

Centenary's School/Community Partnership "Adopt-A-School Program"

Centenary United Methodist Church and Alton Elementary School entered into a new and exciting partnership for the 2013-14 school year. The primary focus of Centenary's "Adopt-A-School Program" was to provide "targeted" assistance to the adopted school and assist them in their efforts to provide opportunities for all students to reach their maximum potential.

Centenary's "Adopt-A-School Program" was very successful during the first year of adoption. This was due to the numerous volunteers who devoted hours of their time to assisting the school with various educational programs and activities. Many volunteers participated in programs/activities throughout the school year. Among these included Registration Day, Open House, "Read for the Record" Day, Career Day, TCAP proctoring, volunteer tutoring, parent meetings and the annual Spelling Bee. **We would like to thank all Centenary church members for their tremendous support of our "Adopt-A-School Program" this year.**

On "Registration Day", a Centenary Adoption table was set up in the front lobby to meet and welcome parents. Parents were greeted and given a school adoption welcome letter and an invitation to our Centenary Health Fair. Eighteen Centenary volunteers spent 3 – 3 ½ hour shifts, meeting and welcoming parents from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. We were elated that Health Fair sign-in sheets, also, indicated that many Alton parents and students attended and received free school supplies donated by the church.



Alton Elementary School extended a special welcome to Centenary church members during their "Open House" Night. School administrators expressed their sincere gratitude to Centenary for adopting their school during the program. Our church was well-represented by many Centenarians who attended the special Open House Night. Church members who were in attendance greeted parents at the door and passed out special health department pamphlets regarding home emergency procedures, in case of a disaster. Parents were very appreciative of the helpful information.



Several Centenarians participated in Jumpstart's "Read for the Record" campaign at Alton Elementary to promote early childhood education. Members of Centenary were invited to read to Pre-k, kindergarten and first grade classes. The teachers and students sincerely appreciated and enjoyed their very special story time.



The successfulness of Alton Elementary School's Career Day program was due in large part to the contributions of many Centenarians. Sixteen members of Centenary took time from their very busy schedules to make classroom presentations and escort presenters to their various locations. It was an exciting day!!!



Many church members donated NEW winter apparel (coats, jackets, caps, gloves, etc.) to children of needy families during Centenary's Winter Apparel Drive during the Thanksgiving season. The school staff members, parents and students were very appreciative of the very special donations.

Throughout the school year, several "Volunteer Tutors" provided additional reinforcement to students who could benefit from remedial assistance in a more individualized setting. Tutors provided assistance once or twice a week for approximately 45 minutes per day and devoted a small amount of time to provide life-changing experiences for the children they tutored.

Fourteen Centenary volunteers served as TCAP/SAT10 testing proctors and hall monitors during the administration of the Tennessee standardized tests administered during the spring. The volunteers devoted three hours per day to assist teachers during this very special testing time. The school staff members were very grateful for the additional assistance provided by these volunteers.

Many Centenarians also participated in other special activities throughout the year. These included Spelling Bee judges, spring dance volunteers, parent meetings, distribution of parent meeting reminder flyers during school dismissal times and special donations/contributions to the school.

***Please take an opportunity to view a photo album which recaps Centenary/Alton's 2013-14 partnership, located in the Family Life Center lobby.**

Diane Johnson, Coordinator