



2010 VBS Project

Mission In Your Backyard

The Mission and Outreach Committee of the Coastal Carolina Presbytery has recommended the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry as the mission focus for this year's Vacation Bible School. The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry has for over 25 years responded to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families. Each year thousands of farmworkers and their families are served thanks to committed volunteers and generous donations. Located near Newton Grove, this is an excellent opportunity for Mission In Your Backyard. Below is a brief description of the ministry and activity suggestions.

SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- * Personal items and Clothing Collection and Distribution, particularly suitable for field work.
- * Collection and Distribution of Food is available at the ministry and taken to the camps.
- * Spanish Literacy and English as a Second Language Classes
- * Classes and programs for all ages to improve health and living standards
- * Partnering with other nonprofits to provide day care, health care and other vital services
- * Transportation for religious services, medical care, food, clothing and a variety of personal and family needs
- * Assistance with immigration issues and help in preparing government forms is provided by certified specialist
- * Adopt-A-Camp is a program that pairs churches, schools and other organizations with seasonal farmworker camps, encouraging support and bonds of friendship and trust.
- * In the summer youth groups and young adults spend several days at the center. They help with programs and visit the farmworker camps. Awareness is created and new friendships developed.
- * Annual Fall Farmworker Festival brings over six thousand farmworkers from the camps as well as area residents together to enjoy free food, music, games, dancing, activities for children and a soccer tournament.

Mission In Your Backyard VBS Suggestions

Activities for youth and adult groups are unlimited. God often works in ways that we have not thought of or even imagined. Below are a few suggestions, please contact the Ministry with your ideas.

- * Host a presentation on farmworkers and their families
- * Participate with adults in the Adopt-A-Camp program
- * Invite farmworkers and their families to worship with you
- * Collect items specifically for children in the farmworker camps
- * Collect clothing and/or personal items (preferred item lists are available)
- * Do a special children's presentation at the Ministry during Sunday church class time
- * Spend a day, week or weeks at the Center assisting in the ministry and visiting farmworker camps
- * Assist in the Annual Fall festival or develop and manage an information or children's activity booth

Please contact Assistant Director Silvia Cendejas silviaefm@intrstar.net or CLP Doug Barney djbarney@earthlink.net, for questions, more information, to schedule a presentation or to arrange delivery or pick-up of donations.

Caring for those whom God has put at our doorstep.

Episcopal Farmworker Ministry
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