

Neighbor



The Shadetree Group exists to offer the whole Gospel to the whole person by affirming the dignity of under-resourced persons and empowering them to improve their own lives and community.

A Quarterly Newsletter

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Reflection

As we begin our fourth year in Gadsden County, I am filled with anticipation and gratitude. The ministry has endured three years and I sense that our sustainability is more possible than ever. Our family enjoys living life in Gretna, although we still miss the convenience of Target

We do enjoy the quiet, starry nights and the front-porch atmosphere of love our friends in Gadsden County. The English Language Learning classes have enjoyed five semesters so far, with attendance at record-highs. The Gretna Community Garden has begun its fourth growing season with an influx of very motivated student gardeners. We are witnessing collaboration grow in the body of Christ in Gadsden County as we all work together on shared initiatives. God is good...



The Language of Friendship

We rejoice as we finish our fifth semester of English Language Learning classes. Volunteers and students are strengthening the bonds of friendship as well as language skills. We are nurturing the children in more intentional ways through Bible stories, homework help and creative play. Our shared meals bless us as we take time for one another around the table. As we begin to learn more from one another, we are witnessing God's grace and mercy as He transforms us all. An Hispanic Bible study, summer day camp, ecumenical partnerships and even legal assistance for families are some of the fruit of God's handiwork in the classes. We are filled with gratitude as we learn new ways to love God



Life Together

How Does Our Garden Grow?

One sunny afternoon, I was warmed by the happy squeals of little girls as they discovered a toad in the freshly plowed dirt of our community garden. We took a moment to examine this little friend. After lively discussion, we returned him to his slumber in the black, fertile earth. We are happy to welcome so many young gardeners this season to the Gretna Community Garden.

Several friends from Tallahassee and Gadsden County host a Backyard Bible Study in Gretna. The children who are growing in relationship with all of us at the Backyard Bible Study are now experiencing God's love

in the garden too. Our partnership has grown to include FAMU as well as Gadsden County Extension Services, Gretna Presbyterian Church and so many more. We need one another to bring about God's kingdom.



Seeds, Bugs, Weeds and lots of Snacks

We began planting the flowers and vegetables this week. Fueled by strawberries and other goodies, we work together, sharing, smiling.

Since school is out for Spring Break next week, the children begged to go to the garden every day...we can't keep them away.

Joy of Friendship

Every child seems eager to soak up time, love, respect and knowledge as well as the sunshine and fresh air. When we, the original garden ladies, spend time with our young friends in the garden, we are reminded how joy is so contagious. The simplicity of digging in the dirt and witnessing children discover new plants and insects, all the while knowing they are loved and accepted, blesses my heart. I see us sharing and helping one another; restoring one another gently, working with one another. We are beginning to see the joy of creating something together. We are sharing responsibility as we decide together on seed choices, plot designs, community rules and policies; the children are learning to govern themselves as a team. I am reminded how each one of us is a gift from God. We need one another. We are designed for friendship. Each one of us matters.