

Summary of 2012 Good Neighbors Summer Programs

Two Good Neighbors programs were provided this summer, *The Summer School Sack Lunch and Weekend Backpack Program* and *The Summer Enrichment Day Camps*.

The Summer School Programs:

Good Neighbors provided services to six (6) elementary schools—three in Franklin County and three in Bedford County—in the form of weekend backpacks. Three (3) summer schools in Bedford County were provided sack lunches for the children.

Franklin County

1. Weekend backpacks were provided for two weeks of summer school at Dudley and Burnt Chimney Elementary Schools. The backpacks were provided for six weeks at Windy Gap Elementary School. Approximately 120 children participated in the backpack program in Franklin County.

Bedford County

1. Weekend backpacks were provided for three weeks of summer school at Moneta, Body Camp and Huddleston Elementary Schools. And, sack lunches were provided each day of summer school for these children. Approximately 120 children participated in both the backpack and sack lunch program.

NOTE: the sack lunches were provided by “Save the Children” in Franklin County. Good Neighbors volunteers picked up the lunches each day at Rocky Mount Elementary School and delivered them to the three Bedford County Schools.

The Summer Enrichment Day Camps:

The Franklin County, four-week camp was held at Burnt Chimney Elementary School. 82 children were registered, 67 attended
The Bedford County camp was held at Moneta Elementary School. 84 children were registered and 73 attended.

Highlights (different from 2011):

1. Puzzling (working with numbers) was included in the morning cycles
2. The Junior Counselor program was started: five children who were veteran campers and had aged-out, were invited to come as junior counselors to work with and assist the interns. It was a good start for these rising 7th graders. Based on this year’s experience additional program planning will be done for 2013.

3. The 5th and 6th grade program included unique activities for these kids. This included three special fieldtrips—
College day at either Ferrum College or Lynchburg College
A day at Booker T. Washington National Monument to work with the community garden program
A community service day—this year at Lake Christian Ministries

*These kids had a special role with the Roanoke Children's Theatre as the makers of props and costumes

4. Peace Education was moved to the first week of camp so the children could learn and practice skills for conflict resolution all four weeks.
5. Pre and post reading assessment testing was done the first and last week of both camps. The San Diego Quick Reading Assessment test was used. Detailed analysis of this data will be part of the larger annual report. However, as in past years, it appears that about 90% of the children maintain or improve their reading levels during the program. And, the majority is either at or above the reading level for their grade. This is not true for rising 1st graders who are generally below their grade level.
6. We created a new position – lead intern and assistant camp director. This was outstanding. This ninth position was part of the reason the camps ran very smoothly. It provided excellent support to the camp director in managing daily details, provided regular coordination of the intern planning and work and managed most of the details previously managed by me. I will be recommending continuing this position and increasing the stipend from \$2,500 to \$3,000.
7. The camp director (Shearer) did an excellent job managing the daily and unexpected details of the camps. I think everyone noticed how well the reading buddy program ran this summer. This was Shearer's third summer with the program and she provides a steady hand with the kids, their families and the volunteers. I will be recommending a 10% pay increase for 2013. This is \$500 and would be the first pay increase since beginning in the position in 2010.

The cycles, daily rhythms and curricular themes we began in 2008 still provided the framework for the program. The reading buddy, art, gym, nature education, peace education, global education and theatre programs still form the core of our work. And embedded in all these elements are the threads of character development—developing Good Neighbors values and behaviors.

The volunteer program was excellent. We had good numbers and great support from the volunteers. It was administered and coordinated very effectively. Additionally, the orientation programs held before the camps began and the Monday morning

programs each Monday were excellent. These programs helped volunteers better understand all the pieces of the program.

All of the feedback we have received about the 2012 program has been very positive. The stories from families and volunteers affirm the value of this work. Based on my observations at the camps on a regular basis, I believe this was our best program to date. The interns and Shearer functioned at a very professional and high level. The camps were managed in a safe, professional and seamless manner. This conclusion is supported by conversations with volunteers, principals, board members and families.

The details, including information about child recruitment and registration, intern recruitment and training, curriculum development, etc. will be expanded in the annual report.

September 10, 2012