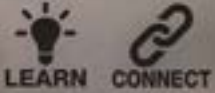


REAL CHANGE

THE NEWSLETTER OF REDWOOD GOSPEL MISSION

JULY 2021



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The Life-Changing Impact of Backpacks

Last year, Jose Juan and Jorge's family came to the drive-thru City Kids event. This year, they're looking forward to being able to attend in person and take advantage of all the booths, which include haircuts, dental booth, crafts, hot food, family photos and more!

Jose Juan just turned 10 last month. For the last two years, both he and his brother, Jorge, who is 7, have received backpacks through the Mission's City Kids events.

"I liked the color," Jose Juan says, referring to his backpack from last year. *"It was blue and orange."*

"Mine was black and gray," Jorge says.

Jose Juan and Jorge's parents, Octavio and Angelica, found out about City Kids when Pastor Fernando, Hispanic Ministry Manager, handed them a flyer and his business card at a Vacation Bible School outreach in 2019. Knowing there was a way for their children to get the supplies they needed for school took an immense burden off of them – and it still does.

Now the Need is Even Greater

"It's a lot of help for us," Octavio says. *"Especially now, because of the pandemic. California is already expensive. It's tough because you have to pay your rent. You have to pay for your food. So it's so hard to get backpacks and the school supplies."*

(Continued inside . . .)



Get involved at srmission.org/backpack

Backpacks offer needy kids hope, self-esteem and the opportunity for a bright future.

The Life-Changing Impact of Backpacks

(Continued from cover)



"Thank you so much. Thank you for the support for our kids and for the children in the community. We are so happy when we see our kids have the backpacks and school supplies they need. They get so excited!" – Octavio

Octavio works in a local vineyard pruning and trimming grapevines. The work is enough to afford rent, food and a few other basic necessities.

"If we don't get school supplies from the Mission, it's going to be hard for us," Octavio explains. "They pay us every week so we can't afford to get all the supplies at once."

But City Kids is about more than backpacks and supplies. It's about helping kids fit in and succeed, making sure families have what they need and most importantly, sharing the love of Jesus.

"It's not only school supplies. It's clothes and shoes, so they can have all the supplies in order to go to school," Octavio says.

The Biggest Blessing of All: A Place in God's Family

Connecting with City Kids and Pastor Fernando through outreach ministries paved the way for Octavio and Angelica to attend church and begin relationships with Jesus! At the time, the family was really struggling, especially Octavio. Then he remembered the flyer and business card he'd been given at the park.

"I didn't know what to do. I was totally depressed. Then looked at the business card and the pamphlet, and then I called pastor and he told my wife and I about Jesus. I'm feeling strong in my faith. I feel very happy when I go to church."

Great things are ahead for this family, and with the help of friends like you, they'll have just what they need to succeed in school again this year!

Each \$24.86 you give provides one backpack full of school supplies for one poor and needy student.



A Taste of Acts 2

Jeff Gilman
Executive Director



To me, City Kids has always been a taste of the beauty Paul describes in Acts 2:42-45:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."

These special festivals are a time when believers from over 60 churches gather to minister, serve and share God's love. Just being there is an amazing experience – when so many people who love Jesus are in one place, serving Him, how could it not be?

We have spent over a year separated and I know we are all longing to be together again. City Kids is a wonderful opportunity to do that in a safe way, socially distanced and outdoors.

I truly can't wait.

Thanks to faithful friends like you, every year needy kids and families are blessed in incredible ways – and so are all those who participate!



The Festivals Include:

- Food
- Games
- Crafts
- Backpacks with school supplies
- Haircuts
- Dental booth
- Book giveaway
- Gospel presentation
- Family photos



A Place For YOU



Uniting in Ministry. Uniting as a Community.

When God starts stirring in your heart, you never know exactly what will happen next.

Candy had no idea that when she felt called to serve the disadvantaged in her community, it would lead to a partnership with the Mission that has touched hundreds, if not thousands, of lives.

"I took City Kids to our church because I was looking for ways to get our church more involved in what the Mission was doing," she says.

Today, over half of the people who attend Redeemer Presbyterian help with City Kids – either by helping to prepare in advance or by volunteering at the event.

"We have a place for everybody to serve, if you want to serve on that day. And everybody looks forward to it," Candy says. "It's really given us something that the whole church can serve in at one time."

And the impact hasn't been limited to just City Kids.

"It unites your church together. As churches, as individual believers, we need to be able to touch our own community. And it's not that we don't have ways of touching people in our regular lives, but I don't think it's a good idea to isolate ourselves from people that we don't normally rub shoulders with. And what happened when we started doing City Kids, is that it expanded to other things."

Candy and most of the members of Redeemer Presbyterian plan to join us in-person again this year. We hope you will too!



Candy first got her church, Redeemer Presbyterian, involved in City Kids 16 years ago. Now, every year, over half of the church participates by planning and putting together booths, donating backpacks, serving at the event and more.

