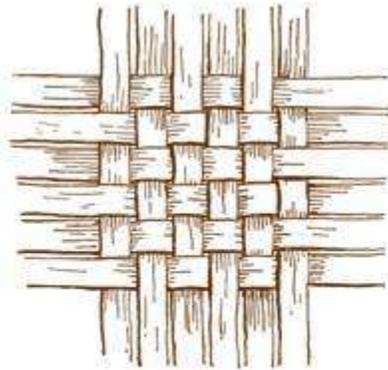


Current News from Seven Baskets Ministries!

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SEVEN BASKETS

SUMMER 2020

“CAMP IN A BOX” A HUGE SUCCESS!

The realities of social distancing among elementary school-aged children forced us to re-think our annual summer day camp program. The re-imagined program became “Camp in a Box,” a complete day camp experience that includes sports activities, crafts, academic exercises, and devotions. We had 73 children participate, which is larger than our traditional on-site camps.

Even though camp was different than anticipated, it provided wonderful opportunities for families to participate in camp together through the inclusion of such things as a board game and a cake mix with frosting. Additionally, we heard stories of families that began a new habit of doing devotions together after completing the camp devotional booklet. We also had one family, from Lindbergh, that used their camp items to reach out to neighbor children. We were able to provide this family with additional items to begin a small Bible class that is still

meeting.

The reports of the children and parents indicate they had a great time working through their boxes. Reward points were earned as they completed activities and resulted in awarding many prizes, including pizza parties for the entire family delivered to their door. The program concluded August 4th with a “Drop-by Celebration” where children received their final awards and families enjoyed hot dogs, chips, and ice cream TO-GO.

It was a blessing to see God at work in the lives of our campers and their families throughout the summer. We look forward to seeing how the doors opened by Camp in a Box will provide opportunities to connect with families throughout the school year.





FEEDING THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Since the close of onsite classes in March, Seven Baskets has been active in providing meals for children. During March, April, and May, “Grab-n-Go” bags containing a breakfast and lunch were distributed two days per week from the Seven Baskets Community House. During the summer months our distribution increased to cover Monday through Friday through our partnership with the City of Columbus’ **Summer Lunch Program**. We are now returning to our two day/week schedule which will continue during this period of remote learning for Columbus school children. Family food bags have also been distributed during these months

and will continue into the fall through our Plus2Pantry ministry.

Thank you to our many partners who donated cash, supplies, and/or ordered food through our Amazon account. Working together we have met a genuine need for nutrition among those we serve.

SHIFTING GEARS TO MEET NEW NEEDS

The challenges facing Columbus City Schools caused by Covid-19 have a direct impact on Seven Baskets planning for Fall activities. Their shift to virtual learning suspends several of the programs we traditionally operate like lunchtime tutoring/mentoring and afterschool. In their place, however, we will be operating a “Learning Extension Center” where small groups of children come to the Community House for tutoring. It is our goal to serve twelve children in two groups meeting twice per week.

THANK YOU, TREASURER TIM!

In the last newsletter a change in the treasurer’s position was announced. Our long-time treasurer, Tim Wagoner, stepped down from his role and Christy Scholl assumed these responsibilities. That transition took effect June 1 and Christy is now ably performing her new duties. If you have any direct questions for her she can be reached at treasurer@seven-baskets.org

We did not want this transition to pass by, however, without properly recognizing Tim’s work and the foundational role he served in the development of our financial operations. He was recognized with several restaurant gift cards and a plaque to commemorate his service. We appreciate Tim for his hard work and dedicated service.





REFLECTING ON OUR MISSION

During the past months America has experienced a crippling pandemic and the cries of racism, especially related to African Americans. One touches the body, the other the soul and both are screaming for a cure. We will eventually have a vaccine that reduces the risk of Covid-19 and the world will breathe easier. Racism, however, is a systemic evil that has set one man above another for millenniums.

We cannot condone, ignore, or tolerate racism's presence in our society. We must face its reality and vow to do our part to establish respect and dignity for all persons. Its cure will only be realized when the heart of mankind embraces godly love for one another and the inherent worth of all individuals.

Seven Baskets is committed to racial equality and working to level the playing

field so that all people have access to America's opportunities. We are convinced, however, that equality is rooted in love, not in legislative action. As a "faith-based" organization, the gospel message of God's love for all people is preeminent in our programs. It is our prayer to see reconciliation among the races and all people united in their love for God and one another. Please join us in this prayer!

The gifts of Seven Baskets' friends make this ministry possible. We are grateful for both monthly commitments and one-time donations. To discuss how you can partner financially with Seven Baskets to make a difference in a child's life contact Jeff Mansell, Executive Director at jeffm@seven-baskets.org

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