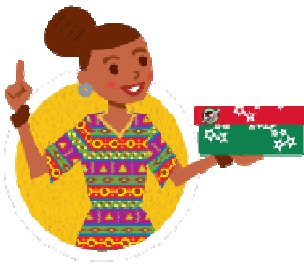


QUARTERLY MINISTRY REPORT, APRIL - JUNE 2017

JULY 26, 2017

Operation Christmas Child

Lynne Phillips, OCC Central Drop Off Location Leader



**SALE! SALE!
SALE!**

It's July, and back to school sales are in full swing. This is an excellent time to stock up on

school supplies to pack into an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift which will be collected at EG First in November 2017. Hurting children around the world who receive a shoe box gift are overjoyed to receive school supplies. For many, these are the only real school supplies they have ever owned. While Samaritans Purse, sponsor of Operation Christmas Child, has a vital role in delivering the gift boxes to children, it is the generosity of every person who fills a shoe box with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items that is essential for bringing joy to children. Best of all, each shoe box provides opportunities for local churches to share the Good News of God's greatest gift – His Son, Jesus Christ, with the children and their families.

As you consider what items to pack in your shoebox gift and how

many shoebox gifts to pack, be aware of several significant changes for 2017:

- **No type of candy can be included in shoebox gifts.**
- **Toothpaste cannot be included in shoebox gifts**, but a child's oral hygiene can still be improved by regular use of a toothbrush alone.

Donation for each box is now \$9.00.

Why \$9.00? Your donation of \$9.00 per shoebox gift is critical for Operation Christmas Child. It covers:

Collection - After shoebox gifts are dropped off at nearly 5,000 locations around the United States each year in November, rental trucks transport the precious cargo to eight different processing centers.

Processing - Eight processing center warehouses around the country are secured so that thousands of volunteers can inspect the shoebox gifts and prepare them for international shipment.

Shipping to Over 100 Countries - Ships, trucks, and airplanes transport millions of shoeboxes to the countries

EG First Ministry Reports for April - June 2017

OCC contd,

Lynne Phillips, OCC Central Drop
Off Location Leader

This resource shows churches how to share the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ in a child-friendly way. Your donation also provides The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklets, which are written in the children's language and distributed along with shoebox gifts.

For more information about Operation Christmas Child, suggestions for items to pack in shoeboxes, and to view Gospel Impact videos go to www.SamaritansPurse.org and select Operation Christmas Child from the drop down menu under the WHAT WE DO tab.

EG First is the Central Drop Off Location for Brevard and Indian River counties during **OCC National Collection Week, November 13-20th, 2017**. If you are interested in volunteering call or text **Lynne Phillips at 321-258-4918, or email: simplegift2013@gmail.com**.

A Great Summer for the Kids Ministry

Jordan Jinright, Children's Director

It's been non-stop fun these past few months. Summer break is a misnomer if you're a kid, because summer



is when the real action starts. Vacations and beach days, catching a movie in

the morning, or sleeping until noon. Kids look forward to summer break all school year long and our kids ministry rose to meet their expectations this year!

To kick-off our summer, we were happy to have over 250 people from our community at our Summer Shindig. Families were able to bounce on bounce houses, play some games and eat endless amounts of cotton candy. It was a great way to kick off the summer break and let our neighbors know that even though school is taking a break, the church is always open to them.

Our Wednesday night programs switched into their summer mode, which is always a ton of fun. Every Wednesday this summer was a different activity. Water games, Team Sports, Movie night, and even Messy Games, where we made human ice cream Sundaes! It's great to give the kids something to look forward to every week and to give them some awesome fun that

EG First Ministry Reports for April - June 2017

forget.

From June 19th through the 23rd, a group of kids from our church attended Camp Winshape in Viera. It was an amazing day camp that is supported by Chick-Fil-A and was hosted this year by Calvary Chapel Viera. The kids were detectives for the week, discovering the "Key to Life," (spoiler alert, it's Jesus). While they investigated that, they also got to participate in a list of activities ranging from



Archery and Basketball to Wacky Science and cooking food. The energy and passion of

Winshape was amazing and our kids came back so excited about what they had learned and experienced.

