

# Our Father's Family Keeper Ministries

### Special points of interest:

- How'd it go? Don't forget to turn in your Family Evaluation Forms!
- How can we serve you better?
- Back to School . . . *Keep the gains!* School has started up: Keep reading and talking with your children!

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## Thank you!

### Wow!

That is all Bro. May and I can say about this summer's program!

It came, it went and --- bumps and bruises — it sailed along far better than either of us imagined!

That was not just due to advance planning, though, but to the many helpful hands and hearts who stepped up to make this happen for the children and families of Cass County.

Turn this page over for a



During the summer program, children potted plants and gave them away free to customers who visited a local supermarket.



## All good things must come to an end . . .



After an exciting six weeks, this was our final day together as a summer program! Turn the page and read about all that our young people did!

# Service Learning ...

One of the major concepts behind this summer's program was to teach our children a skill, while teaching them how to give back to their community, to leave it better than they found it.

We were blessed to have three Service Learning projects.

... sprucing up. Students also worked to beautify another part of town, planting flowers at the base of another stone wall.



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## A Snapshot ...

- ◆ Total number of students who attended at least one day: 121
- ◆ Largest number of students on one day: 90
- ◆ Fewest number of students on a day: 64
- ◆ Median number of students: 61
- ◆ Average number of students a day: 74  
(or, 61 %)

## Where work in the class was 'fun'!



# How outstanding you were . . .

## Our Father's Family Keeper

**Ministries** wants to thank . . .

- ◆ **Cassopolis Public School District** for allowing the program to use its Sam Elementary School building;
- ◆ **Robyn Bright**, food services worker, for accommodating our program's food needs on Fridays; and to **Janice Longnecker**, her volunteer assistant;
- ◆ **Dorothy Smith**, for so graciously serving our children breakfast at 7:30 a.m.;
- ◆ **Ruth Andrews**, for helping our children write a book;
- ◆ **Billie Hires** and her employer, **G.W. Jones Bank** for allowing her time away from her job to teach Junior Achievement classes to our 1st graders;
- ◆ **Melissa Curtis**, and her employer, **Chemical Bank**, for teaching Junior Achievement classes to our 3rd graders;
- ◆ **Home Depot** and its staff, for providing materials so our children could build calendars, baskets and other items, and for donating paint brushes, paint trays and other materials for our service-learning project painting the East Wall at **Harding's Street Market**;
- ◆ **The Village of Cassopolis** for allowing director of public works, **Ben Anderson**, to talk to our students about water and lead a tour of the Water Treatment Plant;
- ◆ **The Rev. Steve Kaszar**, and his wife, to lead our students in planting plants and then donate them — another service-learning project — to shoppers leaving a local supermarket (Rev. Steve is pastor of **United Presbyterian Church**;

- ◆ To **Mrs. Kaszar**, a certified school teacher, for filling in for our kindergarten teacher;
- ◆ **Edwardsburg** management, **Mackling**, facility coordinator, for physical fitness;
- ◆ **Stephanie Co** Coordinator, **Development**, for her assistance;
- ◆ **Nora Lee**, a nutritionist, for teaching our 5th through 9th graders;
- ◆ **Senior Extension** program, **Extension for** program, **Institute**, for 'trainer' program, so our development workers could teach younger children about health;



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A big 'shout out' to the wonderful **Janice Longnecker**, who volunteered to make sure our children were well-fed each and every day!!

**"We are, indeed, greater than the sum of our individual parts. ... Collectively, we are mighty ..."**



Ms. Nora Lee led health and nutrition discussions with our students.



It was summer, but all of our students were engaged in active learning!

Mission Next:

Finding 'mover and shaker' board members

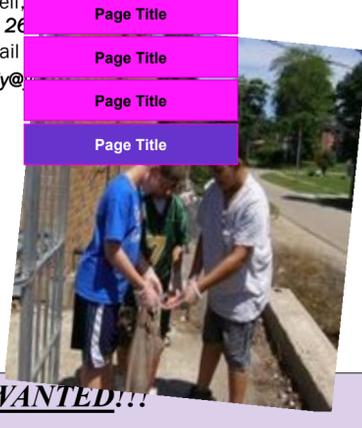
What's next?

In the days since our summer academic and enrichment program ended, Our Father's Family Keeper Ministries has been asked that question more than once. OFFKM is moving on to make sure we stay relevant in supporting our families, youth and community at large.

Here is the one major item on our agenda:

\* Looking to pick some solid, passionate people — "movers and shakers" — to help round out our Board of Directors.

If you know of someone you'd like to suggest or even if you'd like to volunteer yourself, give us a call at 269.476.1257 or shoot us an email at [ourfathersfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ourfathersfamily@gmail.com)



WANTED!!!

- WANTED:** A few good people to serve on a nonprofit board ~ Not for the 'faint of heart!'
- SKILLS:** A heart for service and a willing spirit
- TIME:** Board meets once a month, for up to two hours.
- PAY:** Reward of seeing families and youth grow
- RETURN ON THIS INVESTMENT:** Priceless!!

Our Father's Family Keeper Ministry is looking for a few good people who are on fire to serve families and youth in our community, by connecting their needs to available resources or daring to help design what's needed.

You can come equipped or not --- but please come with passion and a willing spirit: We will provide free leadership training so you can join us in our work. Become part of this movement to support our communities and families while helping move them --- and us ---- forward!

Background checks (free to you) will be conducted on all people chosen to serve on our board.

Curious? Courageous? Contact OFFKM at 269.476.1257 or via email at [ourfathersfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ourfathersfamily@gmail.com).



After-school tutorial 'on hiatus'

This school year, Our Father's Family Keeper Ministries will not be hosting the After-School Tutorial Program that we ran for the past few years! We are sorry that

we will not be able to accommodate deserving children and their families. We encourage you to start first with your child's teacher and school district office.