



Down On The Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

April,
May,
June
2014



The Student Spotlight



Hey, my name is Robbie. My story about CRF and myself has been told repeatedly-I come from a single parent home, my mom has struggled with cancer-and on it goes. I started coming to CRF in the 6th grade. I went to Hiawatha that summer and devoted my life to Christ. Then came 7th grade, where in a 10-month period I lost my uncle and grandmother; I kind of pushed God away. Life being hard just doesn't let up.

I didn't go to church or Crossroads very much that year. At the start of 8th grade, Doug showed up at my school and talked to me about coming back to Crossroads, it worked and I started attending again. Fast forward a few months to the end of my 8th grade year, I rededicated my life to God and also got baptized. Now fast forward a few years to now. I've just graduated H.S. and I'm still on fire for God and it's all thanks to the love from everyone at CRF.



Pink and Blue is the new Grey

Beloved Son. Beloved Daughter. Cowboy. Princess. Warrior. Designer. Real men wear pink. What's good for the goose is good for the gander. Marketing, media, organizations, families~If God created you to be a male, or if God created you to be a female...what does that mean?

In the month of April we took our students on location and explored various "gender rites of passage" through guest

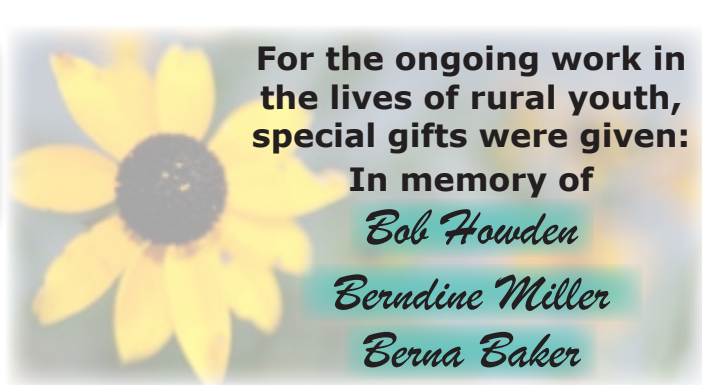
speakers, discussion and set induction. Our girls traveled from a baby nursery to Xpressions to Treviathans. The boys from a working horse farm to a trophy room to the Reading Fire Barn.

We are so thankful for the hosts of our site locations as well as our insightfully wise speakers. Those evenings were springboards for many more conversations our staff was able to have with students in follow up. Pray with us for these kids. Each day they take another step in growing up, maturity and discovering who they were created to be. Psalm 139.



Work crews

work crews, what would we do without work crews? From June 15-22 the grounds of Crossroads Farm were filled with middle school students who came to serve. These students, from two different places, in Michigan, Banner of Christ church in Byron Center and Highland Park Baptist Church in Southfield, planted pumpkins, painted fences, shoveld manure, cleaned our student center, and helped to **complete** the corn maze.



For the ongoing work in the lives of rural youth, special gifts were given:

In memory of

Bob Howden

Berndine Miller

Berna Baker

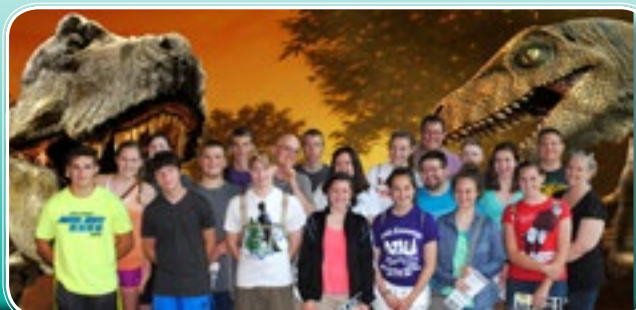
In Celebration and Remembrance Good Friday Pryner Breakfast. April 18th



Serve Now

June 19-22 CRF student leaders headed to the inner city for a missions trip project. The Creation Museum, work projects at a new church plant, a community outreach, and a mega church experience all served to grow and challenge our students. Here is one testimony from a Quincy HS junior, Ellerie:

"I am ridiculously thankful to have been able to go on this trip. By going, I feel like God brought my focus on 3 specific things. First, I realized how much God answers prayer. He was definitely



working constantly, but one of the cooler things was an answered prayer in 5 minutes. Before we went to canvas the streets, invitviting kids to the outreach, it was pouring, so we prayed that God would stop the rain. As soon as we walked out, the rain had lightened and in 10 minutes it had totally stopped raining.

