



Photo by Michael Swanger

Each week, teams of adult and youth volunteers from Ashworth Road Baptist Church tackle a variety of projects during the "Summer of Love" program.

'Summer of Love'

Ashworth Road Baptist helps communities

By Michael Swanger

Previously associated with the freewheeling spirit of the 1960s, the term "Summer of Love" has been given new meaning thanks to the selfless efforts of the members of Ashworth Road Baptist Church in West Des Moines.

Now in its third and final month of its inaugural year, Ashworth Road Baptist Church's "Summer of Love" local mission program has proven to be a successful one. Each Wednesday evening, approximately 30 to 50 church members volunteer their time to perform a variety of tasks throughout the metro, from serving meals at homeless shelters, to providing free lawn care, to visiting with the elderly.

"Our lead pastor, Tim Deatrack, said that if we were going to display God's love and serve others, it might require us to get outside our church walls to do that," says Brent Clark, associate pastor. "We have a missions committee that was excited to do it, and they found there were a lot of needs to be met in the metro."

Each week, teams of adult and youth volunteers tackle a variety of projects.

"Last night, I had about 20 youths hand out flyers about lead paint poisoning to homes in a Des Moines neighborhood, while another group went to the Drake farmers' market and gath-

ered leftover food to donate to the DMARC (Des Moines Area Religious Council) food pantry," Clark says. "Another group mowed yards and others helped Habitat for Humanity. Each week there's a different opportunity."

Ashworth Road Baptist

5300 Ashworth Road
223-0914

Contemporary worship:

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Bible study: Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Traditional worship: Sunday,
10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Night Supper:
5:30 p.m.

Clark says he is proud of the church's efforts, noting that the volunteers are spiritually invigorated by the work.

"They're excited to serve with a cheerful attitude and the community response has been overwhelmingly positive," he says. "But these are things that we as Christians feel like we should be doing."

In addition to the church's "Summer of Love" program, volunteers continue to serve at the Baptist Friendship Center, Eddie Davis Community Center and the Central Iowa Homeless Shelter.

"I've been with the church for three years and more so than any church I've been with, this church is the most focused on mission work," Clark says. "This church has a really big heart for that." **WL**

VALLEY CHURCH
4343 Fuller Road
West Des Moines, IA 50265
226-9973
www.valley-church.com

Sunday Mornings
• Worship - 8:15, 9:30 & 11 am
• Sunday School - 8:15, 9:30 & 11 am
• Jr. & Sr. High - 9:30 am

Wednesday Evenings
6:30 pm (during the school year)
• Adult Classes
• Preschool - 4th gr. - AWANA
• 5th - 6th grade - Route 56
• Junior High - Crew
• Senior High (8pm)

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