



House of Faith

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Taking JESUS to neighborhood children, youth, and families

April 2023

## Inside Out at Family Camp

By Shelley Emmons,  
Family Ministry Coordinator

House of Faith Family Camp 2023 is in the books! The weekend of April 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, we took 270 people to camp, and we had a blast! Our theme was **Inside Out**, and our focus was **renewing our mind, heart, and strength**. Hiking, canoeing, swimming, the beauty of God's creation, hamburgers and s'mores outside, family kite-making competition, and 8 baptisms in the Frío River, plus much more, all made for the perfect weekend! Families laughed and played together and enjoyed corporate worship.

I think a couple of things really stood out to me about this camp. First, this year, rather than having a main speaker for our adults we did something a little different. We created a study guide, divided parents into three different groups for three sessions, and each group dug into the Bible! It was so much fun seeing parents grow in God's word, some of them starting with the basics like how to find the books, chapters, and verses in the Bible! Even more encouraging was watching them help each other find the verses.

The second thing that stood out and that was so precious, was that parents who have been attending our small group Bible Study on Tuesday nights, gave their testimonies in front of their peers. They shared how getting together weekly with a small group had encouraged them in their own lives and in the lives of their families. Each shared struggles with the group and encouraged them to begin reading the Bible and to get connected. After testimonies were shared, other parents began opening up and, by the time we had finished, there were several gathered together, all praying for one another and exchanging encouragement and phone numbers. It was a beautiful sight.

As I was reflecting about the weekend on the drive home, I was reminded of a little chorus, based on Isaiah 55:12

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,  
And the mountains and the hills will break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the fields  
Will clap, will clap their hands.**

I watched as the trees clapped their hands in praise and the little wildflowers that dotted the side of the road swayed joyfully, and I joined with them to give thanks for what HE did at Family Camp! Our hope is that these families will grow in their faith and that this will be the beginning of changes that will be evident from the **INSIDE OUT**.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)*





# Meet Some House of Faith Volunteers!

By Jade Marty



*Susan Woods, teaching children at Fannin Backyard Bible Club*

Volunteers are an essential part of House of Faith's mission and we love hearing the stories of current and past volunteers! We also want to honor these amazing people who have played such a key role on our House of Faith team. We asked two volunteers to share their thoughts and experiences on what House of Faith means to them.

Susan Woods began volunteering at House of Faith in 2012, and also served on the House of Faith Board of Directors until she and her husband recently moved out of town. Susan told us how she found out about House of Faith: "My dear friend Linda Wilson asked me to help one day with her group at Backyard Bible Club. The next week she asked me if I wanted her to pick me up or just meet there. I didn't know I was going back but she did."

Having spent so much time with House of Faith, Susan acquired memories she would cherish for a lifetime. "Perhaps my favorite memory was of 3 small boys. Their father did not really want them coming to House of Faith. He was not a believer and the boys indicated he could be rather harsh with them. Somehow, he went to Family camp with them," Susan said. "The Lord changed the heart of the dad and he was baptized there. When the boys came back to BBC that week there was such joy, such a change. A family completely changed and a father who was saved by the love of Jesus."

Susan also shared some advice for anyone looking into volunteering at House of Faith: "If I could tell someone on the fence about volunteering or supporting House of Faith [something], it would be DO IT!! You will love it! Just as Jesus is using House of Faith to change the lives of the children, He changed mine also. What a sweet gift He gave me."



*Matthew Sykes, leading his group in games at the 321 youth program*

Just this year, Matthew Sykes began volunteering at our 321 youth program on Monday nights. He also recalls how he started here at House of Faith. "I found a list of places and House of Faith stood out because I could recall driving past the building on the highway multiple times. I saw that they did a middle school/high school service which also stood out because I really wanted to help serve that age group," Matthew said.

Matthew spoke on how he has seen the Lord move in his time at House of Faith. "The first thing that comes to mind is all the kids who come back every week [to 321] who are eager to learn more about God. They're reciting verses, being kind to their neighbors, and singing during worship," Skyes said, "He [God] has a plan for all of the kids in 321 and Backyard Bible clubs and it's really neat to get to be a part of it."

House of Faith wants to thank all volunteers who have, currently, or will spend their time pouring into San Angelo's children, youth, and families. THANK YOU for sharing Jesus's love and being part of something bigger than all of us!



*Each family made a kite at Family Camp and had a great time in a kite-flying competition!*



*The cast of characters for our "Inside Out" skit at Family Camp!*



# Thank You for making Family Camp Possible!

Our most sincere thanks to these friends of House of Faith who made Family Camp possible:

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## **Volunteers**

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or online at [www.hofministries.org](http://www.hofministries.org)



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www.hofministries.org  
325.486.8637



# SAN ANGELO Gives

**IT'S ALMOST HERE!**

San Angelo Gives is  
Tuesday, May 2, 2023

An online giving event

It's easy to Give! Donations are made  
through [www.sanangelogives.org](http://www.sanangelogives.org)

**Early giving is going on NOW!**

San Angelo Gives is sponsored by the San Angelo Area Foundation. Every donation through San Angelo Gives is "amplified!"

**For House of Faith, San Angelo Gives is a tremendous opportunity for donors to support the ministry.** Last year, House of Faith received \$176,100 on the day of San Angelo Gives and \$12,589.17 net amplification. **Every donation makes a difference!**

Funds received through San Angelo Gives will support House of Faith summer programs and other programs throughout the year, and is a major part of our annual budget.

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