The second thing I noticed
(continued on page 3)





The Shed: "Excited and Anticipating"

-Michael Kruez, MS volunteer

I had the privilege of volunteering with the middle school program at Crossroads Farm for three years during my time at Hillsdale College before I graduated. As I look back on all

the things God did during that short time, I'm excited and anticipating what great things He has in store for young people in the future.

The truth is, I didn't always feel this good about ministry in the middle of it. There were many Tuesday nights as I walked up the crumbling concrete steps at the Student Ministry Center, preoccupied by work, papers, or exams, and feeling really run down. God, I feel so empty, I would pray. You have to do something tonight. Fill me up with your spirit, because there's no way I'm going to make it through tonight. And he did.

In case no one has ever told you, 6th-8th grade students are incredibly energetic. On many of these nights, I would find myself trying to demonstrate what a heart and posture of worship looks like to kids who have never set foot in church while at the same time trying to chase down and tame the students who were chaotically running circles around

the room. You probably guessed, but it doesn't exactly work well. God, fill this room with your presence, I would pray. Grab these kids' attention, because only you can. And he did.

I'm excited about The Shed not just because it meets some important physical needs for the ministry of CRF, but it literally is a project where we as believers put our faith together to create a space designated and designed specifically to lift up the name of Jesus Christ and invite the very presence of God right into the middle of students' lives in Hillsdale County. That kind of faith power can change a generation. It can change a community. Hey, it can change the entire world.

Do you believe it?

Will you stand with Crossroads?

The Shed Campaign



(Serve Now, continued from page 2)



was my growth in relationships. New friendships were built and old friendships were strengthened tremendously. I also grew in Jesus and I'm aware of who I need to be in

Him and where I need to be with Him. Instead of instantaneously becoming on fire for God with a chance of it dying as soon as we got back, I feel like I took a solid step towards Him-where I'm going to stay.

The last thing was how God turned my heart and mind in another direction. I feel like He made me be more open minded to new or different things. When I reflect on the trip as a whole, I see Gods handiwork displayed throughout Cincinnati, the church we stayed at and in our hearts."



Summer Intern

Hello! My name is Katrina Bopp and I am the new program intern for Crossroads this summer. Based in Des Moines, Iowa, I am currently a music major at Hillsdale College. I first heard about Crossroads after a 24 hour prayer event. One of my friends and fellow students came up to me looking for musicians for a worship band. Well, long story short, I looked into the ministry and felt the call. I've had the privilege of working with Doug and Dawn on their volunteer staff for the past year before raising support and coming back this summer. I'm so excited for everything God is going to teach me as I get an inside look into Crossroads and continue to get to know the kids. It's a little scary, leaving home to enter a mission field, but I know that if I listen, God will point me exactly where I need to go and will give me the words to say.



Field Day '14

By Mike & Connie Richardson, H.S. Volunteer

God gave us two beautiful evenings for Track and Field Day 2014. On High School night we observed students competing who never leave the comfort of the back wall during regular program. We overheard a few of them say, "I am not running!" Then, there they



were running with only socks on! One student that hardly ever speaks was talking so much because he was geeked about the fun he was having. On Jr High evening, they are excited about

anything different, and this was different than a normal night. They were more about proving who was stronger, the boys or the girls. We witnessed a girls team totally destroy 3 boys teams in the tractor tire flip. It



was an amazing 2 evenings with 2 students each night sharing their testimonies. To witness the love, teamwork, and excitement in these students was truly the power of the Holy Spirit!



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Loving The Rural Teenager







CELEBRATING
15 Years

Yahoos!!

-  Crossroads Farm's 15 year anniversary!!
-  A great beginning to The Shed campaign
-  A high school girl who accepted Christ on the last program night of the year!
-  A summer intern
-  An Incredible 13/14 ministry year



Take It To Jesus!!

-  Our graduating seniors as they head off to "what's next" and their continued faith walk
-  Our students attending Hiawatha Youth Camp the end of July
-  Wisdom and passion for our Board Of Directors as CRF grows into the vision God has given
-  The Shed Campaign