



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:

Rev. Nathan Ragazinskas, Our Saviour, Des Moines, revragazinskas@gmail.com

1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort:

- 13 strategic planning meetings of the joint stewardship/evangelism committee.
- 11 reports informing congregation regarding wants and needs.
- Announcements, bulletin updates, and newsletter reminders happened on a regular basis.
- Numerous emails, telephone calls, and one-on-one contacts in the months weeks and days leading up to the July 29, 2017 free carnival event.

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

To not only reach out to the neighborhood surrounding the church, but seek to engage all members of the congregation. Reaching out also to disaffected and former members to participate in the outreach - offering an opportunity to join us in fellowship, renew their spirituality and connection to Our Saviour. Encourage members to invite family and friends to help in the planning, preparation and then join us for an afternoon of fellowship at an old-fashioned Carnival.

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

Yes, the goals were achieved for the most part. Nearly all of the church members were actively engaged in praying, planning, and contributing to making the Carnival a success. Some of the members reached out to extended family and friends. The event attracted more than 75 non-members. The church body members became better acquainted through this project.

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

Improve communication and visual signage for event. Be bolder in witnessing for Christ.

5. What lessons were learned through this effort?

Need better communication. Reduce the total estimate of people that will attend. Modify the setup time schedule and reconfigure the activity stations locations.

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

This outreach effort has a good chance of being repeated next year when the subject matter is presented to evangelism/stewardship committee, Council, and at the voters meeting. A new outreach opportunity has not yet presented itself.

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

Engage as many members/volunteers as possible. For a first-time effort you will need to have more planning sessions than you would normally think. During planning sessions, problem-solving through discussion of your project is vital. Contacting local businesses in your community for donations and/or reduction of costs of supplies can be helpful.

Prayer is powerful from the original idea all the way through the completion of the event. Don't be afraid to ask!