



## January 2022 Monthly Report

### *Mission 1:27 Day*

In addition to the many fun activities - Teen Hangouts, birthday parties for kids and seniors, luncheons, a Life Group trip to the Zoo, and much more - this month we celebrated Mission 1:27 Day (January 27)!

Mission 1:27 Day is a day that we focus on serving others. Treats were delivered to the Cobb County Sheriff's office. The staff at Good Samaritan received balloons and an encouraging visit from the Adventure Center children. The children at Reserve delivered fresh brownies and drawings to the staff and children of the childcare center across the street, cleaned up their community, and delivered encouraging notes and treats to seniors and other neighbors.







# February 2022 Monthly Report

## Life Trips for Adventure Teens

Fifteen teens in the Tier 2 Leadership Program of Adventure Teens took a life trip to Cumberland Mall to meet and learn from General Manager, Chris McCoy. During their behind-the-scenes look at mall operations, the teens were able to see what it takes to run such a large operation. They also had the opportunity to meet Mr. McCoy's former coach, Paul Johnson, who also coached at Georgia Tech.

## Black History Month

With programs, speakers, outings, and displays, we came alongside children and seniors to remember Black History. Tony Van Dyke delivered Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" to at least six different groups and many residents had opportunities to share their stories, as well.

## Life Coaching Parent Network

Objective: For parents to experience hope, help, and healing to live transformed lives.

To continue to fulfill the vision of transforming the lives of teenagers, we felt a deep need to include their primary parent or guardian in the process. From that desire, Life Coaching Network for parents was launched. Six moms, one grandma, and one dad have signed up to be coached!

The initial meeting kicks off with an individual lunch or dinner to discuss life goals and is followed by a bi-weekly coaching call. With intent listening and prayerful direction, participants are given strategies, tools, Biblical truths, and support to assist them in living out their goals and ultimately to live a transformed life.

WIN: Two months ago, Kim and Village's Community Manager had a conversation about a mom who was overwhelmed with life and it was becoming emotionally destructive for her son who is in the Adventure Teens Tier Two program. To God be the glory-- this mom signed up to be coached!

WIN: The mom in the photo, Joy, shared that she has never allowed anyone to come alongside her and help her with life. She has been meeting with Kim regularly through this Life Coaching program!





# March 2022 Monthly Report

## Enriching Experiences for Teens

Las Vegas Raiders tight end and Cobb County native, Darren Waller took time to visit with Adventure Teens and their families! Through sharing his story, Darren inspired our students to take steps towards success one day at a time. Throughout the years, Darren struggled with identifying his purpose in life and substance abuse became his vice. He was talented in football and played professionally but was laid off due to substance abuse. He moved back to Cobb County and worked at Sprouts while he went through rehab. The league saw his dedication and Darren was recently drafted back in the league. God's hand is evident in Darren's journey and our teens benefited from his authenticity.

William Johnson regularly challenges teens to exercise their leadership muscle. He says that serving others is one important way to do that. Several teens from Ridenour's Adventure Teens Leadership group spent time packing boxes of food for families in need. Through this they learned the value of spending their time in service and that they have the ability to positively impact the lives of many other people.

Teens in the Adventure Teen Leadership Program had the wonderful opportunity to visit Walton's CSO. Their visit started with fresh baked cookies, cold glass bottle sodas, and words of welcome and encouragement. They had a special tour of Walton on the Chattahoochee and heard from several team members who shared about their personal story, their role at Walton, and advice on achieving success. This was an amazing opportunity for the teens to develop new vision and ideas of what they may want to do some day. After the tour the teens enjoyed a dining experience at Copeland's. Every aspect of the day was special and had an impact on them because they felt like they were important.

## Prayer Walk at Walton Park

It is our joy to gather online each week to be inspired by a devotion and to join together in prayer. Monthly, we also gather physically to pray for a specific Walton community. In March, we walked around Walton Park and prayed for the community and the residents. We had wonderful participation, including friends from Acworth United Methodist Church and about twenty residents.

"Prayer Doesn't Prepare Us for the Work. It IS the Work." - Oswald Chambers







# April 2022 Monthly Report

## Mount Paran Serves Day

We are grateful for our friends from Mount Paran Christian School who come serve in our ministry each year. This month, they spent time at three Legacy Communities and with one Adventure Center doing activities such as potting plants, playing basketball, arts and crafts, and building relationships!

