



## Operation Serve Update

## CARE UPDATE ON OPERATION SERVE 2007

On Saturday, the October 20<sup>th</sup> Serve the City partners had an awesome day with a large CARE initiative from 8:00 AM until Noon. The planning for this special day to serve our community had been in the planning for over a year. Operation Serve 2007 is an important aspect of the Care portion in our Prayer, Care, and Share initiative for the Linn County region. 340 volunteers from 27 area churches and ministries served 30 schools in 5 area districts by painting, raking leaves, clearing weeds, sweeping, and trimming.

Charles Daugherty (Serve the City) has spoken to several of the schools building and grounds managers and received the following comments:

- ✚ Cedar Rapids Schools – Tom is VERY happy and all his building engineers were appreciative of the work AND the attitudes of those serving. He is open to this being an annual event. We exceeded his expectations.
- ✚ Marion Schools – They had 5 locations we could not get to for lack of help BUT they were amazed at what we did. “I cannot find words to express my gratitude.” We exceeded his expectations.
- ✚ Linn-Mar – The building and grounds man said he could tell the difference from his truck as he drove by two of the schools on his way to the office this morning.

Some other comments that have been received are:

- ✚ The “people had a mind to work” – although smaller in number than asked for, these volunteers REALLY worked hard!
- ✚ One of the teachers at Linn-Mar told us the staff would be VERY appreciative when they came in on Monday.

Some other amazing things at the schools:

- ✚ One of our pastors, who was also the site manager, divided some of his flowers and brought them to the school (Linn-Mar).
- ✚ One of our local greenhouses donated a large amount of fall flowers and bulbs for spring to one of the schools (Linn-Mar).

84 people converged on 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church and packaged 14,472 meals for Kids Against Hunger! Each of the participants raised \$42 each to help cover the cost of ingredients and shipping charges. This international food relief organization works to save the lives of starving people around the globe by packing a fortified rice-soy chicken flavored casserole with 6 dried vegetables and over 20 vitamins and minerals. This special mixture was created by a team of food scientists to fight the affects of starvation and cause the human body to begin to recover. Each 13.8 oz. bag contains six 1-cup meals at the cost of 25 cents per meal. Simply said ... this is the answer to our world hunger problem. Because of its formulation any people group in the world can use it!

The Blood Drive at St. Mark's Lutheran Church was also a great success. There was a goal of 60 donors and 71 people showed up! A total of 64 pints of blood are now at an area blood bank for local use. The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center workers gave us a good report along with many smiles from the workers and donors.

There was a central prayer room at The Alliance Church that was staffed from 7:30 AM to 1 PM. The Serve The City area prayer team had a list of the 30 school locations and the names of each of the volunteers. The prayer team also had a visual for the blood drive and for Kids Against Hunger. Every volunteer that was pre-registered had their name called out loud and they were then prayed for.

Charles has had no reports of any injuries! With 14 chain saws going (that he knows of), 26 people up on roofs, a handful on ladders painting, axes, machetes, weed whackers etc. going, no injuries. One of the pastors had his machete fly off the tree and into his leg but no skin was broken! This is a real praise the Lord.

There were less than 10 who were not able to be there, HOWEVER, we had over 20 show up that had not pre-registered! Both of these numbers are amazing!

