



Summer Reading program highlights- learning(left hand side), performing recorder concert and play for parents (right hand side)

An Incredible Summer

by Emily Luttrull

I'm Emily Luttrull, an undergraduate student at Scripps College in Claremont. This summer, I was blessed to receive a grant from my school to work with Pomona Hope as an intern. I spent ten weeks working alongside Emily Peine and others to put together a Summer Reading Program for the community's kids. We administered reading assessments at the beginning of the program to group the students by ability and worked on skills based on state standards throughout the summer. During the last week, we retested everyone and found that over 90% of the students significantly improved. However, as I'm sure is always the case, I received much more from this summer than I gave.

God's provision was incredible. One of my fears was that nobody would even show up after we'd

spent so much time planning the program – during the first week alone, almost forty kids showed up and we had to create a waiting list. There was one day of the program where we didn't have enough food for snack (we ran through it pretty fast with so many students!). I wasn't sure what to do, but didn't have to worry long because Coco George coincidentally showed up with groceries a day early and Lisa Drake dropped off a box of fruit just before the program began. There are countless other stories of God's strong and clear support for what Pomona Hope is doing in its community.

One of the most significant experiences of the summer was our final Open House celebration. We invited the parents and families (again, many more attended than I was expecting) to watch the

Important Dates:

- Pomona Hope Kids is always looking for committed volunteers. The times are Monday and Tuesday 2:30 to 5:00 pm and Wednesday 1:30 to 5 pm. If you are available any portion of the above days and times, contact Emily at (909) 921-3618 for more information.
- Pomona Hope Kids Christmas Party and Ice Cream Social will be held December 17th at 2:30 pm
- Pomona Hope Kids is looking for a donation of a small refrigerator to store snacks.

*"I was deeply served by the gratitude that so many parents expressed at their children's experiences."
-Emily Luttrull*

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Doing crafts at Pomona Hope Kids After School Program

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students perform recorder songs and drama skits that they had prepared throughout the summer.

After their show, I had a chance to spend some time with the kids and their parents. I was deeply served by the gratitude that so many parents expressed at their children's experiences. One mother gave silk flowers to me and a few other volunteers, which I still have sitting on my desk now with a photo of all the kids as a reminder of the summer.

Of course, there were many more moments that made this summer truly unforgettable. I learned so much about myself, God, and others. Everyone in the Pomona Hope family was incredibly encouraging and supportive and I could honestly not have imagined an internship experience that could benefit me more.

This past summer the board of Pomona Hope welcomed new members, which was very exciting. In light of this natural transition, our board has been taking time to ask ourselves, "What next?". Pomona Hope Kids is going quite well as you read, community organizing has had some remarkable successes that have changed parts of the Pomona landscape, and the neighborhood benefited very tangibly when Pomona Hope partnered with Habitat for Humanity to renovate homes. We ask "What's next," because our hopes and dreams for this organization are even bigger than these impacts.

When the board met this past July we took a few moments to consider our dreams for what Pomona Hope could accomplish. People shared a variety of things including; raising up indigenous Godly leadership, Pomona known as a spiritually vibrant city, demonstrated by low crime, low homelessness, thriving students, high test scores, families and churches working together, city residents coming to know and follow Christ, Pomona's youth becoming mature adults who positively influence the community around them. Our hopes are not small, nor are the obstacles before us.

You are receiving this newsletter because you have supported us through volunteer efforts, financial gifts, prayers, and/or by showing interest in learning more about Pomona Hope. Thank you. As the year comes to a close we ask that you would continue to support this ministry and help us empower it to grow. We know this is a trying time for everyone. If you are able, please give a financial gift once again or make a commitment to give monthly in the coming year, stop by our center and see the amazing lives that are being changed, volunteer for an afternoon, pray for our hopes and dreams to be realized. We are so very grateful for all of you. Please continue to join us in responding to the ever increasing needs of the city of Pomona.

Tanya Eveleth
Interim executive director