

Messenger

of



Where kids go to grow!

Our mission: To raise up a generation of purity, passion, and purpose.

Volume 6, Issue 2

2200 North 20th St. • Omaha, Nebraska 68120 • (402) 341-HOPE • www.hopecenterforkids.org

Art Center: Worship Through Creativity



Hope is happening at our Art Center. A new area in our art experience is the "Creative Worship Hour." Every Thursday our kids have the opportunity to focus on Jesus through art, worship, music, and scripture.

The past few weeks we have rolled out the "special carpet," started our time with prayer, and created drawings and instruments. I've been so encouraged at the enthusiasm I have seen. The kids really enjoy worshipping in this way.

In April we took a special field trip to the Joslyn Art

Museum for a special viewing of the illuminated Bible. Back at Hope we participated in a project to "illuminate" a letter of the alphabet.

Warren, one of our Hope kids, really got into it and worked on the letter T. I asked him about it as I watched him drawing the cross. He said, that "the T was about Jesus." The streaks of red, blue and yellow mixed in with the brown cross truly represented the body of Christ. This was a beautiful moment in a new experience of worship.



A Date With The King

"A Date with the King" was a Valentine's Day lock-in for our little girls ages 7-12. We picked this theme because we wanted the girls to have a night of learning about Christ's deep love for them.

The evening started off with a delicious sit-down dinner. Each girl had an assigned seat with a name card telling the biblical meaning of their name. Next, we enjoyed pampering each other with facials, foot massages, pedicures, manicures, and even a hair style. We then had several creative craft projects, jewelry making, and cookie decorating. Do things get any better for us girls? And yet it did.



A sweet treat: decorating cookies

At midnight we broke into groups for a devotion time about the King's love for us, His desire for us to spend eternity with Him, and how He is preparing His banquet table. All the girls then participated in a contest painting little tea sets.

The night would not be complete



Everyone gets a facial on their "Date with the King."

without - of course - a pajama modeling contest! This was the girls' time to shine, and let their beautiful personalities show. And did they!

A special thank you to Ms. Frances Reed, Alyssa Smith and our intern Sharlay for helping with our all night party!.

The Miracle of Church

For a person to truly change for the better, that person has to be changed from the inside out. We at the Hope Center have been praying for kids to have a desire to want to serve God and start going to church on a weekly basis.

After about a year of praying, a group of Hope Center boys have started going to church every Sunday. They get up on their own and wait at the Hope Center at 8:30 for Pastor King to give them a ride to church. For our inner city boys this is an amazing miracle!

Thank you for giving hope. God is truly at work in the lives of the boys.

Ty Talk

A note from Ty Schenzel, Executive Director



I am overwhelmed by the privilege of being a part of the Hope Center for Kids. I feel as though I am living a dream, a dream that has come true.

Who would have believed 14 years

back that an idea would become a living reality? That idea was one that longed to see hopelessness in the hearts of inner city youth and children come to an end, resulting in a whole generation of kids who care. Care about their own hearts and their own future.

Thanks to you and many others, hope is flowing through the Hope Center. As you read this edition of the Messenger, notice all the hope that is being released.

Because you care, kids are beginning to care. Thanks for the hope. It's working!

Volunteers Support Kids Cafe

The Kids Cafe kept rolling along this spring with the help of many volunteers. The Steve and Tina Kane family, Pentagon Federal Credit Union, Creighton Prep and Fred Krambeck continued to support the members by volunteering one night a week.

We also received supplemental help from Creighton University, Duschense High School and Central High Honor Society.

Thanks to all who help make the meal program a success.

Do you have a desire to volunteer at Hope? Please call Kristen at 341-4673 Ext. 1002.



Hope Girls Give Sweet Treats For Valentine's Day

For Valentine's Day our Pillars of Purpose class was treated to a wonderful dinner at Lo Sole Mio Ristorante Italiano. We feasted on wonderful Italian cuisine and enjoyed the company of our sisters. The young ladies where taught how to use proper etiquette in a restaurant setting.

