

The Open Door Witness

May 2022

Phone: (701) 222-3004

www.opendoorbismarck.com

Email: opendoor@midconetwork.com



Open Door preschoolers with valentines made for local nursing care residents

Inside this issue

- Staff transitions – 2
- Summer day camp – 2
- Welcome to Ireland – 3
- Graduation – 3
- How we learn – 4
- Volunteers – 5
- Gifts to the Open Door – 5
- Wish List – 6
- Photos – 7

From the Director



As I sat at my desk pondering the newsletter, my 24"x36" framed poster *All I really need to know I learned in Kindergarten* caught my glance. I believe the poster came out in 1986 although I didn't find mine until 1991.

The poster content is shared at the end of this article. The book by Robert Fulghum was a #1 Bestseller. It's a good read although out of print. I have my two copies.

This poster has followed me to all of my spaces. It's so familiar to me that it often is overlooked and hidden behind more recent inspirations or pictures. Reading it again today allows me to remember why I continue to hold on to something so old. The past few years have been difficult for many of us. Often the world events can be overwhelming. There seem to be so many dividing issues. But then I find hope in the words..... "Think what a better world it would
(continued on page 6)

SPURS Serve Open Door

Veronica Schaeftbauer
SPURS Advisor, University of Mary

An Easter party on April 15, 1998, marked the beginning of a rewarding relationship between the University of Mary SPURS organization and the Open Door. Each year members of SPURS have hosted several annual holiday parties for the Open Door Preschool and often contributed their Service Day to the Open Door. It has always been a joy for the members to plan the parties and engage with the children in craft making and educational activities. As the advisor for the past few years and a former SPURS member myself I have partaken in many of the holiday parties. It is truly a pleasure to be able to go to the Open Door and work with the children. I am always struck by their joy and enthusiasm.

SPURS is a student service organization that conducts service projects on and off campus. SPURS stands for Service, Patriotism, Unity, Responsibility, and Sacrifice. Members involved are from all majors, though typically those more orientated towards working with children in education, social work, or health care attend the Open Door events. The holiday parties at Open Door allow SPURS members

to engage in meaningful service learning and leadership. Also, the 2-3 child per member ratio at the stations lets meaningful instruction and interaction take place. For those going into majors that work with young children the holiday parties are great hands-on learning and assessment of what it is like to work with this population. The planning that goes into the parties allows a variety of students to take on a leadership role by finding a craft/activity and planning out the execution of it as well as the supply list.



SPURS members (l to r) Monica, Rachelle, Maria, Maria, Danielle, and Claire entertained our preschoolers on April 6, helping them to make Easter cards and paper plate bunnies. The children found eggs during an egg hunt and each received a large treat bag.



SPURS members often comment how they look forward to serving at Open Door. In fact, I typically have so much interest in the holiday parties

that I need to have a limited sign-up sheet in advance. They also state that helping the children with simple, creative crafts and engaging them in fun educational activities is very rewarding. This is

especially evident when the children spontaneously thank a member before they head home. We are very grateful that we have been able to host the holiday parties and we look forward to continuing to do so in the future.

Staff Transitions



Kathy Movchan's last day as the after school aide was December 22nd. She is now able to spend more time helping with her grandchildren. Kathy was well liked by the children, and we miss seeing her every day. Kathy is willing

to fill in when we need extra help or to substitute when other staff members need to be gone.

After Patricia Ivey retired from Open Door she realized that she needed more time out of the house. During an outing to the Open Door she learned that Kathy was leaving. Pat decided she would like to return as our after school aide, and she joined us again on January 3.



We are thankful to both of these lovely ladies who care so much for our children.

Summer Day Camp

The Open Door summer program operates from June 6 through August 19, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. through 5:30 p.m. It includes lunch and snacks. The program is closed on the July 4 holiday. Siblings up to eight years of age can enroll in the summer program. Summer time provides some children who will be in preschool in the fall to meet new friends. It also allows them to become familiar with the routine of preschool in a more relaxed summer schedule, and they also will enjoy more outside time and fun summer activities.

We have some openings for the summer program. If interested or you know someone who might be interested please contact the center at 222-3004 with any questions.

Welcome to Ireland!

What a perfect way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! Our preschoolers were treated to an exciting talk on Ireland, presented by Michelle Kroger who was born and raised in Northern Ireland and still maintains her delightful Irish brogue. She moved to the United States as an adult. Michelle is the Youth Ministries Coordinator at McCabe UMC.



