



IDW Mission Grant Evaluation Report Form

Grant recipients are to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort. If this is a continuing ministry, please submit a report by January 31st of the following year, in which the grant is received. Include pictures/videos that help share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their own ministry. Final grant funds will be sent upon receipt of this evaluation.

Contact Person, Congregation, and email address: Gina Acers, Hope Lutheran, preschool@hopelutheran-dsm.org

1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort:

We hosted a Farm Carnival fundraiser for our preschool families and the community to help offset tuition costs for families that will be attending our preschool this fall. We had farm games, bounce houses, face painting, grilled food, silent auction, tractors, popcorn and crafts.

2. What goals were established for this effort and what did you hope to accomplish?

Our goal was to raise enough money to provide half off of tuition for those families that applied for financial aid for the school year. We also were hoping for a huge turnout from the east side community of Des Moines to share Jesus with them. Our goal was to help bridge the gap between the church and preschool and receive support for the preschool ministry and its efforts of serving the families.

3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors?

We raised enough money to sponsor about half of the students that applied for a scholarship for this upcoming school year. The event was not hugely attended as we were competing with other events going on in Des Moines on the same day as the carnival. We had some preschool families come that attended last year and ones that are signed up for this fall as well. The families that attended had a fun time and we heard nothing but positive comments from everyone who attended. The support from the congregation was unbelievable. We had over 120 volunteers from the church that gave of their time and energy to make the carnival happen.

4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again?

It was amazing to have so much congregation support and it was a sea of blue in our parking lot as all of the church volunteers were wearing blue Hope Lutheran Preschool T-shirts. I would love to do the farm carnival theme again, but our turnout for the event could have been better so I am planning on changing it to a fall festival in the future so the event takes place during the school year when more families are able to attend. In the future, I will advertise more for our events and spread the word so more people hear about us and want to be a part of what God is doing through our ministry at Hope.

5. What lessons were learned through this effort?

The support for the preschool from the congregation was incredible and it was eye-opening to see how many people from church attended and wanted to be a part of spreading the Gospel and partnering with the preschool ministry.

We had help from local businesses to help fund and sponsor part of the meal and donate items to the silent auction. These were blessings and it was exciting to partner with these businesses to spread the Word of Jesus and advertise our event.

6. Will this outreach effort continue and be sustaining? Did a new outreach opportunity present itself?

Our hope and goal is to offer this event or something similar 1-2 times per year to share about Jesus with the community and come alongside and serve these preschool families that need financial aid. The congregation was excited with how well it went for the first time and they have new ideas to make the event even better the next time around.

7. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort?

It took a lot of man power to make this big event happen, but if the congregation is willing to step up and help out it is worth it. It was very exciting for everyone to see all the fun the children had. The church had an opportunity to bless the preschool families and people from the community and share Jesus with them. I also recommend advertising as much as possible for an event like this. Summer is a difficult time to host a big event as you compete with summer vacations and all kinds of other events going on so I'd recommend doing it during the school year, but it was a success for the first time hosting it.