



crossroads farm

Down On The Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

Oct., Nov., Dec. 2012

Christmas Delivered



"I love this hat, I needed one! And this snowflake on it is pretty cool."

"These eggs are awesome!"
("gummy" eggs donated from The Essenhaus)



"...as I watched students open their packages they reminded me so much of small children opening gifts, their faces and how in awe they were. I wasn't feeling all that well last night and was going to stay home but I am glad I didn't. The looks on those teenagers faces were amazing. God bless the generosity of the people who provided these teens such joy. God bless Crossroads for the ministry you work so hard at. You are truly amazing and it is my pleasure to be apart of it all. I can't tell you how awesome this has been for my son and myself to be a part of. God bless and have a very Merry Christmas!!! (parent volunteer)



"I feel so undeserving. It's so much. This is one of the best days of my life." (senior boy...who accepted Christ the very night of our CRF Christmas)

"My favorites are the razors..."



"The card was my favorite. They signed it! It made it so personal."

"I also saw a boy that said he was walking home, and then immediately got in his gift for the gloves, hat, and scarf to wear on his walk. He put them all on, and left."

A team of 7 people, representing the more than 100 volunteers, who participated in giving the tangible love of Jesus to CRF kids this Christmas, visited the Farm last Friday. We unloaded 220 gift bags for students!! (plus gifts for volunteers!)

"We are still processing our Friday visit with you and the emotions we experienced through this ministry project. ...thank you for helping us realize that is going on through your ministry...We shouldn't be surprised, but we are truly awestruck as we stand back and look at how the timing of everything came about..."



— Drive-By Prayer! —

CHANGING IT UP

Sometimes, we do the same things over and over again until they become rote. That can be good if we are talking about surgeons performing a procedure, or a musician playing a scale, but if we are talking about prayer, it would be bad.

Prayer is the nerve that moves the hand of an Almighty God. We desire to motivate and impassion students to engage God at the most personal level. It truly is at the core of every relationship, activity and teaching here.

This year, in an attempt to move students to pray, and to anticipate movement from God, the staff at CRF prayed through four specific prayer events. Although these events are offered in place of the monthly prayer breakfasts, we have already seen a new energy



exerted toward communicating with our heavenly Father. These events are (were) the “Driveby Prayer”, where students pray for their friends secretly, and then, after leaving a note and treat on the porch, running off to pray

for their next friend.


The Jericho March is scheduled to give students an opportunity to march around, and in some cases through their schools, before the day begins in order to beg God’s spirit to be present. A month or so later we will be offering the annual Good Friday Prayer Breakfast. Please pray with us as we initiate new concepts on a critical spiritual discipline.



One of the girls said, “This is really fun! I could get used to it.” And they kept coming up with new names of kids they knew they wanted to pray for! :) Just awesome!

“The whole leaving the note, knocking on the door and running like crazy? The girls got such a rush out of it! At one house, as they were sneaking up to the door, the motion lights came on. They screamed - we screamed! Who expected motion lights??? Obviously not us!!!”

“Last night was so fun. We did a drive by prayer! I ran most of the notes but one was done by a guy named Zack. He ran up to Haylee’s house and knocked on the door as fast as possible and threw the bag at the floor! I had one and was running to a house and I saw my friend’s mom in the window. I knocked on the door, she turned around, so I waved and threw candy down. :)”

“So the girls and I are sitting in my car, making a list of who to visit. I asked one of them for a name to make sure she was included. She wanted to know if a guy’s name was okay and then gave us “Ronald McDonald”...and the whole car erupted in laughter!! Even though it was really funny (!), I knew that she was asking if we could go visit her brother. So we did! How fun to take a teen to their OWN house!!! Even cooler, she added on to what someone else had prayed - after refusing to pray for him originally.” 