Michelle's presentation addressed language, culture, and geography, using some of her own photographs as well as children's picture books and recorded music. She told us about language differences, illustrating with specific objects that have different names in America and in Ireland. For example, in America we use the word "pants," while in Ireland this clothing is called "trousers." Or, a "sidewalk" in America is called a "footpath" in Ireland. "Wee" means "tiny". Michelle told the children that there were many old things in Ireland, illustrating this with pictures of old castles, for example.

She told a folk tale about the Giant's Causeway and how it came to be. The following week Michelle visited us again at story hour to read "Finn MacCool and the Giant's Causeway" An Irish Folk Tale by Charlotte Guillain,



which she donated to our school library.

When asked where Northern Ireland was, Michelle said it was a long way to travel. She showed photos from her family's trip there, including pictures of her preschool son on the airplane. Michelle grew up near the ocean and wanted the children to know about the very green scenery and rain.

In addition to language and geography, the children enjoyed Irish music and learned about Irish dancing, including River Dance.

All the children very much enjoyed Michelle's talk, the photos, folk tale and story, music and dance. Michelle reported that it was a lot of fun and the kids were a great audience.

Thank you, Michelle, for sharing your first hand knowledge with us and making the celebration of Ireland a special one for us.

Graduation

The Open Door Preschool end of year program and graduation is scheduled for Thursday, May 26 at 10:00 am. at McCabe UMC. The theme of this year's program is "My Favorite Animal is..." The 22 children have each selected their favorite animal and will perform a song or poem about that animal. We will share our favorite Bible Time songs. The Graduation and Moving up Ceremony will follow the program. Families attending will be served lunch consisting of taco in a bag, watermelon, dessert, and lemonade after graduation. Table centerpieces will be an edible dolphin display. First year students will receive the *Jesus Storybook Bible* while second year students will receive *What is Heaven Like?* as gifts from the Preschool Center. Congratulations to all our terrific children!



How We Learn

Early childhood curriculum aims to develop skills in the domains of cognition, communication (or language), personal-social (or social-emotional), motor, and adaptive (or self help) skills. Educators use a variety of methods and resources to accomplish this, including direct instruction, individual and group play, games, discovery, guest presenters, and special events, and in different subject areas, such as science and technology, engineering, math, art, music, and so on. Below are just a few examples of how milestone skills and knowledge are being developed in Open Door preschoolers.



National Lego Day was observed on January 28. We are fortunate to have lots of Lego options – large and small Lego tables, large building blocks and five containers of various sizes of Lego pieces. Children through play worked individually and with

friends to develop visual motor, cognitive, social and communication skills, learning a bit about science, math, and even art.



On Earth Day, April 28, the children made

Earth Day art pictures using recycled paper, The following day

they participated in a science experiment involving trash in clean water. We filled one container with clean water; the second was filled with water and trash. We observed over several days and discussed what happened, as well as how fish, frogs, and other animals would fare in the trashy water. The children decided that dumping trash in water could be harmful to humans, wildlife, and the environment.

On the 100th day of school, February 3, we celebrated how much we had learned in the days since beginning school. We wore our “100 Days Smarter” hats, played “Would you rather ...” (e.g., live in an igloo or a treehouse). We searched for sticks numbered 1-100 hidden in the classroom, and enjoyed the book, “100 Animals on Parade.” And on February 22, we celebrated “2’s Day” (2-22-22) with all things two. We had a two-legged race, and taped two crayons together to write and draw.

In preparation for Valentine’s Day, the preschoolers made valentines for residents of a local nursing home. See page 1 photo of the class with their valentines.



Regardless of the activity, each is intended to touch on multiple skills in more than one content area.



Volunteers

The Open Door Preschool relies a great deal on its volunteers, some of whom regularly visit the classroom and help with specific tasks, as well as those who work behind the scenes assisting with administration and operations.

A special thank you goes out to the following volunteers: OD Board of Directors for monthly meetings and other events and activities; University of Mary SPURS for cleanup on Service Day; Jim Karn for regular story time; Pastor Karl and Michelle Kroger; Gerald and Jean Newborg for editing and layout of the newsletter; Marilyn Johnson for collation and mailing of the newsletter as well as processing library books; and Linda Suko for writing our thank you notes.

During the fourth quarter of 2021, 170 hours were volunteered in activities that support the Open Door. For the first quarter of 2022, 133 hours were contributed. We extend our sincerest "thank you" to all who so generously share their time and talents to support the mission of the Open Door.

Gifts to the Open Door

The Open Door has been blessed by many thoughtful people who support our mission with their prayers, presence, gifts, and services. Thank you very much for remembering us so generously. The following identifies contributors between November 24, 2021 through May 3, 2022.