Our Vacation Bible School was July 17th through the 21st and was once again an amazing effort put on by the members of our church. We were able to transform our beloved building into a scenic star-scape where kids were invited to "Search the Visible to Discover the Invisible." Using the wonders of space, we were able to share the gospel with over 160 kids. In their classrooms they learned about what Jesus did for them, while in Missions they learned about sharing that good news as they experienced some of the things our church does in Ecuador. We danced and laughed our way through the week. We built relationships not only with the kids, but hopefully with their families to that leave a lasting impression.

Thanks to our church, we were able to do all these things and more to reach the kids and families in our community. With summer coming to a close and things returning to "normal" for the kids, I want to thank our church for its support and willingness to sacrifice; not only for our kids, but for kids we haven't even met yet. Please pray that God brings growth to the seeds that were planted this summer



and pray that we are prepared to nurture that growth as it springs up.

EG First Ministry Reports for April - June 2017

A Freedom Celebration Well Received

Tim Harden, Music Pastor

Three months of choral and orchestral preparation were climaxed by this year's 2017 presentation of this year's Freedom Celebration. Over 100 participants from the EG First family combined to present a program that included music, history, drama, media, pageantry, appreciation of military and community service, and biblical truth. A big thank you to all of our participants, to all of those who "spread the word" and invited our community, and to all who uplifted our efforts in prayer.

The July 1 and 2 performances were both well attended with an estimated count of 800 present. Included in the written program was a survey that returned 147 responses. Over half of these indicated they were present because of a verbal invitation (way to go church family)! The second tier of response was due to an invite card or as a result of seeing one of the signs in front of the church. The final level of response of any significance was the newspaper, social media, and web site.

The following is a sampling of the comments we received on the surveys:

"Very inspirational"

"Emotional and stirring"

"Wonderful-brought tears to my eyes and gave me goosebumps"

"Thank you all. *It was beautiful, exceptional and Spirit moving*"

"Loved this - thank you all"

"*It is awesome and a blessing every time I come*"

"Well done - I will return again"

"*What an awesome, awesome program! Thank you all so very much. May God always be with you.*"

"*Super! The hard work of the performers shows*"

"*Great program! God is the source of our freedom! Thank you!*"

"*Beautiful program-very well done by all-so blessed to be here*"

"*Praise God! It was an excellent program in honor of our armed forces and our God.*"

"*The most inspiring program I've ever seen by so many dedicated talents.*"

"*Fantastic! Very uplifting and affirming!*"

"*Amazingly excellent! One of the best 4th of July presentations I have seen and I am as old as dirt!*"

"*I am 12 and I loved it!*"

"*Awesome program! Best music, speaking, and prayers I have ever heard*"



EG First Ministry Reports for April - June 2017

First Friends Preschool Prepares for New School Year

Jenny Rider, Co-Director

The second quarter is always a very busy time for us at First Friends. We were in full swing for registration for the upcoming school year. This year we celebrated Easter well into April. The crown jewel event for the school year was the "Mother's Day Tea!" From there we went right into preparing for VPK graduation and all the end of the year preschool activities.

We want to thank the church family for all the prayers, support and referrals to our program. We know God has already gone before us and prepared the path for the upcoming school year which is fast approaching. We ask for your continued prayers over First Friends, that our hearts will be in tune to God's will and to never miss an opportunity show his love and grace.



EG First Ministry Reports for April - June 2017

Student Ministry Summertime

Matt Jackson, Student Pastor

It's hard to believe summer is almost over. The student ministry has been cranking for the last 2 months. Typically, when there are lulls in the summer, student attendance and involvement seems to drop, but our students are not normal. They are a w e s o m e , active, and evidently they don't need rest. All this is happening while we are gearing up for



a Revolution 2.0 reboot come August of this year! This will include a new Sunday morning format featuring more of a classic style Sunday School in 4 different youth classes with an emphasis on outreach and hosting every morning. Wednesday nights will continue to feature Girls Night Out for girls 7th-12th grade, and How to Be a Guy for guys 7th-12th grade. We are also planning several special outreach events. These groups of teens currently attending our student ministry are fantastic at inviting their friends. As a church, please continue to encourage this and when you see teens "running around" make sure you introduce yourself and welcome them all. It's a messed up world out there and we want them all to know that this is a place you can rely on and be loved no matter your condition.

