

BRIDGE THE GAP CHRIST IN ACTION

In partnership with

Central Oklahoma Turning Point

Project Goal/Objectives:

1. Improve coordination skills
2. Improve consistency of physical activity
3. Build character and fellowship in youth

Project Scope/Narrative:

Crossings Community Church is honored to partner with Turning Point/WIC in helping develop/promote healthy Oklahomans. *Bridge the Gap* supports nine inner-city schools. Many of the schools' students are from **WIC eligible families**.

The *Christ in Action* athletic sports camp was designed to provide sustained/directed physical activities for youth, ages 4-17. Activities improve physical and hand-eye coordination and response. Aerobic activities build lung capacity and reduce the risks of cardiovascular disease.

The program was coordinated entirely by volunteers. Men and women of the Crossings Community faithfully devoted time teaching proper body mechanics and sports skills.

The camp was conducted for one week in June, M-F, two hours per evening at Stand Watie Elementary School. On Monday evening 32 youth attended, but by the end of the week, 70 children were attending, for a total attendance of 200, including parents and young siblings. The youth had a choice of sports/recreational activities: basketball, baseball/softball, soccer, four-square, and tetherball.

Again these families were **WIC families**.



Testimonial:

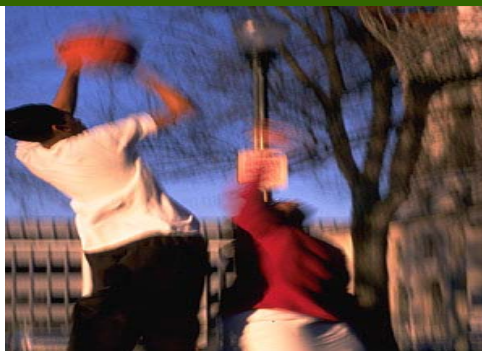
Many thanks to **WIC** for extending this opportunity to challenge faith-based organizations to become involved in helping develop and promote healthy Oklahomans. Crossings is honored to be a recipient of the **WIC grant** to support our project, *Christ in Action*.

Benefits received by the children were: 1) daily exercise in a positive, encouraging and safe environment, 2) health and character lessons in the form of nightly devotions, 3) healthy snacks as an example of good food options, and 4) community/parent participation. A number of parents attended each night and had the opportunity to participate in the devotion and learn about healthy habits through modeling by the volunteers. Firefighters from the local fire station participated one evening. The principal and several teachers of the school were involved, plus one of the local churches, South Agnew Church of God. Two young children "invited" Christ into their lives.

Based on this sports camp, we have had 6 new volunteers sign up to come to this school on a regular basis to continue the venue of exercise, character building, and healthy life style promotion through relationships with responsible adults. We will obviously continue to use the equipment purchased from the WIC grant on this bi-monthly activity. Volunteers have continued to go to the school every other Tuesday evening to spend 2 hours with these children. Additionally, Crossings took 20 of the children (ages 8-12 years) to Camp Shiloh for one week in July.

Again, thank you **WIC** for providing this grant to organizations.

Blessings,
Pam Millington, Pastor



Project Outcomes: as a result of the WIC Grant

1. Increased community/school/youth/parental involvement (70-100 youth and their parents and siblings, teachers, firefighters, etc.)
2. 6 new volunteers signed up to support *Christ in Action* on a regular basis
3. The program is ongoing (every other Tuesday evenings for two hours)
4. 20 children (ages 8-12) were able to attend Camp Shiloh for one week
5. 22 different adult volunteers supported the program (average nightly volunteer attendance of 12)

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