

Work in Progress Update

August 2004

Dear Friends,

Hot days, buses and vans, kids and leaders, laughter and tears, chaos and miracles ... summer at The Neighborhood Center. For weeks, we prepared Bible lessons, wrote curriculum, and developed skits and fun activities in anticipation of our 18th season of summer programming. As we prepared materials, God prepared our hearts to embrace the children, youth, and young adults He would send us.



The Lord answered your prayers as 150 7th-8th graders learned about Jesus, grew in their faith and experienced personal breakthroughs in our **Junior High Kids Club** in June. Some bravely shared their stories for the first time with some of the 40 young adults who loved and taught them every day.



You prayed that children would find Jesus and some did. Kids who had no reason to trust anyone decided to trust Jesus. We saw two rival gangs take steps to reconcile with each other...an answer to a year of prayer. Some tough kids softened and became teachable.

During the week, 35 junior high kids chose to attend a leadership class instead of playing sports, games or other fun activities. Using the curriculum we developed around the theme *God Works*, the kids worked hard at believing who God says they are and at learning to deny the lies the enemy puts before them. The leadership training prepared them for special roles with the younger kids in the larger Kids Club in July.



Speaking of the younger kids...more than 500 K-6th graders participated in our two-week Bible day camp known as **Kids Club**.

It's quite an undertaking. We send out 12 vans, four buses and several other vehicles to pick up children in nearly every barrio in Phoenix and then return them at the end of each day. In between those hours, 75 young urban and suburban interns (Work Crew), and several hundred other volunteers (including the junior high student leaders mentioned above) teach the kids about Jesus' love for them. Our volunteers are from all over Phoenix as well as Ohio, Pennsylvania, California, New Mexico and Trinidad. The Work Crew lived together for the entire two weeks at Grand Canyon University.



There is so much more to tell you...our Mexico Trip, our Mountain Meadows camp for 5-6 graders which we call Kids Camp, and daily encounters with people in the community. In everything, God kept us safe and provided breakthrough moments in the lives volunteers, children, teenagers, work crew, and staff.



Thank you so much for your prayers and your support as we prepare for the beginning of our Fall programs the week of September 20. And don't forget our Urban Workers in the Barrio training day on September 11.

Kit Danley
Kit Danley
President

Richard Speck
Richard Speck
Executive Director

