



## **PRAISE REPORT**

### **November 11, 2015**

I thought I would write about today at the Community Center, to give you an idea of the challenges and blessings of this ministry.

I opened the doors at 7am, with several youth waiting to get in after sleeping outside during the snow storm. We provide coffee, hot chocolate and pastries donated by Starbucks in the morning. Upon entering, the youth sign in, sign-up for a hot shower, and find a place to plop down, to rest and get some needed sleep. As more youth come, many of them from Urban Peak, an organization that provides a wide range of services for homeless youth, they start playing video games (non-violent), pool, ping pong, foosball, and board games.

Some youth will come to talk to me about challenges, fears, and concerns they have. I take them to our prayer room, where I open and close with prayer and we talk about their issues. About 10:30, additional volunteers come to assist. Andre helps observe, supervise, get the Christian music playing, and do minor repairs, as needed. Chuck and Cory, our two cooks arrive and start putting out the food they prepared for the youths' lunch. Don also comes and opens our clothing bank.

By 11:30, we had over 35 youth, and we went to the lower level dining room, where we had taco's, corn, green beans, oranges, and muffins for lunch. Prior to serving lunch, we have a 30 minute Bible study. Since it was Veteran's day, and I am a veteran of three tours in Vietnam, I talked about my experiences. I used John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" I talked about the sacrifice soldiers make. Then, to make it personal, I asked each youth if any of their family had been in the military and had seen combat. It was amazing how many family members had been in combat. These youth, who seldom talk about their families, spoke up with pride. I followed our discussion with a prayer, and then lunch was served.

Just about the time the youth were finishing lunch, our two Christian Counselors, Loyce and Billie arrived for their weekly two hour session with the youth. The youth adore these ladies and open up to them about their concerns and problems. Today was a special day, as they brought another Christian woman, Cindy, with them. One of the youth, Austin, has been struggling with demonic thoughts and had isolated himself from almost all interpersonal relationships. I have developed a close relationship with Austin, yet he still wouldn't talk to me about his fears. Cindy specializes in these issues. The three women spent two hours praying and talking

with Austin. In the end, they felt Austin had surrendered his fears to GOD. They will continue to hold some more sessions with him.

As these ladies departed the center, Barbara, who specializes in open Christian adoptions, came to consult with two homeless couples, not married, who are pregnant. Both couples know they can't raise a baby on the streets. This has been difficult for them, but with the grace of GOD, they have agreed to an open adoption. Barbara has been helping with the legal and emotional challenges of their decision.

We then held a pool tournament, in which, to the chagrin of the men, a woman won!!!!

Amongst all of this activity, a 20 year old young man, who was at the Center for the first time, asked if he could talk to me. We went to the quiet of the nursery, where, after I prayed, he told me he was a believer. Though he was estranged from his family in Florida, the faith of his Christian mother had always been in his heart. He had accepted Christ as his Savior, but had never been baptized. He asked me if I would baptize him. I told him about CHCC's upcoming baptism, and he excitedly asked if he could be baptized then. I said I would take him to CHCC at 8:30 Sunday, and we would let GOD do the rest.

During the afternoon, we provide sodas, chips and ice cream. These youth never stop eating!!!

During the day, there are sometimes altercations among the youth. To their credit, and evidence of their appreciation of the Center, they are very seldom violent, and the youth quickly respond to my requests to stop!!! Today was conflict free!!!!

As the time to close neared, a youth, Cory, who has been to the Center, off and on for the last three years, asked to speak to me. Last year Cory was baptized at CHCC. He is now married and has a son. They had been living with his mother-in-law, but she kicked him out of her house last night, forcing him to spend the night on the streets. He was working, and had a paycheck waiting for him, but without transportation, he couldn't get it. After I closed the Center, I drove him to get his check and then to a motel, where he will spend the night.

After leaving my apartment at five this morning, I finally arrived home at 7:00 p.m.

**GOD Bless and Good Night**

**Skip**