as well as for 12 youth from the Cornerstone Group Home, who would not be able to go home for Christmas.

At 5:30 PM, that same day, twenty-eight participants joined us for the annual Christmas party, at the Hooper's home. From there we left for the Arbor House Assisted Living Center to sing Christmas carols. Many smiles were seen on the senior residences, as they joined in singing the Christmas songs. Grandma Dee, one of our favorite seniors, which CAM has helped over the past 4 years, has recently become a new resident there. She was thrilled to see all the kids faces, many of which she has gotten to know over the past few years.

From the Arbor House, we left to tour the OK Baptist Children Home Pageant in south OKC. This was the first time for any of our group to view this amazing event. As we drove on their premises, they gave us a CD listen to as we drove through, watching each scene. The residents, which consists of foster care children, set up scenes representing the life of Christ, from His birth to the resurrection. It is a wonderful presentation of the Gospel. We were all so thankful that it was beautiful weather for the kids.

After that, we drove to the Norman Veterans Center to carol down the hallways. We had the opportunity to thank several of the Vets for their service over the years. While there, we ran into Albert, a senior that CAM helped this fall. Due to health issues, he has been at the Veterans Center for a few weeks. We wish him a quick recovery and hope he will be able to return home soon.

Later we traveled to WC's home to wish him a Merry Christmas. He is homebound and loves company. He has such a sweet heart and a great sense of humor. I would like to encourage you to go to the website to view the pictures.

(www.cam-inc.net)

We arrived back at the Hooper's home by 8:00 PM. From there we enjoyed food and had many laughs participating in Dirty Santa. I would say that the funniest gift was all the Hannah Montana gear. To say the least Evan was thankful when the gift was stolen, even though he did look great in that wig! That concludes a very productive day.

On **Dec. 20**, several CAM participants joined Jennifer, a director at Full Circle to clean out a massive closet. We made three piles, "keep," "throw-away," and "give-away." We cleaned, sorted, and reorganized all the treasures hidden inside. Jennifer was surprised by all the stuff hidden away. We could see the wheels in her mind turn as new ideas for crafts were forming. The group met my expectation and finished the project one hour ahead of schedule! Way to GO, keeping up the good reputation of CAM! Below is a short note from Jennifer.

Thanks for thinking of us! By the way...the safe still looks great! All the staff were SHOCKED to see the difference. And we haven't missed any of it yet!! Thanks again for your help with that project. There's no way I could've tackled that one alone!

Jennifer

On Christmas morning, I received a phone call from the boys at Cornerstone Group Home. They passed the phone around and each boy expressed a grateful, heartfelt, appreciation for the gifts they received. Every boy received a hoodie. Then half of the boys received "beanies" (hats) and the other half received "chicken skin shirts" as some called them (colored thermals.) (Again, see pictures of the YAC buying and wrapping the gifts on the website.)

Below is a thank you note from one family that received gifts:

Wow! We cannot properly convey our gratitude for the gifts our children have gotten for Christmas into words. I was so proud of my son being a big man this year when I explained that we were not going to have a big Christmas this year. I have told him though that I have been corresponding with Santa over the web. I want to thank all the people involved in making this a special Christmas for the kids. Thanks again and may God richly bless all of you and keep you.

Kenneth

On Friday, **Jan. 2**, a couple of the YAC members meet about 25 youth, ranging from ages 3 to 18, from the OK Baptist Children Home, to bowl at the Sooner bowling Alley. A portion of the grant money from Wal-Mart went a long way to help make so many kids holiday break enjoyable. It was nice to put a face to some of the actors of the Pageant we visited on Dec. 13. The OK Baptist Children Home is a wonderful ministry for so many children. There are always several opportunities for volunteering.

Finally, to wrap up the season of festivities, CAM hosted a meal for several of the seniors that we have helped over the past few years, on **Jan 3**. Most of the CAM board members, and YAC team were present. Those that helped with the #14 Foundation collection in November also attended. The money that #14 Foundation donated to help celebrate the fact that CAM collected the most money for their foundation was used for this dinner.

Finally on **Jan 10**, we had a group of 29 participant go to the OKC Regional Food Bank to put in a total of 118.5 volunteer hours. The group unpackaged all kinds of food to prepare it for the next group that would be coming in to pack the school backpack meals, which will be distributed to many area schools. They completed 28 pallets of food. WOW, way to go!

Even though the holiday season has ended, CAM is still on the move. Please mark your calendars for the following dates and make plans to come join us in

our endeavors to help make a difference in our community and those around us,
as we continue to 'Put Skin on the Gospel'.

Feb. 14 Child Share Foster Care program/ Arbor House & possible the Veterans
Center some for fun activities

March 27-28 One Night in a BOX- fund raiser for the homeless

April 11- TBA

May 2- Metropolitan Library