First Impressions

So I first heard about CRF from Bennett. (another new CRF staffer from SAU... who's dad was Crossroads' very first intern!!~yep, CRF is getting old!) One night while we were playing pool, he told me about how he was planning on helping out at a middle school youth group near Hillsdale. And he thought that I might be interested in working there too because I want to go into social work and I like working with people. And it sounded really interesting to me, so I decided that this would be really cool and a good opportunity. Walking in the first time I was surprised to see how many kids were there, and also a little nervous to be around these kids for the first time. Also I was a little unsure of what my role was and what exactly I was supposed to do.

I really like the team. Everyone was very helpful, friendly and welcoming (especially Dawn!) and I really appreciate that! I also think that what Crossroads Farm is doing as a ministry is really great! It seems like they are helping out a lot of kids who really need it and who would not get it other places. The lessons that Doug is teaching can fully relate to their lives and is something that they all probably have questions about. To have people who care about them and who want to lovingly teach them how they should live is really important to their lives and who they want to be when they grow up.

Meg, Middle School Volunteer from Spring Arbor University 📷



Prayer Closet



- *Winter retreats Jan 25-27 (MS) and Feb. 8-10 (HS)
- *Rich Carpenter as he formally begins his support raising process to be a missionary at CRF serving in the role of Associate Director of Visual Communications.
- *The follow up with new believers
- *That our staff will continue to fall more in love with Jesus and be fresh in the passion that allows them to share that love with students

Take It To Jesus:

Yahoos:

- *12 students who received the real gift of Christmas~salvation~at our Christmas parties
- *Scholarships have already begun to come in for winter retreats!
- *Only \$60,000 left in our No Debt But Love campaign!
- *New missionary staff member Jerry Bernard to begin in January
- *Jesus came once...and He's coming again!!!
- *The incredible team of 100 from the Detroit area that provided gifts for our students

A Muddy Murder Mystery



Rain, sleet, mud, cold...nothing stops **hundreds** from racing through acres of corn collecting clues and solving a murder as a team. Nothing stops bands like this year's Shine

Bright Baby from swaying the wagon stage at the front of the barn with masses of students jumping and singing around them. Nothing stops an endless stream of community volunteers, area businesses, and the CRF staff from doing whatever it takes to provide a riot in an atmosphere of love where a kid can experience Jesus. The Hatfields and the McCoys 13th Annual Murder Mystery Outreach was one of the record books! 📷



WOW! I Didn't Expect That

It was a regular Sunday night program, and a student brought a friend..."I don't really know what I think about God and church and stuff, but when I walked in here and saw the screens, the game room, the people~Wow! I didn't expect that."

As you pray through your end of the year giving, and you pray through your giving commitments for 2013 ~ ask God if He would have you invest in where He is working here amongst rural youth. Thank you. How humbling that God choses us... you...to love kids for Him. 📷



The only thing crazier than going to see The Hobbit before your 8am college exam the next morning is to go see it with a van full of 8th grade guys. A trip to the movies may not seem like a prime ministry opportunity, but this sort of outing is one of the best. Sure, it involves a lot of goofing around – belting Feliz Navidad on the way there, or trying to rock the van at stoplights on the way home. For guys, though, the meaningful part of our relationships almost always takes place below the surface. It may take 3-4 hours having fun at the movies before parking out in the center of town for five minutes to have each of them pray for their community and school, but that time

is worth every second. It's quick spiritual moments like those that we work for. It takes time. It takes

I really don't know what could make the news about the CT shooting today any better, except maybe hearing middle schoolers pray for those families and asking for God's protection on their own community- 'cause that's totally what we just did. (I mean, what else are you going to do with a captive audience in the back of your van at 11pm after seeing The Hobbit...)

Psalms 147:3: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

risk. You never know when guys will forget what vehicle they came in and almost climb into someone else's van accidentally (seriously people, please lock your doors when you park). But the hope that a student will encounter God in a new way through that time together makes the shenanigans and the lost study time more than worth it.

Thanks,
Michael

(Hillsdale College middle school volunteer) 📷

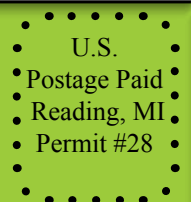


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Loving The Rural Teenager