



This summer InsideOut had 210 students participate in three weeks of service projects where they repaired or renovated nine homes for families in need, conducted three children's festivals and a VBS in an under-resourced area, painted and landscaped two churches in areas of need, and built a food pantry for a ministry that reaches out to senior citizens and homebound elderly. Here are some highlights from an incredible summer!

InsideOut has committed to helping the very under-resourced Skyview community in Lakeland. Over the two years we have been working in that neighborhood we have noticed a transformation taking place. Not just in the improvement of the homes the students have been renovating, but a transformation in the hearts of those living in that community. When we first came to Skyview in 2008 Clarence was very standoffish, he did not want any youth near his property and was very cynical about what we were doing. This summer he was one of our biggest allies in the neighborhood, loaning out his tools and equipment to the students for the projects, he even helped one of the groups put up siding on the home. The attitude of the neighborhood has changed so that they are more interested in directing us to help their neighbors than getting help themselves. Many of the kids in the neighborhood also came out to help with the projects and built relationships with the students.



Also in the Skyview area **we partnered with Faith Temple Church to conduct a VBS and Children's Festivals for children from the neighborhood.** We had about 100 kids come each week for the festival where they enjoyed face painting, balloon animals, and so much more as they experienced the love of God showered on them. These children have such limited opportunities and these festivals and VBS were a highlight of their summer. They received love and attention that they often go without. Faith Temple and Pastor Street really opened up their church property and their hearts to us and we worked together to reach the community. We continue to hear stories of how this multi-cultural, multi-racial partnership impacted the community with a message of love, unity, diversity and acceptance.



Faith in Action is a local ministry that reaches out to the homebound and the elderly. Their office is run out of a small house. They had begun a food ministry providing food for those they serve. They were storing food on their desks, in the bathroom, everywhere. One of the groups enclosed the carport and turned it into a full service food pantry with shelves, AC and everything they need, now Faith In Action will be able to serve even more.

BEFORE



AFTER



We could tell you so much more, but here's just some of what the participants are saying:

"Over the past two years that we have attended InsideOut Mission trips, our students, and therefore our student ministry, have grown tremendously in their passion for God and their desire to reach people for His kingdom. We are impressed by your organization and the wide range of influence you have in your community." - Pastor Sean

"I have to tell you, our youth were FOREVER changed during the week we got to spend with you all!" - Mary Kate

"When I signed up I knew what we were doing but I really didn't KNOW what I was getting into. The program that you are running out of Lakeland, Florida is an amazing thing and it absolutely changed my life! Every church camp I have gone to was directed towards me (the campers) but this was totally different. The mission trip gave me a chance to give back in a environment that wasn't directed towards me. Ever since the trip, service opportunities have been coming to my attention everywhere and I think that is what God is calling me to do." - Chris

"We would really like to extend our sincere appreciation to your team. We were really impressed from the theme, messages, dramas, and worship it was very much "QUALITY". You and your team have done a great job of seeking God's direction and favor when reaching youth and leading them to serve others through many different ways." - Pastor Damon

"I didn't think God would be able to use me to do the hard work because I'm a kids person, but he used me to do extraordinary things!" - Amber

"When we first drove into the neighborhood, I thought wow, this is really bad why are they living like this? But after we started helping, I began to see it more as people's homes and what can we do to help them." - Jason

It is our goal that after the InsideOut mission camp experience the youth return home changed, we pray we are sowing a seed that grows into a lifetime of serving others with God's love. In addition to the work projects we use music and media along with powerful messages to bring out a theme. Our theme this summer was "Reflect"; Reflect the light of Christ into the darkness.



INSIDEOUT '09



Special Thanks to the following businesses and churches for their support of InsideOut:

Mid Florida Credit Union,
SkateWorld,
QuickKrete,
Sonrise Christian School,
Oasis Community Church,
Faith Temple Church.

InsideOut in the NEWS!

This summer InsideOut was featured in the following local evening news broadcasts: Bay News 9, Fox 13, and NBC 8. Reporters seemed most impressed that students were so willing to give up a week of their summer to work so hard to help others!



InsideOut is so grateful for the help you provided through your time or resources in 2009. None of these stories would have been possible without your generous giving. As we enter a new year InsideOut would like to ask you to consider how your involvement might be able to make a difference in the following areas of need:

Summer volunteers.
Year round administrative volunteers.
Continued financial support for operating expenses
Donation of tools and materials.
A work truck
Business Sponsorships

All of these things will enable us to continue this mission of bringing hope to the hopeless. While also training youth to reach out and serve others.