



Harvey J. Reed
Director

VOLUNTEER News BRIEF

April 2012

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

Volume 9

DYS YOUTH GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY AT LOCAL NURSERY



Rick Zellers
K.W. Zellers & Son
Nursery
DYS Volunteer

Volunteer Week

April 15-22 National Volunteer Week

Message from Director Reed

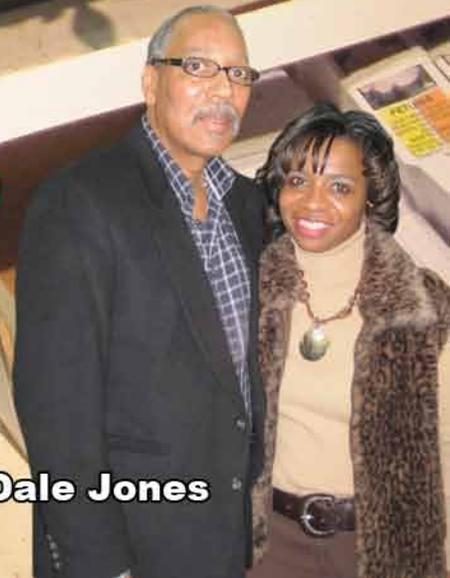
BAKING UP SOMETHING SPECIAL

Vineyard Church Delivers Cookies to Staff

Why I VOLUNTEER

Letters from DYS volunteers

Rev. & Mrs. Dale Jones





**Superintendent Katie Needham
CHJCF**

Youth from Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility (CHJCF) visited and toured K.W. Zellers & Sons greenhouse Hartville, Ohio. Rick Zeller co-owner of K.W. Zellers & Sons conducted the tour and spoke to the youth about soil and tomato plants. Rick started working on his family farm at age 10.

Rick has served as a volunteer at CHJCF and volunteers with True North Ministry. K.W. Zellers & Sons operates five acres of green houses in Hartville.

Some youth on the tour are graduates and plan to start a graduate garden at CHJCF.

Rick displayed flats of celery, habanera peppers and jalapeno peppers to youth.

Superintendent Needham holds a tomato plant that CHJCF youth planted in January. It is growing very healthy. Rick teaches the business side of the program to youth: Production, time management, labor, efficiency, planning, seasonal operations, ordering, planting etc.

Rick shared the impact of migrant workers with youth. How they travel throughout the country following the crops. He's had some workers with his operation as long as 35 years. 80% of migrant workers return every year to work his farm.

Rick explained that the last great Ice Age ended 10,000 years ago and that two-thirds of Ohio had been buried under glaciers,

Rick shows "Muck" to youth, which is super rich soil formed from the time that glaciers melted over Ohio. Rick calls it "God's Soil". The soil in these glaciated regions is great for farming.

K.W.Zellers & Sons

nursery



DYS Youth put their green thumbs to work

Gardening, growing and caring for plants is an enjoyable leisure activity, to produce food, or to create beautiful landscapes with artfully arranged flowers, shrubs, and trees. For some, gardening is a form of exercise, a way to save money on food, or a way to ensure that fruits and vegetables are free from pesticides or other chemicals. For others, gardening is a profession: landscape gardeners design, install, and maintain gardens for a living.

Today gardening is practiced all over the world. With a little soil, some seeds, and a few basic tools, even inexperienced gardeners can enjoy the rewards of creating a garden and watching it grow. Gardeners with more experience and time can delve more deeply, carrying out research to select appropriate plants,

and learning about the particular requirements for each type of plant. The more gardeners apply what they learn, the more their gardens thrive and grow.

Rick Zeller shows a handful of Muck to youth during tour of nursery



Youth from Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility tour Zeller & Sons Nursery



DYS Featured Volunteer:

Pastor Jeremiah Jasper

In recognition of Volunteer Appreciation Week, DYS is acknowledging Jeremiah Jasper, Pastor of the Simpson United Methodist Church and the Fourth Street United Methodist Church located in Wheeling, WV. as its featured volunteer. Pastor Jeremiah Jaspers began mentoring six youth incarcerated at Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility (ORVCF). When the facility closed, the youth were transferred to Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (SJCF). But this did not hinder Pastor Jasper's resolve.



Pastor Jeremiah Jasper meeting with youth

Since the early fall of 2011, Pastor Jasper faithfully continues that relationship and travels from West Virginia to SJCF to visit with those youth. The youth share a meal from food brought by Pastor Jasper. According to Pastor Jasper, "I engage the kids in critical thinking, to think about the actions and consequences." He spends time with the youth sharing dialogue with them about their behavior within the facility and always engages them in some type of educational activity. Each visit ends with a Bible lesson.



What makes Pastor Jasper special is his commitment to mentor the youth until their release and the 6 hour round trip that he takes to impact the lives of these young men. Pastor Jasper also volunteers at Belmont Correctional Institution and volunteers at the neighborhood youth center.