M-Fuge Summer Camp was a blast as always. I won't lie though, it was exhausting as well. We began the journey with a pit-stop in Atlanta, Georgia for a little fun at Six Flags Over Georgia. Most of the group had never been to Six Flags and everyone had a blast.

We then hit the road for Barbourville, Kentucky. This area in Kentucky is considered one of the poorest areas in the nation. The unemployment rate there is almost double compared to the US average. The area itself is very run down and the city itself had just been hit with the tragedy of losing 3 of its police officers in a local



shooting incident. For churches around our nation to come and love on this city meant the world to so many people in Barbourville. For 4 days our students prepared and went into the community doing everything from visiting nursing homes to construction, clean up, and yard work in places that were doing ministry for the area. There were folks that went to parks and played with kids while telling them about Jesus to canvassing local neighborhoods with

EG First Ministry Reports for April - June 2017

Student Ministry

Matt Jackson, Student Pastor

invites to be part of special Fuge evangelical efforts. Every morning we began with a quiet time and Bible study



followed by the morning celebration sendoff. In the

evenings we worshipped together, were challenged from God's Word and topped the nights off with Nightlife which were unifying games, prayer walks, and more. Although it was a long (and I mean a very long) journey, it was well worth it. One of

our girls accepted Christ and was baptized this past Sunday while we have a couple others hopefully "on deck" Keep praying for our students, our leaders, and



our student ministry. These kids aren't perfect but they are trying. If you need proof, I hope you got to see over 30 of them in action at VBS. After camp, many of these students came back fired up to serve and they did a great job from prepping the church for VBS (literally almost every day for a whole



week), to leading the onstage worship and serving

in classrooms and Missions/Rec tracks.

As school begins, keep praying for them. I sense this is a special group of teens that God is going to use in a mighty way. We can always use more godly adults to come alongside them in discipleship. If you have ever felt that tug to work with teens, please let us know on your connect card or come see Pastor Matt sometime. We'd love to add you to the team if that's your passion and calling. Thanks!



EG First Ministry Reports for April - June 2017

Food Pantry Continues to Meet Needs

Barbara Harpold, Team Leader

God is so good!! The Food Pantry received donations of food and cloth bags during the months of April, May & June of \$3,776.50. This number includes 110 bags from the food drive - 75 from our church family and 35 from the pre-school. During the same period, we received \$7,361.00 in monetary donations. We paid out \$6,792.04 in food purchases. After we pay our Second Harvest invoice from June, we will begin the quarter with a balance of \$1,699.20. During the second quarter, we served 713 clients, gave out 838 bags of food and fed 2,249 people for two days.

Your Food Pantry team put in approximately 434 volunteer hours during this time. We have a very dedicated team. It is a real blessing to be a part of this team. Thank you so much for your support! We couldn't do it without you.

Luke 3:11 NLT John replied, "If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry."

Benevolence

Ed Davis, Team Leader

\$6,079.41	Beginning Balance
\$8,547.19	Received
\$13,545.98	Total Disbursements
	(Itemized Disbursements)
\$7,550.11	Florida Power - 43 non-members, 3 members
\$1,963.83	Water Bills - 12 non-members, 1 member
\$2,355.63	Housing - 7 non-member, 1 member
\$1,679.41	Miscellaneous - 6 non-members, 6 members

Despite a slow start, we assisted 79 people this quarter; 68 non-members and 11 members.

Urgent housing needs increased this quarter. We also had several significant medical needs, one funeral expense help, and restored water service in several cases. There was an increase in FPL bills due to the warmer weather.

Deut. 15:11 For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor in your land."

Thank you for allowing our team to serve you through your continued God-led support of this community ministry.

Ed Davis, Ray Kotowski, &

Tom Hutchison