



NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

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ANNUAL REPORT EDITION Related to the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church

Highlights from the Center's 94th Annual Report

Excerpt from the Executive Director's Report

Spring 2007

The miraculous hand of the Lord has been evident in many ways in the ministry of the Neighborhood Center. In Camden, families have been helped and lives have been transformed.

As a Christian social service agency, our desire continues to be to build relationships with those who participate in our programs in order that we might earn the right to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and disciple children and adults in their faith.

Last year I wrote to you about our need to make some major building improvements here at the Center. While we were not able to address all of the areas, I am happy to report that the Continuing Corp provided funding for air conditioning to be installed in the gymnasium in early February. This much-needed addition will greatly improve the quality of life for children and adults in our programs during the hot summer months.

During 2006-2007 several employ-

ees left to move on to other jobs and we faced the challenge of keeping Center programs running with fewer

while others maintained their own responsibilities and worked additional hours. I am pleased to share the news

that in early January we were able to fill three positions and started training these new employees.

As we look to the future, we realize again that we must continue to rely on the Lord for the continuation of this work, not only for financial and material

support but also for providing volunteers who will give of their time and become personally involved with the Center. Our prayer is that individuals, families and churches will be challenged to increase their commitment to missions and join us in our outreach here in Camden.

Question: When is the last time you donated vacation time to serve in the city?

- Timothy Humeniuk



Children and staff from the 2006 Summer Enrichment Program.

staff. Months were spent in advertising for the vacant positions, reading resumes and conducting interviews in the search for new employees. Sacrifices had to be made by the staff. Some of us learned new jobs to fill in

Putting the Neighborhood Center in your will is a gift that keeps on giving.

Excerpt from the Board President's Report

The Neighborhood Center has a logo on its building of a loaf of bread and a fish with the words "Miracle of Sharing." Due to the love and care of many individuals, the miracle of sharing happens every day in Camden.

Deaconess' Home) by offering programs to individuals and families to help meet their needs—needs such as loving care and instruction for small children in our *Infant/Toddler* and *Preschool* programs, Bible Study, tutoring and wholesome recreation for youth in our *After School*, *Junior Girl Teens* and *Summer, Spring and Fall Break Enrichment* programs; basic food in times of special need as in our *Soup Kitchen* and *Emergency Bagged Food* programs, as well as meeting the need for Christian fellowship in our *Senior Adult* programs.

Many people share their resources and talent to make the ministry of the



After School children share their knowledge of the fruit of the spirit.

The Center continues in the tradition of its founders (the Methodist



Praise and Worship with the After School children.

Neighborhood Center possible—truly a miracle of sharing. Together we can touch the lives of individuals and families and continue to be a witness to the power of Jesus Christ.

- Nancy Shervanick

The Neighborhood Center - making a difference in Camden with the gospel of Jesus Christ

Excerpt from the Junior Girl Teens Report

This past year was a difficult one for our **Junior Girl Teen** program as Pauly Biesecker and Michelle Perez could not continue to serve.

However, this Spring, Lisa Tremont joined our staff as Youth Program Director. We are grateful for her presence and excited about what the Lord is doing in our **Junior Girl Teen** program. The girls meet on Wednesdays, prepare dinner together, enjoy worship, study God's Word and learn skits, songs and dramas. Their study is based on a



Tracy & Lisa with the Junior Girl Teens.

Women of Faith Bible study called "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts." We hope to create an environment in which the girls feel comfortable sharing their struggles and dreams and to provide a Biblical perspective toward tackling the challenges they face.

In mid April, the girls assisted in a parent dinner for the **After School** Program. They helped to serve the meal and performed a skit that highlights the ways in which individual sin affects those around us.

Excerpt from the Child Care Director's Report

*"Praise God from Whom
all blessings flow..."*

Each May, the Neighborhood Center's **Child Care** programs gear up for the summer to come while at the

same time focus on completing the September-to-June school year. We look forward to the opportunity to spend a summer reading God's Word, praising, praying, singing and talking about what God has placed in our hearts to share with young ones.

During the summer of 2006, we had an excellent team of summer teachers and aides, and although we had many substitutes to "weave into" the ten weeks, they too were of the highest caliber.

We are privileged to work with approximately 41 of Camden parents' most "prized possessions"—their children—for this brief but formative time in their lives. Whether a child is six months old in Infant Care, two or three years old in Toddler Care, or three or four years old in Abbott Preschool (and beyond into school-aged Center programs), we are grateful when we see God move each one into

new stages of growth development.

We have had a year graced with church involvement; having volunteers who come to Camden to work as



Child Care staff (l to r): Nilsa Dejesus, Debra Graham, Patricia Kelley, Nancy Anderson (Child Care Dir.), Pamela Martin (Family Worker & Asst. Child Care Dir.), Annie Williams, June Rivera, Valerie Cook & Christine Morrissey.

small groups or one-on-one with Center children, reading and visiting in the classrooms, or having cross-motor fun on the playground. We also have had monetary donations ear-marked for books that reinforce God's Word in the classroom. We are looking forward to using some of these new materials in the classrooms this coming summer. We are grateful for the benefactors whose donations have made this possible.

- Nancy Anderson



Coming Soon!

The 8-week Summer Enrichment Program begins June 25th and a scholarship of at least \$870 is provided to every child enrolled. Please help us to honor this commitment.

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