

# CONNECTING OUR WORLD WITH THE LOVE OF GOD

By Judy Palkovitz, a Freedom Outreach volunteer

It's a good thing for anyone to reach out to people in any way they can. In the mentorship groups we are always looking for ways to connect the kids with other people who have needs that they can help to meet. It is so valuable for them to learn that they can give, help, and make a difference in someone's life. It develops a compassion in them and a belief that the things they do matter.

This year when a team was going to Kenya to work with the Digo people, one of the girls groups in Wilmington decided to buy gifts and write cards to send along to kids in Kenya. The families that received the gifts were incredibly blessed not only by the gifts but by the words from the girls in Wilmington who encouraged them in their trust in a God who loves and cares for them.

But equally impactful was when our girls saw pictures of the African children receiving the gifts and words they had sent. And, what treasures they were to receive!

This experience helped to see the world through different eyes, and appreciate what we have. It also is a step into seeing how God can use us, to touch the world with his love.



# SPRING CAMP RETREATS

By Judy Palkovitz, a Freedom Outreach volunteer

We want to thank everyone who helped in any capacity to make our retreat weekends fun, encouraging times for the kids who went to camp last summer. Many of you helped plan, cook delicious food, shop for supplies, lead worship, give teachings, drive vehicles, offer your homes for sleeping, clean up, lead Soccer Shots, and bring the building to life with a group drumming experience... the camp retreats wouldn't have been so awesome without you!!!

This year we had 2 separate retreats: one for the girls who went to camp last year and another for the boys. It proved to be well worth the effort of planning 2 weekends instead of one. Having smaller groups made the time more relaxed, with opportunities for quality time spent with the kids and counselors. We had worship, small group times, and some encouraging teachings, including teachings from Rasheen who grew up going to camp and is now a counselor. We also enjoyed fun outings together. We went ice skating, hiking at the reservoir, enjoyed picnics in the park, Soccer Shots, making cookies, creating and using "God journals", and ate lots of good home cooked food!

It was good to get the groups together to build on what was experienced at camp, and strengthen relationships with each other and God!

