



JANUARY 2023

We serve people to glorify God and see lives transformed in loving obedience to James 1:27

"The fundamental qualification for teaching is learning."



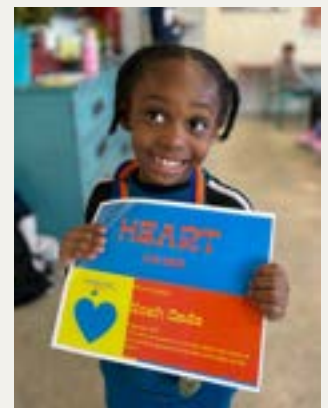
To best minister to and lead those we serve, Mission 1:27 team members invest a lot of time and energy into learning! Our team stays equipped through team meetings, individualized trainings, and even participating in national conferences! In January alone:

- 6 team members attended a Pastor's Conference in Orlando, focused on connecting and inspiring those who serve.
- 42 team members joined together for training about how the brain learns.
- 7 reading tutors were trained in building brain words.
- 22 Adventure Center team members discussed 5 questions you should answer to give every kid hope during Coach Academy.
- 8 Adventure Center at Walton Village team members learned more about play therapy.
- 7 Legacy Lifestyle Coordinators learned about how to harness the power of your emotions for good.

And coming in February, a group of 47 Mission 1:27 team members will join together for the 10th Annual GROW Conference. We'll take time to be filled spiritually with teaching from Pastors Grant Cole, William Johnson, and Dexter Hardy and developed professionally, with teaching about secondary trauma and compassion fatigue from Dr. Vanessa Snyder.



In other news, 28 seniors enjoyed a fun-filled trip to the Tellus Museum, and Adventure Center kids were celebrated for their academic and character accomplishments! Here, Noah shows off his "Heart" award!



FEBRUARY 2023

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Legacy residents enjoyed fellowship, a classy meal, and thoughtful teaching from our own Phillip Medlin about, "Heart and Soul matters."

A Cobb County Deputy presented an informative seminar on scam prevention. Seniors are increasingly the target of scams and two of our own residents were recently victims. Our goal is for this to happen no more.



Children and seniors at Village shared some love this Valentine's season in two ways: Valentine treat deliveries from the children to the seniors and Valentine's Bingo at the Legacy Center where everyone was a winner because they spent time together!



Legacy residents remembered and honored Black History in several ways this month. Some visited the MLK Jr. National Historic Park and soaked in the meaning of the Beloved Community. Some participated in or simply visited an onsite Black History Gallery.

MARCH 2023

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Preparing Servant Leaders

At the Adventure Centers, our mission is to Honor God, Prepare Servant Leaders, Love Others, and Walk In Truth. Bringing this mission to life, our Center Directors have initiated a program called **Student Ambassadors**, pioneered by Alicia Walters, Walton Reserve Adventure Center Director. Student Ambassadors are chosen by their peers and staff members after running a campaign and undergoing careful selection. They serve as leaders and role models to their peers and are involved in planning field trips and center activities, welcoming new students and guests, and assisting in classrooms.

Upon selection, Student Ambassadors sign a contract committing to upholding the values of the Adventure Centers. The positive effects of the program are evident through increased attendance among older students, younger students aspiring to become Ambassadors, an overall improvement in the Center's community, as well as increased confidence and blossoming personality of the Ambassadors.

Interested in hearing directly from two Ambassadors? [Watch this 5-minute, heart-warming video.](#)



Adventure Center Family Dinner Nights

Building Community One Dinner at a Time

Families are enjoying gathering together on a regular basis to enjoy fellowship, food and fun! These well-attended family dinner nights are exclusively for families of Adventure Center students and involve engaging activities, including:

- Game night
- Build-a-brain and discussion of brain development with Renee Holdo
- Introduction to Boy Scouts
- Meal prep, service and chatting with wonderful church partners
- Dine and Worship night
- Wood project, make-and-take



APRIL 2023

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Adventure Teens take on New York City

16 teenagers and their 5 brave chaperones had an amazing time exploring New York City and soaking in new experiences.

