

Enrichment is Focus of Summer Program

It's no accident that the Center's summer camp is called the Summer Enrichment program. Like other camps, our desire is to fill the days with fun activities. But the ultimate goal of our program is to provide opportunities for our kids to absorb the message of Christ's love for them. For this reason they have daily Bible classes, at times aided by child evangelical fellowship youth groups. The 5-8 year olds were recently visited by a missionary to Serbia and Montenegro. The children were fascinated by the Serbo-Croatian Bibles and the passports he passed around. When asked what Jesus has done for them, the children were eager to chime in, "He gives us His love," "He gives us life," and "He died on the cross." The children were thanked for their prayers and were encouraged to share the message of the gospel where they live.



Small groups discuss Bible lessons.

begin with the words, "I am." They too have been learning of the importance of missionaries and of the

unique ways God prepares His people for the field. When asked to recite the key verse from the previous study, one boy raised his hand high and declared, "I

am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry." (John 6:35) In keeping with the teaching on the loaves and the fishes, one counselor brought the children goldfish crackers for snack time.

It's exciting to see the creative ways our counselors and visiting youth are engaging the children in the message of the gospel. Amid the day trips and outdoor activities, spiritual enrichment is provided to the over 100 children who show up five days a week for eight full weeks in the summer season.



Children learn the gospel through songs.

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT!

You are invited to the Summer Enrichment program Closing Celebration on Thursday August 16th at 6:00 p.m. Come see the children sing, dance and celebrate the lessons of the summer.

Lifelong NCI Supporter Ruth Lewis' Giving Continues

According to her daughter Beth, Ruth Lewis' heart belonged to The Neighborhood Center's children. Ruth was the daughter of a Methodist minister who took her with him as a young girl to drop off items that his congregation had collected for donation. A



The children of the Center were at the heart of Ruth Lewis' commitment to giving.

child of the depression, she was troubled by the sight of children who were even poorer than her family. She then discovered as an adult that friends who had grown up in the area had learned to read at

the Center.

A partnership was born and Ruth continued to make regular contributions to the Center. Later in life, she was faced with the challenge of reevaluating her giving but continued to send regular gifts to the Center despite the sacrifices required. Ruth was an example of so many of our donors who commit to putting a little aside each month to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of the children of Camden. We are grateful for such dedicated supporters and blessed that so many of Ruth's friends and family have picked up where she left off and made generous contributions in her name.



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

Testimonies at Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is the ideal occasion for the children, parents, donors, and Board Members of the Center to reflect on the year that has passed. Board Member and Speaker, Reverend Vivian Rodeffer, challenged those present to consider the Center's logo—The Miracle of Sharing—and to ask ourselves where we have seen a miracle in our lives lately. The room buzzed with activity when the

Mission

Involved

Radiant

Action

Care

Love

Every day

Reverend asked us to create an acrostic from the word "miracle."

Parent, Judy Colon-Hawkins, shared how much of a positive presence the Center has been to her family for several generations. One of the Junior Girl Teens told of a time she complained of being bullied at school, and was challenged to consider whether her younger siblings might feel bullied when she treated them un-



After-School youth sing "Our God is an Awesome God."

fairly. She has since learned to be more loving with them. The After-School youth sang and Board President Nancy Shervanick awarded our Child Care Director Nancy Anderson with the President's Award for her tireless



Nancy Anderson with parent Judy Colon-Hawkins and her family.

devotion to the children who are entrusted to her care.

Preschool Graduation

Graduation Day came again to the Center, inspiring much celebration. The proud graduates performed dances and their teachers shared progress reports. One little girl is calmer than she used to be and has implemented the teachers' special "silence clap" at home. A few parents were singled out for their commitment to parent/teacher meetings and all were encouraged to be their children's advocates.



Celebration dance with the Preschool graduates.

Fifty Plus Club *Chat & Chew*

The Fifty Plus Club recently played host to the St. Andrew's of Tom's River United Methodist Women and enjoyed a time of praise, lunch and a rousing game of bingo. A poem was read in honor of the Club's most senior member, thanking the Lord for the gifts that each year brings. Many giggles followed the poem's last line asking God not to let the years exceed one hundred. The honoree will be ninety nine this month. The following week, a White Elephant sale was held by the women of Haddonfield United Methodist Church, after which the visiting ladies performed an updated version of "My Favorite Things" that was enjoyed by all.



Bingo, worship, and lunch hosted by the Fifty Plus Club ladies.

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