

Christ's Outreach for the Blind continues with construction projects in 2003

During the week of March 9th, Christ's Outreach for the Blind began its first mission work camp experience of 2003 with a group of adults from Immanuel Christian Reformed Church, Orange City, Iowa.

The camp already has a total of 325 volunteers scheduled for the summer and is anticipating more.

The Immanuel Christian Reformed Church group came into contact with Christ's Outreach for the Blind through Dan and Heidi Hibma. The Hibma's along with their son, Eli, have been volunteers at the camp since January.

Last fall, Mike Gates, Director of Christ's Outreach for the Blind spoke at to three different Iowa churches including Immanuel Christian Reformed Church.

The group of fifteen volunteers labored diligently throughout the week with a variety of projects.

Many worked outside clearing fields and trails. JoEllen Kauk had this insight to share about her experience, "Cutting down trees was great fun! Throwing twigs and branches on a pile may seem insignificant but add that stick by stick to the work that everyone else does, and together bit by bit, we can make a difference!" This is how the camp has been built

little by little!

Another outside work project was centered in and around the greenhouse (built with a matching grant through FRIDE). The greenhouse's rafters were stained. At the same time, a group constructed a hand-lain rock retaining wall. The group gathered the rock from the 900 acres that the camp encompasses.

Even with all the outside work going on, there was still inside work to be done.

Group members helped to clean the Outreach Building. Some who were skilled electricians helped with electrical needs of the camp.

The Outreach Building will be used to room the 600 kids that will visit the camp annually. Currently the office and two bedrooms are completed. We are making progress on finishing the rest of the building; however, we are in dire need of 1,900 sq. ft. of non-porous tile to be used in the commercial kitchen, cafeteria, and two public restrooms.

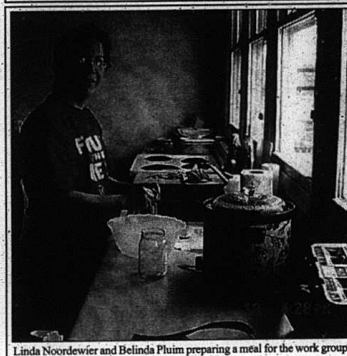
If you are interested in making a donation to help purchase this need or if you have any questions about our other needs, please contact Mike Gates at 256-8888. Also, please visit our website at www.blind19.com.



Greg Noteboom, Mike Kleinhesselink and Larry Ribbens landscaping around the greenhouse.



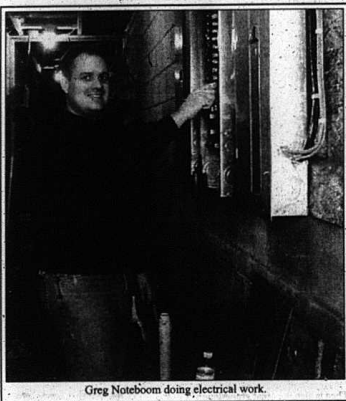
Heather Katje and Rachel Droog painting the rafters inside the greenhouse.



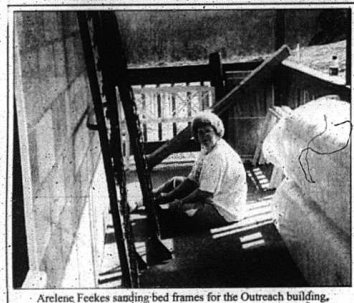
Linda Noordewier and Belinda Plum preparing a meal for the work group.



Valerie Droog cleaning in the Outreach Building.



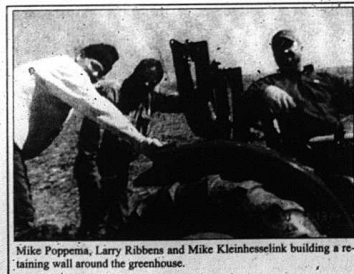
Greg Noteboom doing electrical work.



Arelene Feekes sanding bed frames for the Outreach building.



Clearing a field in the woods are back row from left: JoEllen Kauk, Arelene Feekes and Linda Noordewier. Front row from left: Dan Plum and Randy Droog.



Mike Poppens, Larry Ribbens and Mike Kleinhesselink building a retaining wall around the greenhouse.

Poplar Grove Flower Shop

Large assortment of Memorial flowers to choose from.

Reasonable prices.

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758-8480

PRESCHOOL / KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & SCREENING

If you are considering or planning to enroll your child in Preschool, Head Start, or Kindergarten next fall, you need to register early!

PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND?

Priority 1: any child age three (upon birth date) or four who has an identified disability

Priority 2: any child who is age four before or on October 1st, AND qualifies for free lunch

Priority 3: any other child who is four before or on October 1st, and resides within the attendance zone will be eligible as space permits

Priority 4: A qualifying child who is four before or on October 1st and resides outside the school attendance zone may attend another school, pending principal approval, if the parent provides transportation.

Priority 5: A non-qualifying child who is four before or on October 1st and resides outside the school attendance zone may attend another school, pending principal approval based on "hardship" if the parent provides transportation.

Eligibility for Family Life Child and Family Development Center / Head Start differs slightly, please call (606) 256 - 5613 for more information.

WHERE ARE THE PRESCHOOLS LOCATED?

Brodhead Elementary School (BES)
Mt. Vernon Elementary School (MVES)
Roundstone Elementary School (RES)
Family Life Child and Family Development Center / KRF Head Start - Call 256 - 5613

WHEN IS REGISTRATION AND SCREENING?

Registration will occur at each elementary school this spring. Family Life Child and Family Development Center / Head Start will register children in August.

Friday, April 25, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Mt. Vernon Elementary only)

Saturday, April 26, 2003 from 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (All three elementary schools)

Friday, May 2, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Mt. Vernon Elementary only)

Saturday, May 3, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Brodhead & Mt. Vernon Elem)

You are encouraged to call for a registration and screening time. Brodhead attendance zone, please call 758 - 9756.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS MAY ALSO REGISTER AT EACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON THE SAME DATES. IF YOUR CHILD ATTENDED PRESCHOOL OR HEAD START, THEY DO NOT HAVE TO REGISTER AND BE SCREENED. THE SCHOOLS WILL HAVE THEIR INFORMATION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL Janet Burke or Elaine Hansel at (606) 256 - 2125 or Sarah Dixon (Head Start) at (606) 256 - 5613