## Single Parent Reunion

There was great joy and excitement as the single parent group gathered this month, the first time in over two years! Many hugs were exchanged as a meal was shared, birthdays were celebrated, and dancing took place.

## Spring Break FUN

The Adventure Center children enjoyed a visit from published author, Patrice McLaurin. Ms. McLaurin read her book, "I am Because I Choose" to the children, autographed dozens of books, and answered lots of great questions. Also this Spring Break, Adventure Center children went on 9 exciting field trips and the teens had their share of fun at an overnight camp and 4 other trips as well.

## Free Little Food Pantry

Teens from Walton Reserve partnered with the youth from Living Stone Church to create "Theresa's Little Food Pantry." This is a place where people in need can find food that they need. This summer the Adventure Teens from Walton Reserve plan to build two more pantries to place around the Austell area. This project is something that will last for future teens at Walton Reserve. This project and the ongoing opportunity to give through it will be a way students can practice generosity and give to others.







# May 2022 Monthly Report

## Healthy Cooking for Seniors

There have been several cooking classes happening lately, one of them at Legacy at Walton Park. This month, lemon salmon sliders, twice baked potatoes, grapes, and gingerbread was on the menu for their second healthy cooking class. Several of the ingredients for the meal came from the garden right in the community and from the local Farmers Market that is within walking distance! The event was a hit with the seniors!

## Life Group at Stone Mountain

The Life Group at Reserve worked together to plan and execute a family fun day at Stone Mountain! It was a beautiful day with almost 40 participants! They all brought food to share, grilled out, and some even hiked the mountain! This event has been a tool to bond the group together and they are looking forward to doing it again next year.

## 5th Grade Blessing

As an ongoing tradition, 5th Grade students are celebrated and a blessing is prayed over them as they graduate elementary school, leave the Adventure Center, move up to middle school and, hopefully, Adventure Teens. At Ridenour, they ask children three questions - Favorite memory? What's something you learned about God? And, what you will miss most? This year they unanimously answered that they learned that God is always with them no matter what they are going through and/or to treat others with respect! One child said that her favorite memory was getting off of the bus way back in Kindergarten knowing that she had a nice place to go to after school. And of course, the opening of the new playground was a favorite memory for many!

## Reserve Adventure Teens Leadership Awards

A special awards night was held for the teens who have been committed to the Leadership Development Program this year. The teens were honored with an event for themselves and their families, including dinner and awards. The awards that were given include: Jeremiah Walker - Motivated Award / Jaiden Valentin - Pioneer Award / Lucas Reed - Purpose Award / Laia Reed - Passionate Award / Zy'Erik Smith - Focused Award / Desmon DeVauld - Dependable Award. The final award, the Determination Award, was given to Angel Smith. Some say that the hardest person to lead is yourself. Angel has shown leadership and determination by working hard to lead himself well, and to change what others think of him to be part of the Leadership Development Program. Angel has been a part of our ministry since Kindergarten!







# Monthly Overview — June 2021

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



## REPORT CARD RECOGNITION

Adventure Center and Community teams get to reward students for excellent academics and perfect attendance! This school year, we gave over 175 awards!



## GOD'S FARM

At God's Farm many of our children do things for the very first time—fish, steer a canoe, feed a pig, navigate a ropes course, and more! We all need a little time out in nature!