Monetary Gifts were given for unspecified purposes in memory or in honor of a loved one, or as a donation for general use.

Betty Dockrey, Bismarck, ND
Shirley Hassler, Underwood, ND
Lewis and Sherry Heaton, McKenzie, ND – In honor of our Sterling UMC family Pastor Marlin and Carol Sapp, Sherry Wilson and Sharon Lang
Jim Karn, Bismarck, ND
Daniel and Barbara Kingsley, Hill City, MN – In memory of my mother, Anita Neumann

Lonnie and Dianna Kinseth, Bismarck, ND
Mary Lee Steele, Bismarck, ND
Chasley UMC, McClusky, ND
Cleveland UMC, Cleveland, ND
Dakotas/Minnesota Methodist Foundation, Charles and Florence Mitchel and Open Door Community Center Endowment
Oakes UMC, Oakes, ND
Rolla UMC, Rolla, ND
St. Paul's UMC, Jamestown, ND
UMW Langdon UMC, Langdon, ND
UMW McCabe UMC, Bismarck, ND
UMW Washburn UMC, Washburn, ND

Our special thanks to all the McCabe UMC members who provided donations for the Open Door during the Christmas season.

Materials and supplies have been donated by the following persons and church families.

Judy Johnson, Bismarck, ND – Lego blocks, wooden puzzles, 24-piece puzzles, magnetic dolls
Marlene Johnson, Williston, ND – crocheted dishcloths, flour sack dish towels
Crystal Springs Baptist Camp, Medina, ND – 2 cases hand sanitizer
Garage Logic, Bismarck, ND – 48 children's books
Don Walz, Bismarck, ND – 10 children size blankets



Wish List

Below is a list of some items that the staff and children would be grateful to receive. If you have questions about specific items, please contact Jolene at 701-222-3004. Thank you.

Spiral notebooks
Crayola Crayons – 24 piece
Watercolor trays
Color pencils - 12 piece
Modge Podge
Play-Doh
Kleenex
Magna Doodles
Cookie, muffins, cake mixes
Canned fruit and vegetables
Paper Napkins
Stamps

(from the Director continued from p.1) be if we all – the whole world – had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap. Or if all governments had as a basic policy to always put things back where they found them and to clean up their own mess."

So I'm thankful that I have "littles" at school and home who will hold my hand and stick together.

Jolene Stading Puhalla, Director

Robert Fulghum, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*

All I really need to know about how to live and what to do I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandpile at Sunday School. These are the things I learned.

1. Share everything.
2. Play fair.
3. Don't hit people.
4. Put things back where you found them.
5. CLEAN UP YOUR OWN MESS.
6. Don't take things that aren't yours.
7. Say you're SORRY when you HURT somebody.
8. Wash your hands before you eat.
9. Flush.
10. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
11. Live a balanced life – learn some and drink

some and draw some and paint some and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

12. Take a nap every afternoon.

13. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

14. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

15. Goldfish and hamster and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup – they all die. So do we.

16. And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned – the biggest word of all – LOOK."

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and equality and sane living. Take any one of those items and extrapolate it into sophisticated adult terms and apply it to your family life or your work or your government or your world and it holds true and clear and firm. Think what a better world it would be if we all – the whole world – had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap. Or if all governments had as a basic policy to always put things back where they found them and to clean up their own mess. And it is still true, no matter how old you are – when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.



Making corn bread



Clockwise from upper left: celebrating the Super Bowl with football toss, football bowling, hiking football through hoop; preschool Earth Day artists, cookie time!





1030 N 6th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
BISMARCK, ND
PERMIT #44

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Open Door Community Center Mission

Through the Open Door Community Center, children and families receive Christian-based education and support services, enriching them to become responsible members of their families and community.

The Witness is produced semi-annually by the Open Door Community Center. Editor: Jean Newborg; Layout: Jerry Newborg; Photocopy: McCabe UMC, Bismarck; Collation and Mailing: Marilyn Johnson; Website: Marketing & Advertising Business Unlimited, Inc., Bismarck.

2022 Board of Directors and Staff

Rich Cleary, Board Chair
Londa Holen, Vice Chair

Pat Wood, Secretary

Kenneth Hogue

Mary Lee Steele

Dean Reese

Sheila Fryer

Rob Gilkerson

Dyan Wood, Parent Rep.

James Karn

Pastors

Pastor Karl Kroger

Pastor Brandon Vetter

Pastor Bruce Adams

District Superintendent

Pastor Joel Winckler

Director-Jolene Stading

Puhalla

Treasurer-Derrick Hohbein