

Helping others is also God's work

Journey Church celebrates Community Impact Day

Three times a year, the Journey Church celebrates Community Impact Day. On Sunday, June 29, the church hosted its 12th day in a series, picking up where it left off on its last impact day in January.

This particular impact day sent more than 170 volunteers into the community to meet the needs of the area in which Journey members worship. There were 12 projects for the volunteers and they not only made short work of their community service, but also enjoyed every minute of the time they worked.

Community Impact Day is not only meaningful for those receiving help, but also for the volunteers. "It is a way to channel your frustrations for society's lost and forgotten people into an event that makes a difference for them" said Kelly McPhail, a recent Community Impact Day coordinator.

The force, which is what Lead Pastor Jeff Wenke, calls the volunteers who head out to help their community, comes out to fulfill the needs of the community, but has "a significant impact for all those involved. Services at the church are cancelled three times during the year to allow "our members to go out and make a difference. I couldn't be more proud of the people of our church," said Wenke. "We had a tremendous response to our challenge to serve others as Jesus did. We definitely made a positive impact!"

"Nothing is more exciting to me than seeing our church members working so hard to help others" said Kendra Chun, who organized the event.

On June 29, the volunteers invested their time, their energy and money in projects to help soldiers overseas, domestic violence shelter residences, families of people that are incarcerated and teachers and students at Pioneer High School, where Journey Church holds its Sunday services.

One of its newer projects is handmade blankets for children who are in the hospital fighting cancer. So far, 40 blankets have been made.



Above: Journey Volunteers **Harry and Mindy Worst** help at One Step Closer, a therapeutic horseback riding center. Right, top: **Jill and Tara MacInnes** help make handmade blankets for children fighting cancer. Right: Journey kids made 120 backpacks for under-resourced children. Photos courtesy of The Journey



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Other teams cleaned up a 1.5-mile section of the Guadalupe trail, worked at a therapeutic horse riding facility for children with disabilities, as well as a team that went and spend time with residence at a convalescent hospital.

"Our children are learning the value of serving and helping others", said Kristin Guenther, The Journey's Children's Ministry Director who led the project making backpacks for under resourced children.

The church has invested nearly \$8,000 on these projects. Its members have also invested heavily in international efforts to reduce the suffering of people who are dying of AIDS.

The idea for Community Impact Day came from a desire for the church members to reach out and interact with others in a meaningful way. Four times a year, the Journey "cancels" regular Sunday morning services and each member is encouraged to sign up for a project. The church prides itself on reaching out to others in the community by professing "no church experience required" as its catchphrase and inviting those who aren't traditional "church people" to come and explore faith in a comfortable setting.

The Journey Church meets at Pioneer High School every Sunday in gatherings Wenke describes as non-traditional. More information is available at www.talkinchurch.com.



It's getting really wet

Left: The Thousand Oaks neighborhood of Almaden held a Fourth of July parade followed by a water show at Thousand Oaks Park. This picture shows the water extravaganza after the parade. Photo by Brian Donnelly
Below: 17-month-old **Camille Baham** (with mother, **Jennifer**) laughs after a run through the shower, courtesy of the San Jose Fire Department. Photos courtesy the Baham family

