

August 24, 2009

CAM had 16 volunteers at the last local summer mission CAMp, which was held Aug 12-15, 2009. There were six different churches represented through the 16 participants. They put in 205 volunteer hours and helped five different local agencies. So far this year we have accumulated over 1,560 hours of volunteer time, and 15,436 hours of volunteer time since Aug. 1999.

A big thanks to McFarlin Methodist Church for opening their facility to CAM and allowing us to spend the night there. What would a mission CAMp be without sleeping on the floor... However, I along with several others have learned that an air mattress is a great investment! Also, we'd like to thank Jane Cook and the precious women's group that welcomed us with homemade chocolate chip cookies and milk! That was very sweet; and we coveted all the prayers that went up for our group. We'd also like to thank Mazzio's as well as JR's Restaurant for providing meals for the CAMp. It is so nice to come back to the church and not have to prepare a meal after being out in the community working all day. As always, we could not have these CAMps without the support of the Cleveland County YMCA and the use of their facility. It always feels great to have the opportunity to wash the grim off from sweating all day.

HUGS is one of the new agencies that we helped this August CAMp. They are a group of volunteers that prepare things to ship overseas to our military. I think this was one of this CAMp's favorite places to work. I had several youth say they were going back to purchase some of the "cold hankies" they helped make. Another first was helping at the ROC-Reaching Our City. The participants helped prepare, serve, and clean up meals. They also spend time interacting with the little ones at their daycare program.

One group went to serve at the Regional Food Bank. While there, Channel 9 News came out to do a story on the stimulus package, and how that was going to affect the Food Bank. The CAM group elected to have Alys Hooper act as spokes person for an interview, since she was the one that had been going to the food bank the longest. You may go to our website www.communityactionmissions.com and click on the picture tab to see the interview.

Keep an eye out for future e-mails containing details concerning our once a month projects. We plan to start them back up in mid Sept. If you have a suggestion of where you would like to volunteer as a CAM group, let me know. I'm in the beginning stages of setting volunteer dates and activities up right now.

Thanks again for a wonderful summer and sharing your time with CAM and the community to make a difference and being a "Missionary in Your Own Back Yard!"

Donna Hooper