



Maple Grove Food Packing for Haiti



group of girls were celebrating their friend's birthday! Rather than focusing her party on herself, this young lady chose to spend her birthday party packing meals for people in need. They had a great time serving, rotating around the table so each girl got to do several different tasks and every time they filled a box, they yelled "Happy Birthday!"

At that same shift, another table was surrounded by young men in Osseo soccer jerseys. Their coach wanted his guys to participate in a service project to help bond them together as a team. Proving just how

of young men who didn't just work hard, but inspired those around them to do the same. Through their smiles and laughter and some friendly com-



petitions, they helped their shift pack over 100,000 meals - in just 2 hours. According to Ramon Pastrano of Impact Lives, this shattered all packing record from any of their previous events!

Another amazing group that helped throughout the day were the kids

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well they could work together, that team packed more boxes than any other table the entire day - over 30 boxes! Their coach later mentioned that many of those kids were experiencing tough times and some were in need of meals themselves. How awesome that they worked so hard to serve others in their own time of need! This was an amazing group

On Sunday, August 29, Northwooders didn't go to church - they WERE the church. For the second consecutive year, Northwood partnered with Maple Grove Covenant Church and ImpactLives to sponsor the Maple Grove Food Packing event. It is easy, when thinking of an event like this, to focus on the numbers. After all, over 800 volunteers came together and packed 285,000 meals during the span of 9 hours. But the true beauty of this event is found in the stories that developed during the day.

At one shift, a table was filled with young volunteers wearing matching yellow shirts and huge smiles. This



"as the Father sent me, I am sending you" John 20:21

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Haiti was chosen as the destination for the food shipment because of the devastating earthquake that hit the country on January 12, 2010. The disaster affected an estimated three million people: approximately 230,000 people died, 300,000 were injured and approximately one million people were made homeless.

ing event was truly a great day and a beautiful picture of the church and community coming together for a common cause in the name of Jesus! There is still a chance to get involved financially. Around \$32,000 more needs to be raised before the container can be shipped. Donate online at www.mgfoodpacking.com.

from NSL. There were approximately 40 volunteers that worked all day, from 7:30AM to 7:30PM. Over half of these volunteers were youth from Northwood. These kids went above and beyond, jumping in wherever help was needed. They worked hard all day, heaving heavy rice bins, hauling food boxes, training and cheering on tables and anything else that needed to be done, all with smiles on their faces.

There were glimpses of incredible generosity from children who brought in piggy banks filled with coins that they had collected all summer. One little boy who had recently celebrated his birthday, returned all of the gifts he'd received and brought that money in to buy several boxes of food. Another show of generosity came from the Community Center staff. Not only did they offer up the gym for the event - free of charge - but the staff working that day made sure every detail of the day ran smoothly, even jumping in at points to help haul and pack up the huge piles of trash that were made!



Before the earthquake hit, Haiti was already the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. One in two Haitians live on less than one dollar a day, half do not get enough food and 70 percent are undernourished. The earthquake only exacerbated these issues.

Great things can happen when the church breaks outside its walls and into the community. The Food Pack-



Distribution of the food in Haiti will be carried out by Lifeline Christian Mission



CALENDAR

- **October 31 - Outreach Sunday with special guest Dan Baier from Impact Lives**
- **November 7 - Outreach Sunday with special guest Dan Olson from Hope Academy**
- **November 30 - Loaves and Fishes**
- **November/December - Hope Academy Adopt-a-Family for Christmas**

OUTREACH FUND

(Fiscal Year 9/2010-8/2011)

Budget YTD	\$3385
Received	\$2575

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Here, there and everywhere

Summer Mission Teams

Here, there and everywhere



From Mexico

The 2010 Chiconautla Mexico mission trip was inspiring, life changing and a blessing. The ten members of our team consisted of Brad, Shelly, Jess and Dan Anderson, Grant and Karen Case, Amy Chaffin, DeAnne and Blake Koppendrayner, and Annette Yoraway.

Each person gained something by this experience, whether it was inspiration to consider becoming a missionary, the impact of joyful worship, an appreciation of their own home's comforts or the simple but profound blessing of praying with others.

Iglesia Bautista Bet-lehem has a wonderful church congregation. We enjoyed our time alongside them painting and laboring at the church as well as singing and praising God with the families during services.

Our week of sharing the Word of God included music and a skit during the Children's Ministry program within four neighborhoods (Chiconautla, Presa, La Hermosa and Tizayuca). It impacted us and hopefully planted the seeds we were meant to sow in the hearts of children. Team memories included making bead bracelets where each bead represented a step to salvation, seeing a man under a tree studying those steps, blowing bubbles for little smiling faces, clowning with our faces painted or painting the children's faces to spread smiles. A smile in any language translates beautifully.

God wants us to share His love. Witnessing in Chiconautla included taking time from our lives to play ball and sing songs, just listening to a special young boy, praying with someone for healing, or praying over our world from a mountaintop. The point is to share HIS love and you will be blessed.

From Minnesota

I'd been going about my life focusing on my job, family and some core relationships when I joined the Twin Cities Refugee Team. I of others and to open myself up to better hear what God wanted to say to me.

The first day of our trip, I got exactly that. Our first stop was to drop off much needed furniture for a Somali family who had just moved into a new apartment. Even though the delivery, set up and time spent socializing with the family had taken much longer than expected, it was okay. We were there to welcome our new neighbors by reaching out the hand of friendship and demonstrating the love of Christ. The second stop similarly took longer than expected. The extra time spent with these families meant we needed to make some adjustments to our itinerary, but that was fine. This trip wasn't about our agenda.

The second day was a surprise. I was there to "make myself available", but it was the Karen Baptist church we attended that took time out of their church service to bring us in front of the congregation to welcome and pray for us. Bhutanese and Karen families opened up their homes and served us lunch. After lunch we did a scavenger hunt for refugee children, but as we ran from apartment to apartment with excited children yelling, "we need a toothbrush, CD, football, Bible, dishtowel.....!"; it was the parents in this refugee community that opened their homes and made themselves available to us.

God is bringing refugees from the ends of the earth to our community. Many have endured repression and violence. All have been forced to leave their homes and often feel unwanted and isolated. We just need to open our eyes to notice them and make a little space in our lives to know and serve them.

From Poland

A team from Northwood went to Poland this last summer to be the witness of Christ and to love the teenagers at Camp Eden. The second day during the evening service, we met two girls, Natalia and Kinga, who were 13 and 14 years old. Pastor Henryk, who was preaching that evening, asked us to divide into groups. We were going to pray in English, but because the two girls who were sitting alone right next to us, we invited them to pray with the Northwood team. After making the introductions through translation from Polish to English and English back to Polish we discovered that the two girls wanted to pray with us but did not know how to pray with their own words. We ended up praying in English and they joined us through Megan's translation into Polish. At Natalia's and Kinga's request we prayed for their families. After the preaching was over one of the girls was so touched by the Holy Spirit that night that she cried during the final prayer. A few days later both of these girls gave their lives in commitment to Jesus Christ.

We continue to pray for Natalia and Kinga as we know they come from challenging homes where each of their parents has alcohol problems. Now that they have committed their lives to Christ, they can start a new and clean journey of their own.

We also hear stories such as Paulina's who is one of the leaders. Paulina is 16 years of age and comes to the camp to minister as well as to be nurtured in her Christian faith. Paulina's family and friends do not understand her new relationship with Christ. She was forbidden by her parents to attend a protestant church after they found out she accepted Christ about two years ago.

God can use Northwood in sending teams to Camp Eden!

