

Cherry Street Newsletter

September 10, 2007

Naomi and Walter Aday have been at Cherry Street since opening day May 1, 1995 and we are blessed daily by their love and dedication for our wonderful children. Our opening day was filled with laughter, hugs, and lots of “I’m glad you are here!” from both the children and the adults! Naomi probably received the most hugs of any of the volunteers, because she greets the children as they get off the bus each day with her beautiful smile and outstretched arms. What a great way to start the Cherry Street day for each child!



Walter is busy working on the playground at our North Forest building. We purchased swings and a large playground piece similar to the one at the North Garfield building with memorial gifts from past years. Walter (right) and Wayne McDaniel (left), along with a number of “super” guys, are all working hard to erect the new equipment. The children are very excited to watch the colorful pieces added each day, and can hardly wait to get to play on the completed product!

We have a dedicated staff again this year, whose goal is to share God’s love with these wonderful children. Gail Klaassen volunteers her time and talent to oversee programming for the children. She has also taken over some of our administrative work which has been a wonderful help! Our staff consists of Becky Nichols (First Baptist Church) who is Program Director for the kindergarten through second grade building, Kira Stevens (Living Word Assembly) and Carolyn Hurst (Ambassador Christian) who are Program Directors for the third to fifth grade building. We also have staff and volunteers from St. Pat’s Catholic Church, First Christian, First United Methodist, Otterbein United Methodist, First Presbyterian, New Hope Baptist, United Brethren in Christ, Zion Lutheran, Grace Episcopal and Faith Bible! Whew! I probably missed a church somewhere, but you get the idea — we are all working together for the Lord when it comes to Cherry Street! If you would like to volunteer your gifts and talents on a regular basis at Cherry Street, give us a call— 431-2161! We’ll put you to work.

Kids continue to say the funniest things! On our first day, the children were so excited when we remembered them from the previous year and greeted them using their first name. The little red headed, freckled kindergartner from last year, “Johnny” came running up the walk and when we greeted him, he looked straight at us and said very emphatically, “My name IS NOT Johnny—my name is Pepper!” We apologized as he repeated his name again, “Pepper.” Today he told us he was going to go to “Court” and tell them his new name was Pepper from now on!

This week we had Hot Dogs, and as we were handing them out, a second grader casually asked, “Are those hot dogs fat free?” Blown over by her question the volunteer replied, “Sure”. The second grader looked at her friend sitting next to her and said, “See, I told you they were fat free.....” Where do these kids get this stuff?!!

A long range goal of the Cherry Street Board of Directors has been to create a sustainable funding source for the Center’s operating budget. To that end, the Cherry Street Foundation is being formed.

The goals of the Foundation will be threefold:

- (1) Once the Foundation receives contributions, it will provide interest each year for operating Cherry Street.
- (2) It will provide a means for individuals to gift money to the Center through their wills or trusts, which will enable their gift to touch the lives of countless children from now on.
- (3) It will ensure that the ministry of Cherry Street will continue long after the “original” visionaries and founders are no longer here.

The paperwork has begun and the Board of Directors of the Foundation have met and elected officers. We are now waiting for the IRS to officially put their stamp of approval on the Foundation. This is another positive milestone in the journey of Cherry Street. The Cherry Street Foundation will ensure the permanence of Cherry Street!

We have two very special ladies who bake cakes for us each month so that we can celebrate the children’s birthdays. Doris Lacey and Joan Wilson do a wonderful job, but with our increased numbers, they could use a little help! If you would like to make a cake or two for our October 9th birthday celebration, give the office a call at 431-2161 or call Doris or Joan! The children’s little faces really shine when we sing Happy Birthday and let 8 or 9 of them blow out the candles!



Do you have an old instrument in the attic, garage or under the bed? Herb Correll, our music teacher, would like to give the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders an opportunity to learn to play a variety of instruments. Instruments can be dropped off at 710 N. Forest from 1 to 5pm Monday through Thursday or give us a call at 431-2161 and we’ll pick them up. Thank you!

Cherry Street Youth Center, Inc.
PO Box 414
Chanute, KS 66720

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