



## HELMER Summer of Service

### Reaching for Tomorrow

Written by Lonna Schank

Reaching for Tomorrow is a program that partners with The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America to work with special needs and at risk school age children. On May 12<sup>th</sup> eight Helmer employees volunteered for the "Outdoor Challenge Days" which averages 1000 children daily during the 5 day event at Camp Belzer.

While the day started out with a rain delay, the children's excitement could not be contained. Once off the bus they were ready to visit each station to see what was in store then move on to explore the next. There was cookie decorating, rope making, archery, tug of war, obstacle courses, zumba dancing, face painting, horseback riding, IFD fire truck tours and much, much more. They work hard all year and look forward to this day of adventure. This is time set aside just for them and you could tell by their bright eyes and big smiles that it truly was a day of celebration and a little rain was not going to stand in their way. Before long I'd forgotten about my damp clothes and the chilly wind. It was replaced with laughter as the kids compared the new paintings on their cheeks to see who's looked

best. An artist I am not, but thankfully they didn't seem to care.

Having a 13 year old nephew with Down Syndrome, I have personally witnessed the challenges and blessings a special needs child brings. Everyday tasks can be difficult, but once complete there is a true sense of accomplishment and pride that is very contagious. Sam struggles with communication skills every day and it is very frustrating for him. This often makes it difficult to teach him even the simplest of things but he is always eager to learn and receive your approval for a job well done. I saw these same traits in many of the children whose cheeks I painted. When working with a special needs child, more often than not, I am the one who walks away with a lesson learned. This day was no exception.

Reaching for Tomorrow has hosted the "Outdoor Challenge Days" for 18 years and it's easy to see that a lot of hard work and many returning volunteers have made this program a success. As the Helmer group gathered at the end of the day we were tired and still a little damp but the many smiles and much enthusiasm carried over and I believe I can speak for us all when I say it was a great



experience and we were happy to be part of the adventure.

Oh, and Joey showed us his newfound skill, making rope!

Thanks to Dave Boggs, Garry Busby, Justin Fisher, Paul Copeland, Wendy Gibson, Joey DeWitt and Randall Croom for sharing their time and efforts on such a worthy cause.

### Upcoming Summer of Service Events:

June 3, 2010	Shepherd Community
June 9, 2010	Indy Reads
June 12, 2010	Joy's House
June 15, 2010	Joy's House



Mission to Ukraine  
[www.missiontoukraine.org](http://www.missiontoukraine.org)



## The Power of the Story!

Written by: Tanya Bortnik

Irena, a 15 year old high school student hitchhiked home to her village. The driver took advantage of the circumstances and violated the girl.

Suppressing shock, shame, and guilt, for the first few months, she wouldn't dare to voice it even to her mother. As her belly began to grow she had to confide in her mother who took her to the local children's clinic. Expecting a referral for an abortion, the doctor, however, recommended they receive counseling from Mission to Ukraine

specialists.

While Irena talked to one of the counselors at the MTU center, her mother waited for her in the hall. Seeing the woman's tears and brokenness, Luda, the MTU receptionist, started a conversation with her. Luda shared her life story and how it was possible to overcome all the struggles of being a young single mother at an early age. When it was mother's turn for counseling, her heart had already softened. The truth the women learned at the sessions helped both Irena and her mother to accept the baby. Both women made a decision to welcome the child and love it in spite of the circumstances.



Little Vera born thanks to the crisis pregnancy counseling

Several months later, little baby girl Vera was born.

Herbert Hoover

"Children are our most valuable natural resource."



Joy's House  
[www.joyshouse.org](http://www.joyshouse.org)



The breakout sessions were much fun!

On Saturday, May 1, Joy's House and Alliance Home Health Care hosted a wonderful day of celebration & education for caregivers. Attendees enjoyed visiting vendor booths from industry leaders and supporters, speaking with an attorney about legal concerns regarding the care of

loved ones, learning how to find resources and practicing fun & easy exercises to take care of themselves. They chatted over a delicious catered luncheon and listened to Tina McIntosh, Joy's House president, give the keynote presentation inspiring all caregivers to follow their

dreams.

Celebrations continue June 14-18 during the **Caregiver Appreciation Week**. Caregivers will have the opportunity to receive a free massage and a chance to win 2 tickets to the 2010 Annual Gala.



