

Highland Park Community Outreach

Summer Day Camp 2007

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves

As I am sitting here...spending time in prayer and reflecting over the summer, I feel like the past six weeks have been a whirlwind of activity, fun, growth, learning and well...the list could go on. It's just hard to believe it is over. This verse came to mind over the past week because to me, it was a reminder that God uses us, in spite of our own mistakes and weaknesses to give Himself glory. I often think that there is no way I deserve to be here or am capable to reach these kids. But isn't that the story of all of us? God choosing to save us from our wreckage, redeeming us and then use us to reach a lost world for Him! to HIM be the glory!!!



Day Camp Staff: Kristen Eiya, Mario Caston, Sarah Hilliker, John Scrabeck and Alex King

God brought together a great team of staff this summer. We were literally from a variety of places and all different walks of life. It was so great to watch how much everyone loved what they were doing, loved being with the kids and had so much fun being there. Each person could tell stories of what God did in them this summer and also in the lives of individual children they worked with.

One story I would like to share with you is an experience I had when we took our kids to overnight camp at Bay Shore Camp. One of our girls was struggling all week. She had been at day camp all summer and we never had discipline issues with her. During the week of overnight camp, she seemed very frustrated and had trouble getting along with the other girls.

After one of the evening sessions, which was about trusting in God and having people in our lives we can trust, she immediately came up to me and told me she didn't trust her mom. We sat down and



Sarah with Reginald and Jovonni

talked for a long time and she shared with me about her past struggles and all that her and her sisters had been through before going to live with their grandma. My heart broke for her. She talked about her struggle with loving, but not trusting her mom and her fears of turning out like her mother. I was able to share with her how much God loved her and told her she didn't have to believe the lie that she had no hope of a better life. I asked her if she had ever trusted in Christ as her Savior, and she told me that she did on the last day of day camp. What a blessing to hear! After our conversation, I prayed with her and I could tell that she was encouraged. I was so thankful that she felt comfortable enough to open up to me and I continue to pray for her and ask God to use me in her life.

-Sarah Hilliker, Day Camp Director

Volunteers

This summer, we were blessed with multiple volunteers who came to help with day camp for a week. It was such an encouragement to the summer staff to have this extra help and new energy. Many of them also taught the Bible lesson for the week. A special thanks to these amazing people who took the time to reach out to our kids this summer!



Annika Fouch
North Park Baptist Church Youth Group
Sandy Hilliker (Sarah's mom!)
Josh Somsel
Jennifer Pattison
Joselyn and Jennifer Weidman
Robyn Feys and family

All about the relationships..



Here at HPCO, we firmly believe that God changes lives through meaningful relationships. That is why our focus isn't on numbers, but on small groups and discipleship. Even though during day camp, our numbers are higher than normal, the focus on building relationships doesn't change. Anybody coming to visit on any given day can see these relationships in action. The relationships built between staff and kids not only had an affect on the kids, but also on the staff as they poured into these young lives.

We saw tremendous growth in two of our boys this summer. Gi and Jo are 8 year old twins who have been coming to day camp for three years. Last year, one of our interns, John, was able to build an incredible relationship with them and they were excited to have him back again this summer. I'll never forget the look on their faces when we pulled up in front of their house at the beginning of the summer and he was in the car! During the school year, and even last year at camp, these boys missed program a lot due to their behavior. However, this year, they were there the whole summer and each of them only missed one day. For the first time, we saw them working hard to behave right because they really wanted to be there. During Bible time, Jo asked some well thought questions about Jesus being both God and man.

This is just an example of two of our kids who flourished because they were in a place where they felt loved and cared for. We thank God that He allowed us this summer to share His love with so many young lives!

Leadership Building

**Thank you to all
who prayed for
and financially
supported us this
summer!! We
couldn't have done
it with out you!**

This summer, we were able to hire two of our teen girls, Misha and Olivia who have both been involved in youth group during the school year. This summer was Misha's fourth year working day camp!

The girls did an exceptional job this summer. They went above and beyond what was asked of them. It was exciting to see these girls step up and take leadership responsibilities.

On Mondays, the girls came in to do leadership training. We visited two colleges, Eastern Michigan and Wayne State University. The goal in taking these visits was to give the girls an opportunity to see what college life is like and to get them thinking about what they can do now to get there.

It was such a blessing to get to know the girls better this summer and see God working in their lives.



**Olivia and Misha pick-
ing berries with the
kids**

Camp at Bay Shore!!



This year, we had to do things a little different to send our kids to camp. Thankfully, God opened some doors so that 13 of our kids could go. During day camp, 3 of our kids went to Wildwood Ranch of the Detroit Rescue Mission. Even though we couldn't go with them, we heard that they had a great week there.

After day camp, we brought 10 of our kids to Bay Shore Camp in Sebewing MI. We were so thankful that they allowed us to join them for their junior camp and gave us a wonderful scholarship to make it possible.

Through out the week, the kids learned how to be a HERO for God. Hero was an acronym which stands for Honor, Endurance, Reliance and Obedience. The week was jammed packed with activities such as the zip line, miniature golf, going to the beach, crafts, and a lot of fun games.

We are thankful God provided these opportunities for the kids. It's so great for them to have time to get out of the city and in a new environment where they could learn more about Him



