

Dear Friends and Family,

**What a busy past couple of months!** We hosted five, short-term teams past summer at the sports center. Some days we were saying good-bye to one team and receiving the next team the following day. To say the least it was a busy summer. And yet so much fun. We all made new friends, enjoyed working with the different teams in reaching out to the youth and doing projects at the sports center. Here are some of our favorite memories from the summer months. Enjoy!

**From Samantha**

**This past summer was SO much fun!** There were so many different groups staying at Halle and Kathy's. One of the groups had lots of kids in it. I loved playing with Hannah, Isabelle, Ada, Katia, Anika, Clara, Emily, Brian and Evan. "My favorite thing was the Happy Birthday of Anika." I went to the beach with my new friends, and Papi was able to go too. We had lots fun playing in the sand and in the water. I miss my friends.

Julia is a friend of my Mommy's, and she brought a group down from her church. They played lots of fun games, and I was able to participate. "I liked how they played and how we would eat like a dog." There was a relay game where everyone had to run and eat a thin twizzler off of a paper plate without touching it with their hands. It was really funny! I cried the first time I tried because I couldn't do it, but by the end of the week I was able to eat it.

It is always fun when people come back who have been here before. Last summer Jennifer lived with us for a month, and she brought a group back this summer. "I was happy that Jennifer came. And I am happy that she is going to come again." Megan and Erin also came back with their mommy and daddy and were here for two weeks. It was so much fun playing with them again.

The best visitors, though, came right as I started back to school – Grandma and Grandpa! It was fun watching the Olympics, especially gymnastics, coloring and playing outside with them. "I love them so much, and I'm thankful that I am going to their house at Merry Christmas."

**From Anthony**

**I am quite an easygoing little guy** though everyone says I am a lot more serious than my older sister. Maybe it is because I don't like all the attention that I get with this light colored hair of mine. Everywhere I go with Mommy complete strangers come up and tousle my hair and say "ay que guapo." I am so much happier just being at home and playing with my trucks or outside with the dogs though I did enjoy all of the groups who were here this summer. A lot of them had blond hair so they didn't fuss too much over mine.

For part of the summer I lost my bedroom and had to sleep with Sami. We had lots of fun though sleeping together! The reason was because Susannah, a girl from Mommy's home church, came to live with us for a month. I had lots of fun hanging out with her and going over to the sports center. My least favorite moment was when she made me paint my feet for an art project that we did in the library. I was not happy about it one bit! I don't think she would have made me do it, but my mommy told her to and that I would get over it eventually. Don't worry, though, cause I got back at Mommy later by taking nail polish and painting it all over my clothes and her coffee table!

Some of my favorite moments this summer were going to the beach with Papi, sleeping in the hammock with Grandma, playing cars with Grandpa, and eating fresh watermelon with Mommy.

**From Thomas**

**What a great couple of months it has been!** I really enjoyed meeting all of the teams that came to work at the sports center this summer. It even worked out for me to be a part of the debrief with the family team and go to the beach with them since it was over the weekend and not during my normal work week. I know my kids really enjoyed that trip and so did I! In talking with the guys from the community they really enjoyed having all the different teams here because when teams are here there are special activities at the sports center and youth group nights.

Besides hanging out with the teams when I am not at work, I have also been busy organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> soccer league of the year. Many of the youth of the community were excited about the league starting up again. I had numerous calls and text messages from the youth all around our area asking when the league was going to begin. I am thankful to God that we were able to organize a really competitive league with six





teams, each with 22 players. It has been cool to see the impact sports can have on the lives of youth and the community. Over time I have seen how more and more families - moms, dads, cousins and other relatives – are coming to watch the games, and they are really proud of their boys who are playing on the teams. In my down time I often hang out with my soccer team. We all go out to get enchiladas or go over to my mom's house or they all come over to our house to watch a game on TV. They have been a great group of guys to get to know.



#### **From Amanda**

**This past summer was probably the busiest summer** we have ever had with teams and visitors. We hosted five, short-term teams – a team from Maranatha Prep Academy in CA, a team from Naples, FL, a youth team from Kirk of the Hills in Tulsa, OK, a team from First Baptist Church in Westfield, NY, and a family team from Bellevue Presbyterian in Bellevue, WA. We also had a family stay with Halle and Kathy for two weeks, and we hosted a young gal from my home church for a month. Susannah had been here in the summer of 2011 with a team from MPPC and really wanted to come back on her own. I remember how much my mission experiences in high school and college shaped me; therefore, I was excited to have Susannah come and stay with us. She thoroughly enjoyed her time with the various short-term teams who came to work with us as well as hanging out with our kids and the kids at the sports center. We hope that God deeply blessed everyone who visited this past summer. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and for pouring yourselves into this ministry!



With so many teams here this summer, the sports center was very busy. Each team worked on some sort of project around the center from painting murals to painting the inside of the cafetin to giving the basketball court a new paint job. But these teams don't just work hard; they play hard too! They hosted numerous afternoons of games for all ages of kids and youth. They had basketball competitions, taught which the kids on the team performed some songs and skits and then presented the school with a set of books. The teams also hosted youth nights where we invite the local youth who are 14 and older to come during the evening to play games and listen to a message. One particular group performed a skit that had the youth laughing like I have never heard before. It was definitely a summer full of great memories with the teams and with the youth of our community.



Seeking Him for life,

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