

## Klondike Kids Club End of Year Update

Ma 14, 2018

Last year at this time an afterschool homework program for the children at Point West Mobile Community was only as vision, but this church has made it a reality. During the winter semester, with financial help from the FUMC Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, as well as the financial support of First Church members, we are completing our first semester with joy and gratitude.

Each Monday and Wednesday from 4:00-5:30, between 17 and 22 students in grades K-3 arrive to have a snack, work on homework, and practice basic skills. After homework is completed, board games are offered that provide additional practice and interaction with peers and adult volunteers. As a new outreach it is difficult to evaluate quantitatively, but we know that we have seen improvements in spelling, reading confidence, and math skills over the weeks. Parents bringing the children offer their gratitude for the extra help and the children are enthusiastic to join us.

On Thursday, May 3, 18 children and staff were loaded into the First Church van and bus, along with 3 of our faithful First Church volunteers. Off we traveled to the Farm at Prophetstown to visit the animals. Only three of the children had been to a farm before. The collage of slides that you have been watching reflects the enthusiasm and spirit of the day. Thank you to all who made this field trip possible. We hope that it will be the first of many. On the way home, one of the kids asked if we could go to the zoo the next time.

The most disappointing result of the ministry has been the need to turn away older children looking for the same opportunity for help. We hope to rectify this situation with financial help from the congregation, the foundation, and other sources. Grants are currently being written and submitted to support the salaries of two additional staff personnel to support a program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade children on Tuesdays and Thursdays. That salary cost will be \$5,300 for the school year. An additional grant is being written for the purchase and maintenance of four additional Chrome Books with warranties. The Advisory Board and I believe it is achievable goal.

The expansion would follow the same schedule as that for the younger children. Again our success would be measured by class room performance as measured by teachers and standardized state tests and what our rate of improvement completion is, over the next year.

The short term goals for the children include: increased completion of homework assignments, increased competency in conversational English, reading comprehension, and grade level math skills. Long term goals include: improved grades, successful completion of standardized tests, improved self-esteem. Evidence of success is displayed in increased self-esteem and academic success.