World Next Door  
www.worldnextdoor.org

## Determined

Written by:  
Jessica Shewan

After being in Kager for just 2 weeks, I've already seen what a challenge quality education is for this village. I've also seen how this tightly-knit community is working together to overcome those problems, especially as they came together to establish their first ever secondary school.

Now for a closer look at what life is like as a student in Kager, and to realize the impact of Jubilee Village Project's work here, I'd like to introduce you to two of my new friends who are determined to complete their education.

Iris came bounding into my room the day I arrived, slid into the space next to where I was seated on the bed, and started asking questions – it was clear she wanted to get to know me, and that she was a big fan of JVP. It was just one of several conversations we had that week.

Turns out Iris is one of 3 students who is attending a regional high school because of a JVP scholarship. Before

Kager opened God Kado Secondary School, the only available option for her was a private school in a town over an hour's walk away. Besides being inconvenient, the isolated road isn't safe for vulnerable young girls.

But in Iris's case, the biggest deterrent to pursuing further education, and a chance at a paying job, was lack of tuition money. Primary education in Kenya is free (after paying for required school uniforms and textbooks) but secondary school isn't. With an elderly and sick father, her family wasn't able to keep the four oldest boys in high school, even though their grades and ambitions were high.

So you can imagine how life-changing the JVP scholarship was for Iris. Because she earned the highest national exam score out of all the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Kager, Iris is now attending a nearby girls' boarding school – free of charge and free to pursue her dreams. Her goal is both simple and ground-breaking: to be one of the only girls in Kager to graduate from secondary school, and to study law at a national university. The door is now wide open!

Just this week I made another friend named Mary. Mary is one of the pioneering first-year students at Kager's own God Kado Secondary School. She is one of six kids, and the first girl to make it past 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Her brothers managed to walk to the distant private school, but her older sister never made it.

When I talked with Mary on her morning break from classes, she told me that paying school fees is also a problem for her family since her mother is the only parent in the home. If God Kado hadn't opened the year after she finished primary school, she would probably have waited a few years at home to see whether or not their family and friends could pull together the necessary money for her to go somewhere else.

Thankfully, Mary's not waiting at home. In fact, she's hardly there. School lasts from 7am until 5pm, which is when she begins her 45 minute walk home to the other side of the village. After dinner, she begins homework as long as there is kerosene in the house for the lamp. If they don't have 10 shillings (13 U.S. cents) for



Iris having fun at home before going back to school to begin her second trimester.

the fuel that night, she'll get up extra early to finish the assignment before school.

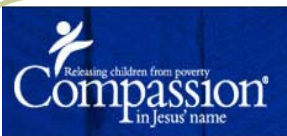
That is what I call dedication. For both Iris and Mary, the chance to stay in school is the ultimate gift, and they aren't taking it for granted!



Mary looking very proper in her school uniform.

### Did you Know?

An estimated 130 million of the world's 15–24 year olds cannot read or write.



Compassion  
www.compassion.com

## Letters from our Compassion Children...



**Paul Amos Francois**  
**Age 18**  
**Pen-pal: Leonce Jean Baptiste**  
**County: Haiti**

"Dear Helmer, Inc.,

Good morning Helmer, Inc., my family and I are not good because during the earthquake, one of my sisters died and one of my uncles. I have 4 sisters and 4 brothers. My school is doing well because I pass the first period, my church is doing great. For the Easter celebration, my church will organize a prayer meeting for one week, it will start from 19 to 25 April. I don't think I will have a Happy Easter because there has been a flood that passed in my house so it damaged all of the garden that I planted. I thank you for the birthday gift, I bought sneakers with it. I will ask you to help me pray and I will pray for you too for your activities also for my activities can be better."

### Community News Other ways to be involved...



**Making Strides 2010 5K Run/Walk/500  
Meter Children's Race  
~A Race for Healthy Families~**

**Saturday, June 12th  
Noblesville High School  
Cross Country Complex**

**For more information:  
[www.healthyfamilieshc.org/events.aspx](http://www.healthyfamilieshc.org/events.aspx)**



**1<sup>st</sup> Annual  
GOLF OUTING  
to benefit**

**THE CHRISTIAN CENTER**

June 11, 2010  
Grandview Golf Course

For more information:  
[www.thechristiancenter.org](http://www.thechristiancenter.org)

