

UALC SE Ohio Mission Trip, Caldwell July 11-15, 2016



This July a team of 11 traveled to Caldwell, OH. to demonstrate our faith through our actions and words to serve the needs of Appalachian people in SE Ohio through the mission of HARP (Helping Rural Appalachian People). We served families through home construction projects, but also added a new dimension called “Prayer & Care” this year, in which two team members visited past clients and family members to build relationships and deliver “Hope Bags” to a local nursing home. This proved to be a very meaningful component of the trip, which will be continued in the future. We also were able to financially support a VBS outreach in a UMC in Macksburg, OH., a village south of Caldwell and donate children’s bibles to each of the children who came to VBS.

Projects

This year we were blessed to help two disabled, elderly people. Judy needed her one-story house painted. The house also needed siding repairs. While she was able to provide the paint, she did not have the resources to hire someone to apply it. Seeing her newly painted house brought tears of thankfulness to her eyes. Richmond's bathroom had fallen into disrepair and needed a new floor, commode, vanity and sink. He also needed a new storm door. In addition, team members cleaned and organized his front yard and built a new pen for his pet chickens. On Friday there was a brief dedication when both Judy and Richmond received a Bible. Richmond was also given an American flag provided by a local American Legion Post.



Prayer and Care

Prayer and Care was a new venture for us this year. Two team members, Kristen and Becky, visited several past clients. In one case, we drove to visit a client from five years ago who was hospitalized at the Genesis Hospital in Zanesville. We visited with families in Macksburg, south of Caldwell, and in each home, we were able to have significant conversations and pray with the families. Because the UMC church that was hosting the VBS we supported was there, we were able to hear of good growth in the church with lots of interest in the VBS.

With UALC's financial support, the Macksburg church provided VBS for children in Macksburg and surrounding rural communities. It was a great outreach, with nine leaders, four teen helpers and an average of twenty-three children per day. We plan to support this VBS again next year.



In addition, we put together 87 gift bags for the local nursing home in Caldwell. Each bag contained a Daily Bread Devotional, large print word search, VBS poster, some treats and some personal hygiene items such as lotion or shampoo. The bags were decorated and delivered one afternoon. They were warmly received and appreciated, and provided a way to initiate conversations with residents. Becky and Kristen returned to the nursing home later in the week for another visit.



Although the week consisted of lots of hard work and challenges, it was a very rewarding time for all. Immersed in overwhelming hardships of people's lives, the team on the one hand was exposed to lots of difficulties, but simultaneously experienced the joy of giving and serving and witnessing first hand the provisions and grace of a loving God. Not only did the team make new friends with the families we served, but we also created new friendships within the team, and enjoyed a rich time of fellowship throughout the week.