This is our second year visiting the restaurant for Valentines Day. This year we received a greeting by

the owner. Thank you for giving great encouragement to our young ladies.

Our new club, "Girls Only," for teen girls ages 13-19, hosted it's first Valentine's Day party for all the Hope Center for Kids members.

The girls, led by Ms. Janelle, planned a great event, full of food, games, and fun!

The festivities were held at Hope Skate. The girls did

a wonderful job of decorating.

The Junior Leadership class, girls ages 11-13, visited the Kellom Garden Senior Center. The girls made beautiful Valentine's Day cards and took them to the women of the center.

The seniors were blessed, and we have now partnered with Kellom Gardens to become their adopted grandchildren. We

look forward to working more with the senior care center.



Ms. Shelley, Alea Smith, Alicia Floyd, Dymonique Brewer, Precious Temple, Terrie Thomas and Jasmine Thomas enjoy dinner at Lo Sole Mio.



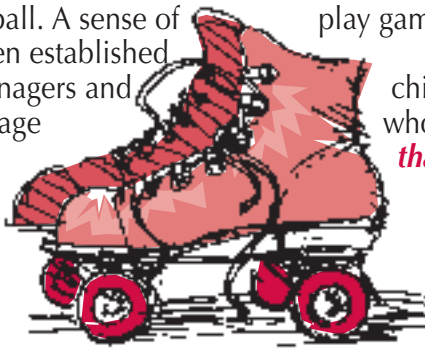
Sharvonna Shears and Jamicka Robinson with residents of Kellom Gardens.

Hope Skate: More Than A Skating Rink

The place to be this year for parties and special events is at Hope Skate. Hope Skate's mission is to provide quality roller skating, basketball, and family entertainment at an affordable rate.

Hope Skate is not just about

skating and basketball. A sense of community has been established for hundreds of teenagers and adults. On an average weekend, approximately 800 patrons come to skate, eat,



play games, and just have fun.

Parents know that their children are in a safe, wholesome place. **Now that's Hope!**

Hope Kids Open Omaha Beef Season



Hope kids with the Omaha Beef mascot.

The Omaha Beef football team promoted the Hope Center for Kids during their season opening game on March 24. Tickets were donated so that Hope kids and staff could attend the game.

Before kickoff, Alex, Jamia, Nikkia and Kristin were able to go on the field for the coin toss. During this time, the announcers

introduced the girls as being from the Hope Center for Kids and explained the Hope Center's purpose.

The staff and kids had a great time at the game! We appreciate the partnership we are able to have with the beef and hope to continue to work together in the future.

I Feel DIFFERENT

When 13-year-old Mike Lewis came to the Hope Center for Kids, he was an especially angry young man. He had been invited by his friend Lionel to try out for the Hope football team. At times Mike's anger came out while practicing on the football field. But no matter how tough it got, Mike wouldn't give up. He actually broke his hand while playing in a Hope game. He was determined to continue playing, so he wrapped his cast-covered arm in foam and tried to practice with the rest of the team.

As time passed, Mike's exterior seemed to soften a bit. One night, Pastor King brought a group of Hope kids to a youth rally. A pastor challenged kids to come up if they wanted Jesus in their life. Mike stepped up immediately. He prayed for God's saving grace. When he talked with Pastor King later that evening, he commented, "I feel different."

Mike began to become more involved in Hope Center

Dear Pastor King:

Boys and girls come from all around to the Hope Center to hang out and have fun while learning at the same time. Many of them probably never said "Thank you." So I'm here to say thanks for all your help and fun we had together.

I also appreciate you being the coach and playing basketball with us. Thank you for teaching us about Jesus and the Lord, and letting us have time to do homework and get me into tutoring. So, I thank you again for all of your help.

Thank you for having kids come in and letting them have fun doing whatever. I'm so proud of the Hope Center and its staff. So please share this letter with them, and continue doing what you do so well.

