

PRESCHOOL TRIKE-A-THON 2019



Every year, Orland Park Christian Preschool plans two special days in May (one for each class) when the children bring their own bikes and trikes to school so that they can ride for a special cause. This year the dates were May 6 and 7, and the special cause was Hogar de Amor Orphanage in Honduras. (May 6 turned out to be a beautiful, successful day. The children who were scheduled to ride on May 7 learned patience as they waited until May 14 for a date with no rain. But May 14 turned out to be beautiful too!)

His Heart and Hands Orphan Ministry of Orland Park Christian Reformed Church has sent a team of caring people to this orphanage to make annual visits for many years. When the team came back this past January, they shared photos of the children at the orphanage and the school grounds where they attend. Upon seeing these photos and speaking with a member of the traveling group that went to the orphanage, we noticed a dirt field which they use for soccer practice. The children at the orphanage would love to have a new soccer field to improve their grounds and give them lots of great exercise. The staff at Orland Park Christian Preschool decided to support the building of a soccer field for the orphanage in Honduras with the funds that would be collected at our annual Preschool Trike-a-thon.

The preschool children learned that by riding their bikes around a track in the church parking lot and asking their family members to support them, they

would be able to bring money to school that could be used to help build a soccer field for the children at the orphanage. What a great opportunity to teach these young preschoolers about giving to others that are in need and being a blessing to them!

When the days for our Trike-a-thons finally arrived, all the preschool children were very excited for the event! They decorated their trikes and bikes with name plate crafts that they made. We all gathered under the church canopy when we got outside and many parents, grandparents, and friends joined us. Kellie Loerop from His Heart and Hands Orphan Ministry was there to thank us and lead us in a prayer for safety and for blessings for the children at Hogar de Amor orphanage. She also brought a photo album of her recent visit to Honduras to share photos of the children at the orphanage. We lined up our bikes at the starting line on the church parking lot, took some pictures, and when the whistle sounded we took off! We rode around the track for approximately 10 minutes. Our teachers counted the number of laps that each child rode. Our supporters stood around the outside of the track and cheered for the children. What fun it was to do something

we really enjoy and serve others at the same time! We are so blessed and we are thankful that we can be a blessing too.

At the time of this writing, donations are still being collected. But we are confident that the funds raised will be a great start toward blessing the children in Honduras with a nice soccer field and the knowledge that people love and care for them.



PRESCHOOL FAMILY PICNIC



Wednesday, May 15, dawned sunny and warm, and it was a perfect day for the annual family picnic at Orland Park Christian Preschool! We were excited to welcome extended family members of the preschool children to our church grounds – many grandparents, parents, siblings, and cousins came to enjoy outdoor game stations, a bike-riding area, hop scotch, bubbles, and our school playground. While the children played, the adults enjoyed fellowship with friends and new



acquaintances. The teachers also enjoyed interacting with the family members of the children. This is a time when we are often questioned about our facility, our church services, and other ministries that are available to preschool families.

Following outdoor activities, it was time for a picnic lunch in the church gym. Everyone participated by bringing something for lunch – hot dogs, buns, chips, salads, desserts, and beverages. We had more than enough food! To finish off the day, the children were able to enjoy a large jumpy house that was set up inside the gym. A big thanks to Dave and Jan Kamp for graciously allowing us the use of their jumpy house. It is definitely a highlight of the day for the children! We thank and praise God for a happy and beautiful day.

PRESCHOOL EMBRYOLOGY STUDY

Early in April, the children at Orland Park Christian Preschool spent a week learning about God's wonderful plan for growing baby chicks inside of eggs. This is a miracle that only God can do! Instead of going to the farm to see the mother hens sitting on their eggs, we were given the opportunity to keep some chicken eggs in our school incubator. We learned that it is very important for the eggs to be kept warm and for them to be turned regularly. While we waited, we looked at books and photos of baby chicks developing inside the eggs.

After 21 days of counting down and waiting, (and a few extra days of waiting this year), the preschool



children were treated to the hatching of baby chicks in the incubator. They were able to observe live births, freshly-hatched chicks that needed to rest, and the change that occurs in just a few hours from a newborn chick that is wet and wobbly to a fluffy yellow chick that is ready to move to a brooder box.

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Wife of Noble Character Study Finishes Great Year!

For the past nine months, approximately 30-40 women have been meeting every Wednesday night for the Wife of Noble Character Bible study. Barb Wilson, author of the study, travelled from St. Charles to OPCRC to provide live teaching for the study each week. Following an hour long teaching time, the ladies met in small groups to discuss the lesson for that week. The study also included personal time digging into God's word in preparation for class time on Wednesday nights. Some of the topics covered in the 15-chapter study included:

- What's so Important About Obeying God?
- Love Is Commanded by God
- God's Protective Policy of Submission
- Forgiveness
- Watching Our Words
- Intimacy in Marriage



The study provided a great avenue for growth in the Lord for both married and single ladies. Exercises provided in each chapter to do at home helped to reinforce biblical concepts being taught and provided accountability for group members.

A special thanks to our faithful leaders: Linda Miltzow, Alyce Camphouse, Carol Vroom, Kim Van Ryn, and Darla Hoekstra.

We will probably be offering the study again sometime in the future. If you are interested in doing the study on your own, go to www.wonc.teachable.com for further details.

ELIM BENEFIT CAR SHOWS

Come to one of two car shows to benefit Elim.

Schepel Buick/GMC is hosting their 24th annual **Charity Custom Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Merrillville, Indiana, and Scott's Garage is hosting their 9th annual **Elim Benefit Car Show and Kids' Zone** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Elim's East campus in Crestwood.

Each show's proceeds go to support various programs and equipment that is used throughout Elim to serve over 1,000 people who live with disabilities and other special needs. Please call (708) 293-6518 or visit Elim's website at www.elimcs.org.

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One of the highlights of the children's observations was holding a baby chick in their own hands. They also enjoyed seeing the chicks eat seeds and drink water from a water dish. The next week the chicks were ready to be brought to the farm. We thank Vince Kuyvenhoven and Rick Baas for delivering the chicks to local farms where they would have a good home.