Top attractions and activities that the teens enjoyed were:

- walking around the city, especially Times Square, and taking it all in
- seeing the Michael Jackson Broadway show
- visiting several museums, including the Ice Cream Museum and Madame Tussauds
- exploring Ellis Island and Rockefeller Center

On this trip, the teens learned many valuable life lessons. They shared that the experience taught them to be more responsible with their time and belongings, to be grateful for the opportunities they have, to be more respectful towards others, and to be present in the moment.

Overall, this trip was an incredible opportunity for our teens to create lifelong memories, to expand their horizons, and to learn important life skills.



Field Day with KSU, Adventure Center Spring Break Highlight



Our Adventure Center students had a fun-filled Spring Break! In addition to meaningful activities at the center, many participated in trips that were both educational and entertaining. Outings included visits to the Funk Heritage Museum, Center for Puppetry Arts, Sparkles, and Big Air. These experiences allowed our students to engage with various forms of art, history, and physical activity.

The most memorable event during Spring Break was Field Day with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and 925 Athletic Ministries students at KSU. Our boys and girls were introduced to new sports, had the opportunity to meet athletes, enjoyed lunch, and participated in a devotion. It was a fantastic way for our Adventure Center scholars to connect with college students and learn about sportsmanship, teamwork, and leadership.



MAY 2023

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Partnering to Prepare Servant Leaders

This month, Mount Paran Christian School joined Mission 1:27 to make a positive impact through their annual "Mount Paran Serves" day. A total of 75 individuals, consisting of students, parents, and teachers, dedicated their time and efforts to serve at 6 different Mission 1:27 ministry locations.

During this special day, the Adventure Center children had a delightful experience. They enjoyed a variety of activities such as indulging in special snacks, engaging in arts and crafts, and participating in field games alongside their newfound friends.

Legacy residents benefited greatly from the event as teenagers provided valuable tech assistance and together they beautified their porches by planting vibrant spring flowers. Some residents even expressed creativity by painting their own flower pots.



Mount Paran Christian School holds a special place as our esteemed ministry partner throughout the year. With a shared passion for nurturing servant leaders, they consistently support our initiatives. Their involvement is evident in their faithful contributions and volunteer work for the Christmas Market, the 5&10 Book Parade and Sale, and other community events.

Additionally, students from the National Honor Society and Beta Club actively earn their service hours by volunteering in the Adventure Center. This collaboration between our organizations not only allows us to support each other, but it also creates a mutually beneficial and influential relationship.

School Year End with Blessings

We bid a fond farewell to our graduating high school seniors and rising middle schoolers, ensuring they embarked on their new chapters with a memorable Blessing Ceremony. These cherished traditions are carefully crafted to provide a personal touch for each student. Our ceremonies are diverse, offering moments of reflection in the esteemed VIG (Very Important Graduate) room, heartfelt tokens like personalized Bibles and other gifts, inspiring words of guidance, and, of course, a heartfelt blessing that will, prayerfully, forever resonate in their hearts.





A Summer to Remember

June, July 2023

Reserve Life Group ladies relaxed and served together this summer.

The group enjoyed a peaceful mountain weekend retreat, their 2nd annual, and, with donations from Go 2 Installers, made lunches all week long for Adventure Center children attending WinShape Camp!



Legacy residents had a blast at Senior VBS hosted by Mission Marietta and during outings to Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Red Top Mountain and more.



A Summer to Remember

June, July 2023

Adventure Center children stayed engaged, active and on-the-go with WinShape Camps, VBS at partner churches, YMCA swim lessons, cultural enrichment trips and so much more!

Teens made new friends, had new experiences and grew closer to God at YoungLife Camp in North Carolina and KAA (Kids Across America) Camp, both in Atlanta and in Missouri.





August 2023... Legacy Luncheon and Back-to-School

Over 200 children were welcomed back to the Adventure Centers with celebration and excitement! This year children will benefit from strategic discipleship, individualized academic enrichment, and exciting opportunities for self-development, leadership and citizenship.