Tim Daniel Professional Photographer

Gives career advice on Media Based Jobs to youth a SCIOTO



Tim Daniel has over 20 years experience as a Professional Photographer. He is owner of Prairie Rose Portraits photography studio located in Union County. He serves as the Public Information Officer for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

In March 2012, Mr. Daniel brought his unique experience in outdoor photography to the youth at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility and discussed media based career opportunities with youth.



AME Church

SPONSORS YOUTH SUMMIT AT INDIAN RIVER JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

AME - The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Third Episcopal District Prison Ministry sponsored their second annual Youth Summit at Indian River Correctional Facility (IRCF). Youth participated in workshops that included Health Education, Family Dynamics, music workshops, and basketball and much more. The day was filled with activities that engaged the youth with volunteers who brought laughter and a special connection with the community. Rev. & Mrs. Dale Jones from St. Paul AME Canton, Ohio served as the hosts. The day was filled with learning, sharing and fun. The next Youth Summit is planned for May at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility.



Dr. Doctor conducts workshop with youth on Health Education at AME Youth Summit



Pajah Lindsay closes the Youth Summit with "I know I've been changed."



Rev. Covin, AME Prison Ministry Director finds her groove at the AME Music Workshop.



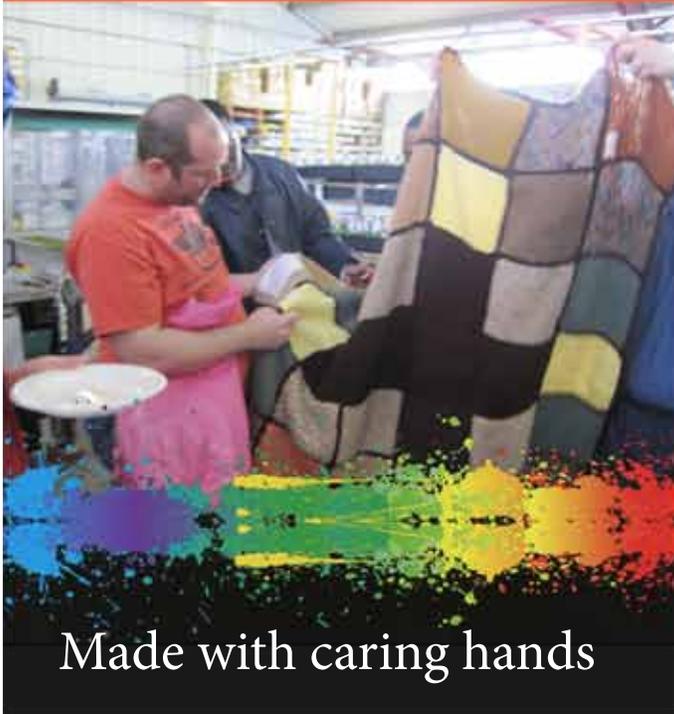
Volunteers at AME Youth Summit



Maurice Jhordan conducts workshop on Family Dynamics



The Knit Wits Quilt on Display



Made with caring hands

The Knit Wits

DARN A QUILT FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Members of The Knit Wits a youth knitting program at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility (IRJCF) put their hands to work knitting a quilt. Volunteers from the Celebration Church in Akron, Ohio work with the youth to develop knitting skills. They teach the youth knitting methods and proper pattern construction.



The quilt was presented to Becky Ritzer, Executive Director of True North Ministry, it was then donated to a local women's shelter. The youth who designed and knitted the quilt attached their names to the quilt.



A SPECIAL GIFT FROM THE OVEN

Staff at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility receive fresh baked cookies for a job well done! Volunteers from **Vineyard Church Columbus.**

Early this year, our church (Vineyard Columbus) was encouraging our church small groups to look for ways to show the love of Jesus to our community in practical, tangible ways. Because I also volunteer with the Vineyard prison ministry Bible studies at SJCF, I see glimpses of the challenging environment that the SJCF staff work in every day.

I know it is pretty routine for volunteers to bring treats in for the youth, but it occurred to me that no one probably ever does anything much for (or even says thank you to) the staff. So, we came up with the idea of passing out cookies to the staff. I mentioned this idea to Matt Rule (a friend who hosts another Vineyard small group) and Brett Harper (another Vineyard prison ministry volunteer and Vineyard small group leader) and both their groups were immediately interested in helping too.

So, together, the women in our three small groups baked around 75 dozen cookies and treats for the SJCF staff. Then the groups got together and bagged them up in various assortments of between 5-7 cookies each, and attached a short thank-you note to each. As you know, we coordinated with you to show up at SJCF on the afternoon of Saturday, March 10 and pass out the bags

of cookies.

A few of the small group members plus some of our regular prison ministry team arrived and, with your help, we made it all around the SJCF campus to personally hand out the cookies to the first and second shift. One of the prison ministry volunteers is also a Gideon and brought pocket-size New Testaments to pass out, so each staff member received one of those too.