Call for Volunteers

We're thrilled that God has made it possible for us to be together in person for City Kids this year. We'd love to have you – and your church family – join us.

**Sign up by contacting:
Eric Sangervasi at
707.578.1830 x 316 or
esangervasi@srmission.org**



Special Thanks to our City Kids Community Partners



Churches

Alexander Valley Christian Fellowship
Bayside/Redwood Covenant, Santa Rosa
Bethlehem Lutheran, Santa Rosa
Calvary Chapel Petaluma, Petaluma
Calvary Chapel River Fellowship, Windsor
Calvary Chapel The Rock, Santa Rosa
Casa de Oración, Santa Rosa
Case del Samaritano, Santa Rosa
Centro Cristiano Evangelistico, Santa Rosa
Christian Family Fellowship, Santa Rosa
City Alliance Church, Santa Rosa
City Life Fellowship, Santa Rosa
Community Baptist Church, Santa Rosa
Coraza Celestial, Windsor
Crosspoint Community Church, Santa Rosa
Decision Time Church, Petaluma
Faith Community Church, Rohnert Park
First Baptist Church of Windsor
First Baptist Church of Graton
First Presbyterian Church, Santa Rosa
GateWay City Church, Santa Rosa
Glen Ellen Community Church
Greater Powerhouse Church, Santa Rosa
Hessel Church, Sebastopol
Iglesia Bethel, Santa Rosa
Iglesia Cristiana Shalom Elohim, Petaluma
Iglesia Vida, Windsor
Journey Church of Windsor
Metro Church, Windsor
Mision Cristiana, Santa Rosa
New Vintage Church, Santa Rosa
NEWSONG, Windsor
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Windsor
Petaluma Christian Church, Petaluma
Petaluma Church Of Christ, Petaluma
Puente de Fe, Santa Rosa
Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Santa Rosa
Refuge, Santa Rosa
Rincon Valley Church Of Christ, Santa Rosa
Rohnert Park Assembly of God
Salvation Army Church, Santa Rosa
Sanctuary, Windsor
Santa Rosa Adventist Church
Santa Rosa Alliance Church
Santa Rosa Bible Church, Santa Rosa
Santa Rosa Christian Church, Santa Rosa
Santa Rosa Nazarene Church, Santa Rosa



Sebastopol Christian Church Sebastopol
Shiloh Neighborhood Church, Santa Rosa
SOMA, Santa Rosa
Sonoma Avenue Church Of Christ, Santa Rosa
Spring Hills Church, Santa Rosa
St. Johns Anglican Church, Petaluma
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa
St. Marks Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa
St. Seraphim Orthodox Church, Santa Rosa
Stony Point Christian Fellowship, Santa Rosa
The Bridge, Santa Rosa
The Cove, Santa Rosa
The Vine Church of Windsor
Thrive Church, Santa Rosa
Vertical Call, Santa Rosa
Vineyard of Faith, Windsor
Westside Community Church, Healdsburg
Westview Christian Church, Santa Rosa
Windsor Community United Methodist Church

Community Partners

211/Volunteer Center
4-H
American Heritage Girl
Bridges Pregnancy Clinic and Care Center
Broken FM
California Hope Program
California Parenting Insitute
CAP/Headstart
Gideons
Lytle's Beauty College
Migrant Education
PDI: Pediatric Dental Initiative
Redwood Empire Food Bank
Sonoma County Human Services- Cal Fresh
Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
Sonoma County Regional Parks
Sonoma Human Services
St. Joseph Health Mobile Clinic
The Amazing Caine

Give a Backpack

One of the best feelings in the world is when you walk into a crowded event and someone rushes over to you. They smile and say, "I'm glad you're here. I have a special place prepared just for you."

That's the feeling we want to give underprivileged kids as they head back to school – in- person – this year. And you can be part of it.

Each \$24.86 you give will provide a child in need with a backpack full of school supplies.

Something as simple as a backpack and school supplies can be life-changing!

When you give your gift, please be sure to sign and return your Backpack Tags. We'll attach them to the backpacks we give the children so they'll know you are thinking about them and praying for them as they begin the school year.

Your personal touch will show them that they matter and remind them that they have a special place in this world.

Each \$24.86 you give provides one backpack full of supplies! Respond by July 30th to help in time for the City Kids Festivals.

And Tag It!

Share the love of Christ with your signed Backpack Tags!

Please sign and return both tags and your gift to provide backpacks and supplies by July 30th.

Give quickly and safely at:
srmission.org/backpack



GIVE A BACKPACK

You, Jeff! I want to help your and needy kids succeed and find their place! I'm sending a leadership gift of:

☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible.

☐ My signed Backpack Tags are also enclosed.

Please respond by July 30th!

(Name)
(Address1)
(Address2)
(City, State ZIP)

Backpacks will be given to children in need at the City Kids Festivals. The gift of a backpack is a powerful statement of love and support.

There's so much joy knowing you are supporting a child in need and giving them the chance to have a bright future!



REAL CHANGE

is the newsletter of
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