We're not sure who had more fun at the 2023 Legacy Luncheon, the 400 guests or the 100+ volunteers! The red carpet and personal greetings, dancing, door prizes, hugs, laughter, and great meal worked together beautifully to make this an event to remember!



September 2023... Connecting and Empowering Parents and Children

Parent University

Parents from across four communities are being blessed by the comradery and teaching they experience within Parent University. After sharing dinner together, Parent University alumni, who are also Walton residents, lead their groups in engaging discussions with hands-on learning, games and giveaways. Here's what parents are saying:

"This class has made me feel so welcome and comfortable on my mommy journey. It's refreshing to hear woman from different paths come together for the one thing we all have in common - the love for our children."

"The support is awesome. The teaching taught me how to understand my kids in a different way and how to handle situations, which I use at home now."

"I chose to facilitate a Raising Highly Capable Kids program because I felt the classes provided me with information that I know my community would benefit from."



KSU Field Day

Upon arrival at KSU, 113 Adventure Center children were celebrated with cheering and even got to run through an "athlete tunnel." The children spent an unforgettable day with the athletes, making one-on-one connections, playing on the fields, learning about the importance of character, and touring the collegiate facilities.





October/November 2023... Celebrating Young Leaders

Student Ambassadors

Children at the Adventure Centers celebrated Election Day 2023! Experiencing the voting process, each child cast their ballot and elected "Student Ambassadors" for their center. Student Ambassadors are growing leaders who are positive role models for their peers. They serve as the voice of their peers and ambassadors in their community. They get to participate in a year-long leadership and character development program which includes service projects, field trips, discipleship and collaboration with students in other communities.



Pinning Day

After the hard work of campaigning, 23 Student Ambassadors were elected and invited to a special pinning ceremony followed by a fun celebration of lunch and play at Main Event. These leaders arrived ready to commit to the responsibility of leading their peers and beginning this leadership journey together.





*December 2023...
JOY for shoppers and
volunteers at the*



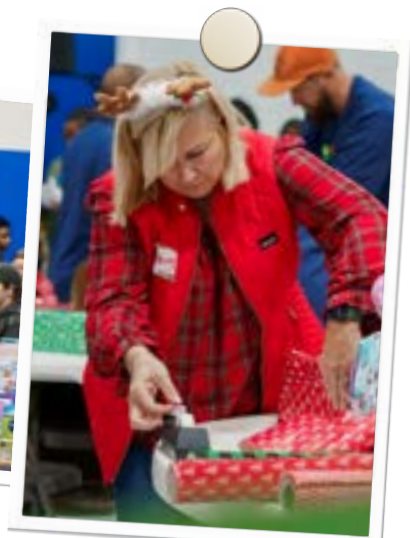
Through generous donations and hours of selfless service, together we impacted **700 families**, with toys reaching close to **2,000 children!**

We are so grateful to the almost **400 volunteers** who gave their time and energy to prepare for and serve hundreds of people at this year's Christmas Market. These volunteers consisted of team members from KinStone Communities and WinShape Camps, team members and residents from Walton Communities, KSU FCA athletes, church youth groups, Honor Society students, family members, and many folks who keep coming back year after year to help us spread joy!

What about the leftover toys?

All leftover toys were donated to:

- MUST Ministries Toy Shop
- Atlanta Public Schools families
- Marietta City Schools families
- Adventure Center children and families
- Walton Oaks families in Augusta





“Thank you, thank you for those smiles for the children. Many times I go to the store and what I least think about is being able to buy those expensive toys when the priority is to buy food for them. This Christmas they will have those gifts they asked for! Thank you for helping. I felt very good that you helped me. I felt at home. Thank you! Thank you!”

- A grateful parent

From where did the shoppers come?

- Walton Communities
- Marietta City Schools
- Cobb County Schools
- Good Samaritan Health Center at Cobb
- LiveSafe Resources
- Living Stone Church & Soul Changers
- New Commandment Ministries
- The Extension
- First Baptist Marietta
- Four Corners Group
- Cumberland Community Church



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