I believe there were enough cookies left so that everyone on third shift could have a bag, plus

there was enough left for distribution to the administrative staff on Monday morning. Our small groups and prison ministry team really appreciated the opportunity to bless and thank the SJCF staff. Thanks to all of them for their day-in, day-out service to Central Ohio, and thanks to you for making it happen and keeping everything a secret until we showed up. I hope it was a nice surprise for the SJCF team.

-Jeff Wahl, Vineyard Church Columbus

Each day, YOU make an important contribution to central Ohio residents in a challenging environment. It is our privilege to take a moment to acknowledge your work and to offer a small token of our gratitude.



Your Friends at Vineyard Columbus
vineyardcolumbus.org

M.O.G

Fellowship Night

As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of this friend. A non-threatening, gathering of SJCF male youth and male volunteers form the community that come in and fellowship and share life experience, triumphs, struggles, etc.

Dave Mahan did a wonderful power point presentation on responsible fatherhood. This included the consequences of the absent father in the home, breaking that cycle, and the responsibility of a father. There was also dialogue that additionally included discussion regarding drugs, the influence of music and much more. It was a very great exchange of information and dialogue.



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A Taste of Chicken Soup for the Family

We know that generations of parents have spooned chicken soup into their sick children. This soup was soothing because of its ant-inflammatory and mucus-thinning effects. The Third District A. M. E. Prison Ministry Team spooned a remedy to the young men at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility on February 18, 2012, hoping to change their relationships on all levels.

It was during this second Annual Youth Summit that these young men were empowered to change and become productive family members by making healthy choices in all aspects of their lives. The day included a motivational speaker, who dared the young men to change, to be a new kind of thug – talented, handsome, unusual good citizen! Workshops were presented to enlighten, encourage and empower the young men to do just that. The workshops were 1) “G. A.N.G.’s are the Business”: Genetics or Adoption, the New Gems emphasized family dynamics.

The young men created posters symbolizing the importance of family; 2) “I’m Hot” addressed the issues of self-esteem; 3) “Music is What I Need” described the role of music in the life of an individual. The young men were able to participate and/ or create musical presentations; 4) “It’s On”, a basketball clinic, reviewed the rules of engagement and team play; 5) “It’s Not About Sex, It’s About Relationship” defined the roles of men and women in relationships while reviewing the proper terms and descriptors of various sex related topics. The day ended with motivational

music and a straight talk conversation from our Third District Director, Rev. Barbara Colvin. The A. M. E. Volunteers, Indian River staff and young men were truly inspired by one another and all that occurred on that very special day.

Marguerite D. Doctor
North Ohio Conference
Prison Ministry Coordinator



“Life Changing and Life Saving”

ELEC SIMON

Former Cast Member of the Broadway hit “STOMP” appears at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility.

INDIAN RIVER

Elec is a former Ohio resident and Akron Zips football player. He followed his dream of becoming an artist to New York. He is a former cast member of “Stomp.” He reached out to our youth and showed them a way to release their emotions using ordinary objects to create extraordinary music.

Several young men were brave enough to participate in the show and revealed the ability to use music to release anger and tell their story. Elec will be coming to Indian River twice a month to work with our youth and to create a drum circle.

Elec Simon



A Message from the Director



Dear Volunteer,

As you may know, April 15-22, 2012 is National Volunteer Week. I cannot think of a better time to acknowledge and express my sincere appreciation for your involvement and support of youth.

Your efforts make lasting impressions. I am touched by the stories I hear of volunteers who selflessly go “the extra mile” and give of their time, energy and talent. I appreciate the encouragement you provide to our youth as well as how you motivate others to serve.

Thank you to all our committed volunteers that enter our facilities and regions daily. We cannot achieve our mission of encouraging positive change without you. By working together, we overcome challenges and accomplish our goals. Your presence is a powerful force for positive transformation.

Sincerely,
Harvey J. Reed
Director

WHY I Volunteer

Eli Hotchstetler is a long-time volunteer missionary and mentor with True North Ministry. He volunteers because he feels it is his way of helping to fulfill the Great Commission - letting the youth see the love of God and others through him.

Eli works alongside the young men from Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility and teaches them vocational skills out on the farm.

As Eli says, “I consider my main role to be an example for the youth to follow and to help them through the tough decisions they are facing.”



“Because someone found it not robbery to invest time and effort in my life, I have been charged to pay it forward. I feel seeing someone smile, or feel encouraged because of my efforts, is better than a paycheck. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.”

- Rev. Bill Roberts
Men of Standard



“The reason I come here is because as you get old, you realize all the people that helped you and everything they did for you. This makes you want to give something back.”

Ollie V. Burton
President
Chillicothe NAACP
Foster Grandparents Program

“I volunteer because I believe there is hope for everyone and I try to share that hope with the young men I mentor.”

- Bob Bensonhaver
Goodwill Good Guides Mentor

