

JESUS SAID, "GO!"



Zion Lutheran Church
www.ziondsm.org
4300 Beaver Ave
Des Moines, IA 50310



Do Something Beautiful for Jesus

In Luke 14:12-14 the story is told how Jesus went to a party and he said, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed." We simply wanted to share lunch and some activities at a local apartment complex that we knew could never pay us back in the traditional sense. We had no idea that we make so many new friends so fast and be so blessed. The children and families we encountered touched our hearts and changed everything about us. As we got to know the kids and their parents we were led by God into one opportunity to serve after another. Over the last two years we have been transformed by the experience. We've seen church families adopt these new families and grow together spiritually. We've been led by our Lord to develop partnerships with local ministries, churches, businesses and the local schools to help meet the needs of the refugee children streaming into our neighborhood. We aren't very sophisticated and our learning curve is nearly vertical. Every day we learn something new about working within the existing social welfare system, working with addicts or the justice system. But we believe this is the work Christ would have us do and that we are doing something beautiful for Jesus. We welcome your partnership, advice or help in any way.

What we do:

- Provide a meal, tutoring and instruction about Jesus Wednesday nights during the school year.
- Provide weekend meals for 24 students at school request.
- Provide rides to and from school for 24 children at school request.
- Provide volunteers for ELL students at the local school.
- Provide financial assistance for families in need.
- Provide furniture and clothes to families in need.
- Help find jobs and fill out applications.
- Provide school supplies and other items requested by Samuelson Elementary.
- Provide every child at Samuelson Elementary a book twice a year.
- Other activities at www.ziondsm.org



Our Greatest Needs are simple:

- **Transportation.** We really need another van. We're transporting 100-150 kids per week. It takes 2 hours to get them all to church and 2 hours to get them home. We are currently renting a second van but the cost is prohibitive. We have difficulty finding church van's to borrow as most churches are using theirs on Wednesday nights. A second van would also help us transport at risk children to and from school during the school year. We also have a real problem getting kids to church on Sunday. Other churches really need their vans on Sundays and the time is more limited on Sundays. There are large numbers of kids we simply can't get to Sunday School and church.

- **Funding for Camperships.** Last year we were able to send a bunch of kids to Bible camp. They had the time of their lives and are clamoring to return. We have camps where they can go and deals on fees, but we need help if we're to increase the number of kids this year. We'd like to double that number this year.

- **Funding for Summer Outreaches.** We really have to use the summer to revamp the program and do some training of volunteers. In order to continue the magnificent gains we've seen in the lives of the kids this year, we'd like to continue having contact with them over the summer. We have some weekly activities planned as well as Art Camp and Vacation Bible School, two outreach events

designed to continue the progress we've seen in the kids.

- **Volunteers.** We're happy to welcome and put to work people from many different churches who want to serve Jesus by serving these children. The coalition of people involved in this ministry is amazing. Want to volunteer? We'd love to have you. Email johnkline@ziondsm.org for more information.
- **Food.** We need funds on an ongoing basis to feed nearly 200 kids during the school year on Wednesday nights and more for feeding kids identified by the school as needing food on the weekends. Oh, and did we mention the drops in throughout the week?



ISAIAH 58:6-8: "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.