

Freedom Outreach Newsletter

2015 , Issue1

Get Involved!

Pray:

We appreciate & need your prayer! Please contact us if you would like to receive our monthly prayer updates.

Volunteer:

We would love for you to partner with us. Current volunteer opportunities are listed on the back.

Donate:

Our events and outreaches are funded by the generous donations of organizations and individuals. If you would like to support us financially you can make checks payable to Freedom Outreach and mail them to 3224 Appleton Rd. Landenberg, PA 19350 or donate on the website.

All donations are tax deductible.

Contact Us:

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Website:
www.freedom-outreach.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/freedomoutreachwilmington.com

**Thank you for partnering
with us!**

A Christmas Celebration with Freedom Outreach

By Judy Palkovitz, a Freedom Outreach Volunteer

This year's Christmas celebration was rich and varied. There were many opportunities to give into the lives of the people God has put in our lives.

The Giving Tree project gave gifts to 103 Children in Wilmington, thanks to generous sponsors at The Barn. Some were put directly into the children's hands; others were given quietly to parents so that they had something to give to their own family on Christmas, which blessed both kids and parents!

The Christmas party at the Barn was a joyous celebration with 34 kids from the city, and 45 volunteers helping out. Delicious food, games, crafts, Christmas stories and gifts made the day a great success.

During December several of the groups made, and decorated home-made Christmas cookies to share with families. Some packaged them up to bring to school for their teachers.

Fourteen girls, in three small groups participated in Operation Christmas Child. They chose their age and gender of child to give to, then made cards with meaningful messages in them. After that they went out to the Dollar Tree, each with \$10 to spend on their child. Finding 10 small gifts for a child in need was very rewarding. It helps us all to see that there are great needs in the world, and that God can use us to share his love and care with others. Finding joy in giving is a wonderful thing.

We went on some outings to see some amazing light displays. Plates of beautiful homemade cookies, donated by friends from The Barn were given to 30 families. A van full of kids joined us in the music, plays, and worship at the Adoration service.

All in all this Christmas season was filled with many ways to give and receive, and share in the celebration of Jesus' birth. Thank you to all who participated in any way!



Volunteer Opportunities

- Drive a van of kids to or from church on Sunday mornings. We will ride with you until you are comfortable. It is a great way to meet and minister to kids.
- Become a mentor or prayer partner.
- Bake a cake for a child's birthday.
- Get involved in our annual events & fundraisers.
- Become a Freedom Outreach prayer partner. Contact us to receive our monthly prayer updates.

Just One Book

By Tina Awokuse, a Freedom Outreach Volunteer

"I want a scientific book!" the young boy said as he searched through the books that Freedom Outreach was giving away at an Easter party. A few minutes later he held one up with a big smile on his face. He had found what he wanted. I smiled too as I remembered that just one book had made a big difference in my life.

It was right before summer break, when one of my elementary school teachers was telling about a book that she liked, *The Thread that Runs so True*. I don't remember what she said about it, but it was enough to get me to find a copy. Although I had never read a chapter book before, I read all 300 plus page of it. That book opened my eyes to the great adventures that could be found in books. I was hooked and I became an avid reader. The resulting growth in my reading skills came just when I needed it. That one book helped set the course for me to be able to go to college.

As I watch the Freedom Outreach children pick out donated books to take home, I often encourage them "Try this chapter book, I think you would like it." I also wonder if the book will become a catalyst in their lives like that one book was in mine. Last year Freedom Outreach gave over 850 books to children in Riverside and Southbridge, Wilmington. We also donated almost 200 books and educational resources to Urban Promise School.

I am always collecting gently used children's books. So if you want to clear out some books that your children have outgrown, please think of us. Picture books, easy readers, Bible stories, science books, teen fiction, historical fiction, activity workbooks, and coloring books would be great. If the books are culturally diverse it would be a bonus. Just contact me (Tina Awokuse) at kuse4@yahoo.com and I will arrange to get the books. Thank you.

Looking Back...An Overview of 2014

The directors, board and leadership team are extremely thankful for all the individuals that partnered with us in 2014 to build relationships and mentor kids and families in the city of Wilmington. Over 100 people gave in some capacity by donating clothes, food, money and other items to bless families. Over 75 volunteers helped with fundraisers, annual outreaches, driving the van and weekly meetings. Our director and mentors prayed for, disciplined, and helped meet the needs of kids & families through weekly Bible study groups, outreaches and special outings.

We gave away 144 meals to families through Carasmart, 125 birthday cakes, 18 boxed Thanksgiving meals, and 25 plates of cookies & fruit. 862 children's books were given away at community outreaches, schools and other annual events. Over 100 Christmas gifts were given to children through the Giving Tree program.

We drove a van full of kids to church Sundays, played in Riverside on a weekly basis, hosted a summer community outreach in Riverside & Southbridge, hosted an Easter and Christmas party, sent 30 kids to summer camp, and 24 kids to the winter retreat. It was a full and blessed year!

God is doing great things in the hearts of the people we get to minister to and we are excited to see what 2015 holds!

Save the Dates!

Mission Meal 3.22.15
Bunny Hop 5K Fundraiser 4.4.15
Annual Easter Party 4.18.15