Sincerely,
Mike Lewis

activities. He started going to tutoring and opening up to staff members.

Recently Mike wrote a letter to Pastor King. In it he thanks Pastor King and the staff for being there. *We would say to Mike, we thank God for giving us the privilege to work with the Hope Kids. We count it a privilege to part of your life Mike, and all the kids who come through the Hope center doors.*

Mission California

Our first mission team of the year arrived April 4th, all the way from Southern California. Armando Garcia, the youth pastor of the group, was a former Hope Center for Kids employee. Armando wanted his youth to experience the Hope Center during their spring break, so he decided to make the 24-hour one-way trip here with 14 youth and leaders.

The first evening the group toured North Omaha to get a sense of the community. We then stopped at a local barbeque shack to eat and experience the culinary culture of North Omaha.

The next couple of days the group worked hard cleaning and painting morning and

afternoon. The group then worked with the kids in the evening. They were busy stuffing Easter eggs with candy and hiding them throughout the building. The children found enjoyment in both finding the eggs and dyeing Easter eggs later that evening.

The group led Crown of Praise on Thursday night.

Sam, a musically talented young lady, borrowed a guitar and led worship.

Armando delivered a powerful message. He challenged the kids and youth to think about the path

they were headed down and reminded them they had a choice to follow Jesus. At the end there was an invitation for the kids to accept Jesus as their Savior and be prayed for. About 15 people responded to the call. Praise the Lord!

The next morning the group packed the vans and took off for home. We appreciate the huge blessing they were to our staff and kids.

Sure the building is cleaner, and Hope Skate has some newly painted railings, but most importantly, our kids were loved and experienced Christ's love through others.

The California youth were changed as well. Many expressed interest in coming back to visit, and one even wants to do a summer internship with us.



Making friends with the mission team.

Mission Squad: Learning And Moving

The Mission Squad has been busy learning, growing and moving outside our comfort zones. We have started doing more local outreach.

In February we attended a Dare to Share conference. There we learned about sharing the gospel and being bold about our faith. We blitzed the town of Lincoln knocking on doors, to ask homeowners to donate a can of food to a local shelter.

It was a great experience for the team. We filled five boxes with cans, and had the opportunity to pray for many people. This was the first time for most on the team to witness.

Since then we have reached out to the homeless in Omaha. We made up lunches, delivered them, and got to pray for several hurting homeless men and women. Another outreach was at Hope Skate. We painted faces

and created balloon animals, while sharing God's love. We currently do about two outreaches a month, and have several training times.

The Mission Squad also leads "Crown of Praise," the Hope Center's Youth Night once a month. This gives them a chance to do the dramas we learn, share their testimonies, and flow as a team in a church setting.

Our goal is still to go wherever God leads for a missions trip this summer. We are so grateful to Terri Schenzel, who has found indi-

vidual intercessors for each member of the team! Thank you for your continual prayer as we prepare. **To learn more about our Missions Squad, contact Rachelle Johnson at 341-4673 Ext. 1010.**



On a mission to make St. Patrick's Day fun!

School (and Tutoring) Is Cool!

It is hard to believe that the school year is over! With the ending of the school year also comes the culmination of the Hope Education Center's tutoring program.

Students involved in the tutoring program have committed to attend tutoring for the entire school year. They attend three times each week for a two-hour time period. Several students have completed this program. Each student brings homework from school to work on for the first portion of the evening. They practice language and math skills with a volunteer tutor, and then are able to work on the computer.

We are so blessed to have volunteers who are committed

to helping our members become better students. Volunteers come from UNO, Grace University and Creighton University. Other volunteers take time from their busy schedule to pour into the lives of our Hope kids.

Students who complete the tutoring program are rewarded with a special trip. They are excited to find out where we will go this summer. We are so proud of our students. Thanks to the parents for helping their children stay with this commitment. The rewards are greater than any trip they might take. The rewards are strengthened skills and a greater love for learning! Thank you to our wonderful partners for making this available.



The fun of tutoring at the Hope Center!

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