### - Legacy Residents Just Want to Have Fun -

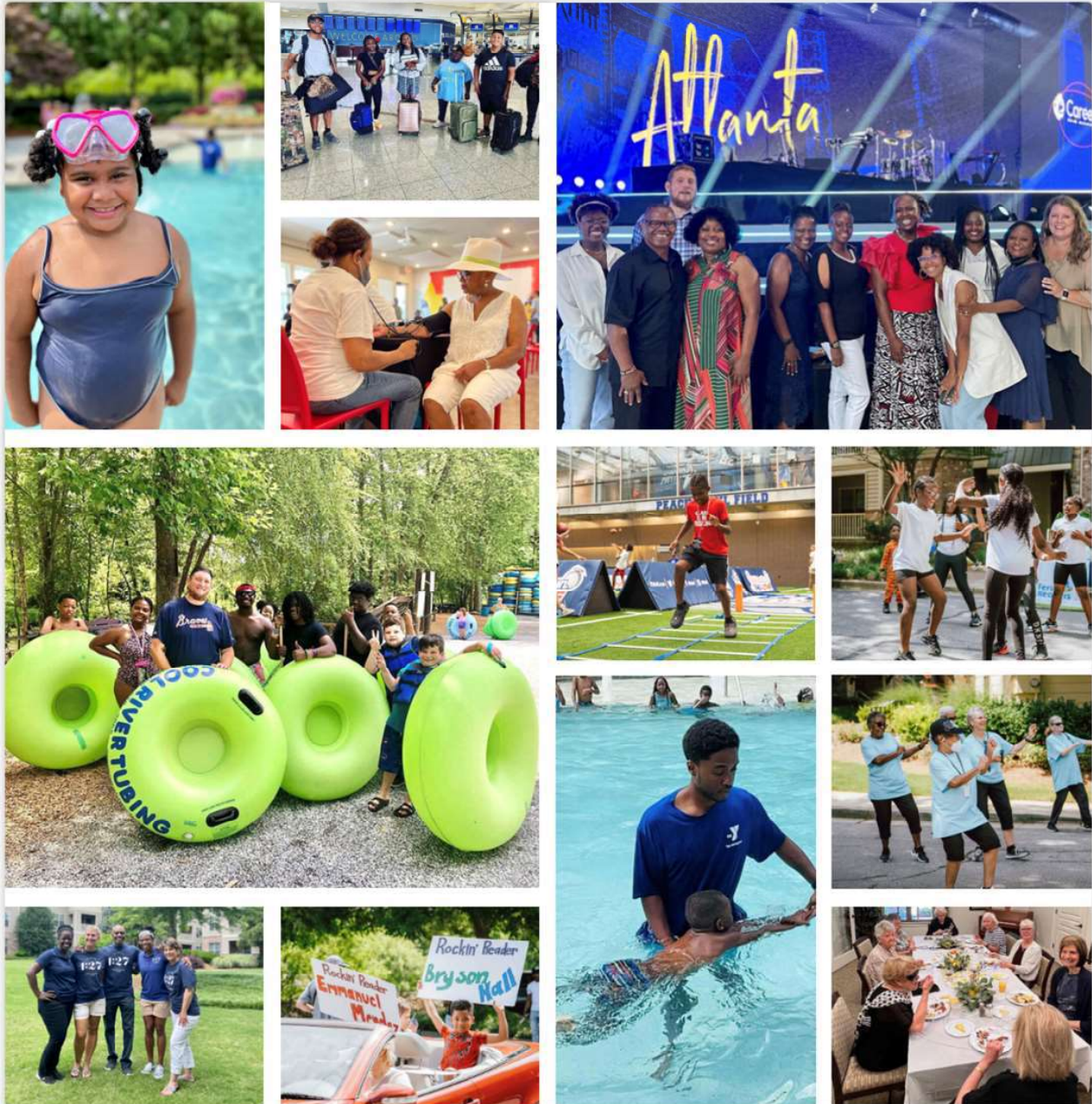
While our Adventure Center and Adventure Teen children had tons of fun on field trips and in the community, our Legacy Residents showed they know how to have fun too! Time spent together with music nights, exercise, fun food gatherings, crafting, and birthday celebrations prove that you're never too old for a good time!







# Summer of WOW 2022



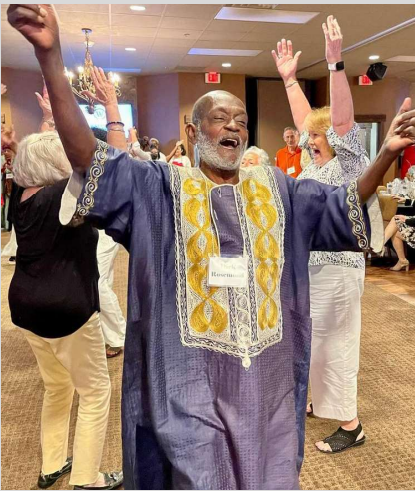
It's not always a lack of ability that causes academic distress and difficulty. Often, it is a lack of experiences. The brain learns by connecting new information to something it already understands, in other words, prior knowledge. That pathway between the old and the new is what is growing the brain. The more varied experiences a child can have, especially in the early years, sets them up for more success when it comes to academics. That's why our Adventure Center Summer Camp kids are on the go all summer long!





