



Mission Grant Report Form

Iowa District West

Grant recipients are asked to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort or, if a continuing ministry, by January 31 of the following year in which the grant is received. Please submit any pictures, as well, that would help to share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their ministry.

1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort.
Our summer intern was to help with the local VBS programs to connect with the children and especially with the Hispanic community. She participated in the canvassing of neighborhoods, with the VBS's, and with follow-up activities and visits.
2. What goals were established for this effort; that is, what did you hope to accomplish?
We hoped to connect the children and their families with the local congregation nearest to them and to share God's Word with them helping them to know Jesus Christ and His love. We also hoped that the children would attend the Sunday School and/or other activities offered by the congregation.
3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors? Yes, we were able to share the Gospel in the different activities. One Hispanic family is attending St. Paul's SS and some others have visited at Hope in South Sioux. We did not have as many Hispanic families in the VBS programs as we had hoped. We handed out fliers, but probably needed a personal invitation to follow-up. Also the term "Vacation Bible School" may be confusing for Hispanics who don't know that program. The post VBS week (at St. Paul's and Hope) had less attendance than hoped, but it was a good time to interact more personally with the children and their families. Only Hispanic families came to St. Paul's post VBS week, and all the mothers were students in the English program.
4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again?
I would find others to work with the intern so that she would have other experiences and would not have down time when I was busy with something else. She was able to work with the other intern at Calvary during my absence in July.

5. What lessons were learned through this effort?

Working with the children opens many doors, but the response may come slowly. The post VBS week worked well, having a less formal schedule (games, sports, Bible story, songs and craft). Only one family from the VBS came to the post VBS week, however it was at a different time (3-5pm) than the VBS (6-8pm).

Our one day event at a trailer court was well received. The administrator was very open to allowing the use of their social room for the Bible study and crafts. Fliers were handed out to all of the trailers and about 30 children with some of their mothers attended. The administrator has told us that the children keep asking when we will come again.

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

Form a small committee to plan the activities of the intern. Have different people work with the intern. For Hispanic outreach, plan several events (one week or one day) where the children and families can come at different times. This will help to build up the relationships. Also visiting the families in their homes is very helpful.

7. Contact person

Name: Pastor Henry Witte

E-mail: henry.witte@idwlcms.org Phone: 712/202-4751

Congregation: Hispanic Ministry Committee of Siouxland and Concordia