



Ezra Mann | Jun. 1, 2015

## Summer fun a bit 'extreme'

There seems to be no problem encouraging participants to sign up for Pauls Valley's X-Treme Summer program.

Floored by the number of kids interested in the feeding and activity program, Allies for Better Living leader Betsy White is putting out one more call for volunteers and donations. This is to accommodate the larger than expected response to the event hosted at the Reynolds Recreation Center over the next couple of months.

"We have had a huge response, well over 200 pre-registrations," said White. "We've had an excellent response, we're really excited about it."

The program welcomes anyone 4 to 18 years old and activities, games and speakers on important topics are planned each weekday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

One way White hopes to provide enough counselors for the different age groups is to offer volunteer spots for those in the 15- to 18-year-old range.

"We want all of those older siblings that wouldn't come normally to a camp, to come as a counselor or volunteer," said White. "Everyone's been on board and it's been wonderful."

White added that they are close to their original fundraising goal due generous donations from local businesses and individuals, but with recent changes, another \$2,500 should cover all needs.

This is due to increasing their budget by hiring a cafeteria type person to handle food and a lot of interest in a Paoli site as well.

"I'm thrilled with the support we've gotten and I'm touched that a lot of places are doing huge donations," said White.

"It's so nice to have all these people working together, that's what community is about."

White noted that arranging the activities will be a little different for each group, including 44 students so far in the 4 to 5 years category.

Each week has a theme and the first week, starting June 1st is Super Summer Olympics.

There will be lots of physical activities like a javelin pool noodle throw, Frisbee discus throw, beach ball croquet and two days of relay like Olympic competition. That will include silly Olympic activities like a wet sponge relay and putting socks over the shoes relay.

"One of the things we're trying to encourage is to get them to get up and move," said White. "Let's improve the health and wellness in the community."

"It's been very refreshing to see people give back to our community. If there's that many kids that need this I'm so glad we're doing this. I think it's going to work out great."

The group is a 501c3 non-profit so all donations are tax deductible. To send a donation by mail, the address is P.O. Box 349, Purcell, OK, 73080.

White also asked that people call at 405-255-4147 her if they wish to drop off donations at Rec Center, volunteer or inquire about a registration form.

People can also contact the Allies Vice Chair Erin Creach for more info by calling 405-238-3308 ext. 111 or by email at [ecreach@cityofpaulsvalley.com](mailto:ecreach@cityofpaulsvalley.com).