# AUGUST 2022

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## LEGACY LUNCHEON

After a 3-year hiatus, the Legacy Luncheon returned and brought excitement and joy to everyone. A record 350 guests were given the red carpet treatment and cheered on as they entered the building. There were lots of smiles and hugs, good food, great music, amazing door prizes and DANCING...plenty of DANCING.

When it was all over and residents were leaving, we heard so many wonderful expressions of gratitude. They felt loved. They felt cared for.

Words from a Walton Park resident:

*"One of the ladies from Park won a basket yesterday. Here is what the Lord did...she is a new resident and on her way to the luncheon with two other Park residents they told her not to worry about a thing, that God had her back. She needed \$250 to help cover the cost of moving to Park. Soooo, when she took the gift cards off the basket because they were on the outside, she could hardly contain herself. They were for \$250 and the home décor in the basket was exactly what she needed, as well!!!"*

## BACK TO SCHOOL

The school year started strong for the 225 children being served at the Adventure Centers. Joy filled the halls, classrooms, and playground as the children began tutoring, swam on Fridays, celebrated birthdays, and renewed friendships!







# SEPTEMBER 2022

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## PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT WALTON VILLAGE

Mission 1:27 partners with the Richmond Center for Play Therapy Education to bring a variety of services to children and families at Walton Village. Renee Holdo, LMFT, LPC, RPT and the Director for Richmond Center for Play Therapy Education, along with two Masters Level Interns, are transforming lives through the therapeutic power of play therapy.

Social Emotional Learning: During weekly classes children learn skills to understand their emotions, peacefully communicate feelings to others, develop positive relationships, manage conflict, and how to make and keep friends. All Adventure Center children participate in these classes.

Child-centered Play Therapy Groups: Through group play therapy, participants experience social interactions with 2-3 group members enabling them to learn and practice new social and coping skills. Play therapy is shown to help a child be able to concentrate better and learn more in school. A select groups of Adventure Center children participate.

Child-centered Play Therapy: Individual services are offered to children and families on a limited basis. These services provide additional support through individual play therapy and family sessions at Happy Camper Play Therapy in Marietta.

Parental Connection: Workshops for parents and individual conversations are offered to support parents in their role as caretakers. The first parent workshop took place this month with participation from seventeen families. Parents learned how childhood experiences effect brain development.

Professional Development for Team Members: Bi-weekly meetings are held with the Adventure Center team to discuss student needs as well as play therapy plans. The team is gaining valuable tools and insight to serve children more effectively.







# OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022

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## RAISING HIGHLY CAPABLE KIDS



Raising Highly Capable Kids (RHCK) is a 13-week evidence-based parenting program developed to build stronger families by empowering parents with the confidence, tools, and skills they need to raise healthy, caring, and responsible children. RHCK has high impact when there is a strong coalition of like-minded community leaders and stakeholders that wrap around families going through the program.

This has been evidenced at both Dunleith Elementary School and Walton Reserve. At Dunleith, 45 parents are participating in this very successful program (named Parent University), made possible by a generous grant from Walton Communities. Marietta City Schools is looking to expand the program to other schools in the district.

At Walton Reserve, Yolanda Johnson, Life Group Leader and RHCK facilitator, reports that 13 single moms have enthusiastically completed the program and are committed to making the needed changes in themselves and their families, and excited about positive the impact on generations to come. This group plans to stay connected after graduation to support and encourage one another.

## GIVING THANKS WITH MCS

Families from Walton Village and Dunleith Elementary's Parent University gathered together for food and fellowship at Walton Village. Close to 150 people enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings at this event put on by Walton Communities and Marietta City Schools.







# NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

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## CHRISTMAS MARKET

The 2022 Christmas Market was an overwhelming success and a blessing to shoppers and volunteers, alike!

392 families impacted  
1,000+ children shopped for  
200 volunteers served

In addition to thousands of toys being offered to families at very low prices, shoppers were given brand new Bibles for children, teens and adults.

Every shopper had a personal shopping assistant, gift wrapper, gift carrier, and was loved on by our CARE team while being offered individual care and prayer.

