



Kids in Ministry Teams

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It's the beginning of a new year, and summer is on the minds of the kids at Tri-County Assembly of God in Fairfield, Ohio. In February, preparation and plans are underway for a team of kids called "P.A.R.K." (Praising And Rejoicing Kids) as to how and where they will be ministering to others throughout the summer months.

P.A.R.K is a team of third through sixth graders. Throughout the months of February, March, April, and May, they are busy learning human videos, miming, clowning, puppets, sign language, ballet, flagging, choir, hip-hop dances, and any other creative ways to share the gospel with kids.

Years ago, we became disturbed with the reality that kids' talents were not given a forum within the church. If a child didn't sing or play the piano, the only place to display his/her gifts was on a ball field or in dance class.

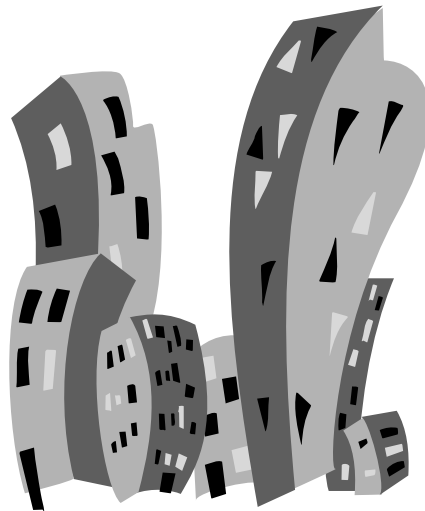
We know it is God's desire for everyone to become do-ers of the Word. Through prayer and direction, P.A.R.K. became an important piece to our children's ministries.

There are three purposes and goals of P.A.R.K.:

1 To allow Christian kids an opportunity to share their faith in Jesus Christ in a way

that is exciting and enjoyable. In addition to the performance aspect, each child will learn and participate in one-on-one witnessing and prayer.

2 To present God's love to those who are lost. This team is not designed to minister within our church walls. Everything is geared toward being in streets, warehouses, parks, and other churches. We go to the lost.



3 To disciple the team. Weekly prayer over lives and cities, worship, daily Bible study, and fasting are required of each team member. Many kids are baptized with the Holy Spirit during worship times.

In June, we take the ministries

to the streets, ministering at local day camps, VBS, and city parks. Each Saturday, we take our "TCA Fire Truck" into apartment complexes where the kids perform, give out free sno-cones (our version of "a cup of cold water"), and make balloon sculptures. Of course, adults come along for safety, but the gospel is presented to kids by kids.

We also take a week-long ministry trip. We have traveled to St. Louis; Niagara Falls; Nashville; Washington, D.C.; and Chicago. On these trips, we spend much of our time feeding and performing for the homeless and conducting inner-city services. By the end of summer, the kids have shared Jesus with thousands of people.

Last summer a portion of our trip was spent in the Robert Taylor Homes in Chicago—one of the largest housing projects in the United States. We made balloon sculptures for gang members, fed hungry children, and prayed with those who felt hopeless.

As our bus was pulling away, one of our 12-year-old girls was so excited she could hardly wait to speak. She began, "Remember how last year God healed me of my migraines? Well, tonight, when it was time to pray at the altar, I asked God to

lead me to who I should pray for. I went up to pray with a girl. When I asked what I could pray with her about, she said, 'Would you ask God to heal me of my migraines?' Isn't that awesome?" To see a 12-year-old realize that God can use her is the best les-

son we can pass on to this generation.

Each year God provides an awesome summer of ministry that not only impacts the lives of the children, but also the adults that come to chaperone. From suburban to inner-city ministries,

organizations are always extremely impressed at the quality of servanthood and effectiveness the children display. Children are ready for the challenge!

Questions for Further Study—

1. Are there areas in your church where children can display their ministry gifts?
2. What are some reasons God would give ministry gifts to children?
3. List some new avenues you might use for your children to display their ministry gifts.

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