

Youth of Peace News by Kristi Duensing, Youth Coordinator

The Youth of Peace have had a busy summer. Our main activities were helping at Royal Family Kids Camp with a hot dog roast, and our Mission trip to Omaha. At RFKC, many of our youth spend the week loving, mentoring, and having fun with the kids. I am so proud of them, for all they do throughout the week! Our youth are exhausted, physically and emotionally, after their week at camp.

An article written by an observer, from the RFKC website states: GOD'S BEAUTY IN THE DETAILS: "That first experience as a camp director was a big step on my journey from a self-centered life, to a Jesus-centered life. I remember meeting Eric at that first camp, a nine-year-old foster child. At a birthday party, gifts were given to each child. Eric placed his gift next to him, slowly peeling back the envelope seal. He pulled out the card, and stared at it for a long time. He slowly opened the card, and stared at the inside. As he stared at the front cover, I grew anxious. Eric, I said, Don't you want to open your present? Looking at the card, he said, this is a birthday card. I've never had a birthday card before." Another RFKC Story: "Lexi's life was unwanted; she was battered & bruised, by a neglectful mother & her abusive live-in boyfriends. Her life continued to go downhill, as she moved in with a new family, who continued to abuse her. But thanks to a friend, inviting her to Royal Family KIDS Camp, one afternoon she was dressed in a beautiful ball gown, invited to an elegant tea party — and received a new name: Princess. When 'Princess Lexi', went back to her abusive home, she held onto what she had learned at Camp: **God didn't create me for this. I'm a Princess.** This new-found hope helped her situation at home."



Bob, Kristi, Deena, and Amanda helping give horse rides to children at camp. (I wish we could show the kid's faces, but for their safety, pictures cannot be taken at camp, so their abusive parents don't know the location of the camp). BUT, from the smiles on the kid's faces once they get up on their horse, it is so precious! Their fears and insecurities go away for that moment, and they feel loved!



Some of the High School youth pictured, working as staff, volunteers, and counselors at RFKC camp in 2017: Elle Baker, Cassidy Mundhenke, Jaide Miller, Braelyn Isemhagen, Ragan Pohlmann and Noah Mosier. (Not pictured, but attending this year: Gage & Dylan Baker, Emma Baker, Ryne, Kyle & Carlee, Luke and Dana Dlouhy, Adam Duensing, Pastor Phil, Eric, Isaac & Reece Nielsen, and Katie Roth). So proud of these kids, as they take a week to pour out their energy for these kids, making RFKC camp AMAZING!

Our youth trip to Omaha July 8-9 was quite a learning experience! We stayed overnight and worshiped at Church of the Master, toured Boys Town, and were awed by Father Flanagan's vision in the 1930's to start up a home for lost boys. If you're in Omaha, you must stop and visit their museum. Today, there are over 30 homes in Boys Town that mentor youth, who have not had a normal home life in the past. In Nebraska, there are approximately 1,421 children, ages 6-12 in the foster system. We also visited "Embracing the Nations" ministry, who help refugees find jobs, as they come into north Omaha, housing, and a new start in life. The Henry Doorly Zoo was great fun too, as we helped make treats for the animals! Thanks for your support! **Upcoming Activities: Sunday, Aug. 27th "Welcome New Freshmen Bonfire and Crazy Fun night at Kristi's house for all H.S. Youth. Sunday School is at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, and Youth night is the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. w/supper. Activity night is the 3rd Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. All Activities are held at the YOP house, unless posted otherwise. (Project: Painting garage TBA later in September).**

Blessed to be a blessing, Kristi Duensing & Youth of Peace.