



Issue 2

March 2011

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT

NI in the City...

## Trend Tidbits...

Lots has taken place since our last newsletter. We continue to help kids with homework on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday afternoons as needed. We have a regular group of kids who attend now and we are developing relationships with these kids while trying to help them with schoolwork. Many of our students are English Language Learners. This means that they didn't learn English as their first language, but actually are bilingual. This often makes it a challenge for students in school as they think in their native language and have to "translate" before they can learn new information. The richness and diversity that these children bring to our lives is immeasurable.

We serve an incredibly creative God who loves all people and expects us to do the same. What an honor to be able to work with these beautiful children and to hopefully provide a safe haven for them to get some help from loving adults who have a desire to serve Him by serving them.

Berryman, Becky Hallmark, Christina Armentrout, Courtney Hampton, Andrew Alesso, Shirley Grimes, Willis Murray, Carol Stanford, Aaron Ritter, Lauren Volrath, Savannah Volrath, Jesse Serrano, Sharon Neglio, and Tim Sturdyvant.

There is a team of volunteers serving on Tuesdays and Thursdays that are from Central and the Lancaster Community who are reaching out to the residents of Trend using their gifts and talents. They are:

Renee Elkins, Concepcion Harris, Don Blake, Javier Bautista, Paula Fowler, Judy Lester, Rhonda Pratt, Jenni Ritter, Libby



**"..you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. ."**

Trend represents the Jerusalem referred to in this verse...it is our hometown. We are commanded to be witnesses in our hometown, our state, country, and to the ends of the earth.

This is a driving force behind the work being done in all of the community houses around the AV.

Proverbs 31:9 says: Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

The mission of Neighborhood Impact is to bring the love of Jesus into the neighborhoods. We do this by trying to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of families.

What is happening in the Trend neighborhood? Relationships are being built between the elementary and middle school children and the volunteers. Five 6th grade girls attended the Father's Eyes Girls Conference on March 11 and 12. One of our fifth grade boys was so excited to share that he passed his states and capitals test that he was waiting at the door with his test in hand as our volunteers walked in. Another of the boys went to Battleground and has been coming to the Wednesday night youth group. We are beginning to pray regularly with the students each tutoring day and although they don't completely get it, the kids are respectfully participating, sometimes by just listening. But...God's hand is evident and for that we are grateful!

## Community House Activities...

Tuesdays are growing!! We have an average of 10-15 kids each Tuesday. They come to do their homework, they come to have a snack and they come to read to therapy dogs. Yes, that's right. There is an organization that got involved in our community house by bringing dogs that are trained to be read to, providing confidence for kids who are shy about



their ability to read to people.

The Thursday group planted a kids garden in the backyard and work on crafts each week in addition to being a part of a Bible Study. Judy Lester leads the younger kids and Andrew Alesso leads the older ones. This is sometimes a challenging time. Many of these students are not familiar with church culture and are not familiar with the Bible. We opted to start on character traits with the younger ones. (honesty, truthfulness, forgiveness, love, etc.) This gives us a platform in which to share the love of Jesus while sharing qualities and character that they may not have been exposed to in a formal way.

A new event that started in April is our sports league. The Neighborhood Impact League has 10 teams and over 100 players who are playing basketball. Ron Stanick, Dean Spoelstra and Barbara Willibrand are the league officials. The Trend Team's name is the Eagles, and the colors are red. The coaches are Greg Alesso and Danny Rossmango. GO TEAM!!!!



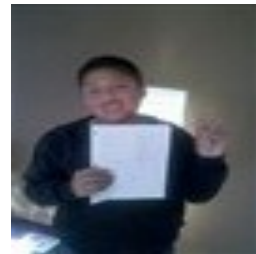
## Spotlight on a student...

Meet: Roy  
Roy is a fifth grade student from Nancy Cory Elementary School. He is a bundle of energy and VERY smart. He loves soccer, playing UNO and spends two afternoons per week at our community house. His family is from Guatemala. He participates regularly in Homework Help and Thursday afternoon Bible Study.

Roy is a an active, polite young man with TONS of energy! Several months ago

many of the volunteers started working with him to pass his states and capitals test for 5th grade. We made flash cards and he studied. He ended up with a 100%!! He was very proud and I made . He ended up with a 100%!! He was very proud and I made him let me take a picture! He was so excited that he had Concepcion call my cell phone while I was at work to let me know that he had passed with a 100%.

A small thing to celebrate...I can't wait until he accepts JESUS!!! That will truly be a day to celebrate!



## We need your help!!!

How can you help? There are lots of things going on at the Trend Community House. Would you like to be involved?

Our needs:

- Volunteers for Homework Help

Tuesdays 3:30-5:00 K-8th

Thursdays 3:30-5:00

- Healthy snacks: Tues and Thurs

- Supplies: folders, \$1.00 McDonald, Del Taco and Burger King coupons, prizes for incentives.

- Prayer Walk: People to join us the first Saturday of the month to walk and pray in the neighborhood

We would also like to open the house more afternoons each week...

- Volunteers are also needed who would like to coordinate activities for Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

If you have an idea or would like to volunteer....

Call Concepcion Harris at 945-7902

## How God Sees the People of Trend...

You're beautiful!  
You are made for so much more than all of this  
You're beautiful!  
You are treasured, you are sacred, you are His  
You're beautiful!  
You are made for so much more than all of this  
You're beautiful!  
You are treasured  
You are sacred  
You are His...

The chorus of this song, written and performed by Mercy Me really speaks to how we are to encourage all people and tells how all of us are viewed by God.

Our hope is that by the people of Central becoming involved in lives within the Trend Community we can be intentional in our outreach to a mission field in our own backyard. While God may call some to go overseas to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are ALL called to spread the gospel with those in our own backyards.

They are beautiful, they were made for so much more than all that life has dealt them, they are treasured, sacred and they are His. Race, socioeconomic status, academic status or behavior plays no part in whether or not they deserve what we can offer them. We have so much more only because we know Jesus Christ and can experience the grace and mercy that He offers to all. It doesn't matter if you can't teach,

if you feel like you don't have a talent to offer or if you do not feel confident. Can you smile? Can you read? Can you listen? Can you gently touch a hand or a shoulder of a hurting person? If so, then you can be involved and you can learn to love the people of this neighborhood.

It is not always easy...they may not seem grateful...but neither do we most of the time in the eyes of the Lord.

We are praying for you and praying for your love to be increased so that you will step out in faith in this work He is doing.



## Spotlight on our volunteers...

The Trend Community Garden is managed by Bill and Sandy Watkins. They have given so much of their time, energy and resources to ensure that the garden is a successful venture and have been very dedicated to the project. This year, 6 families have rented a plot and have planted their own vegetables. These families will be learning not only how to grow their own food, but also what it takes to keep a garden. Four families have been recruited to help Sandy with the running of the garden which includes weeding, cleaning out the beds, having the garden open set hours, harvesting the vegetables and replanting when necessary. Peter Barnett was instrumental in building the raised beds with the help of volunteers and the trellises. A separate garden was planted at the Trend house by the kids and will be used as a teaching tool for them.

Mitch Varner has given of his time and talents by building a much needed patio cover at the community house which will keep us cooler in the summer and by also making a number of benches and tables for the patio. The benches are being used as seating for the bible study on Thursday afternoon hold storage. We would also like to thank the Missions Team for donating the funds for the patio cover.