

Field Notes

Little Rock, Arkansas



Fighting Hunger, One Bowl at a Time

Sponsored children from a Little Rock elementary school put their artistic talents to good use by hosting a fundraiser for The Empty Bowls Project, an organization that raises money for families struggling with hunger.

The third- to fifth-graders started their efforts weeks before the event. The kids spent afternoons painting the bowls. After they were completed, a local pottery shop finished glazing and firing the bowls. Each bowl represents an empty bowl sitting in front of a child around the world.

A charity dinner and auction was then held. During the dinner, patrons dined on soup and bread while

bidding on the hand-painted bowls and admiring the children's art. Sponsored children were thrilled when all 40 bowls were purchased, while raising money to help eradicate hunger!

CI – UALR actively encourages sponsored children to pursue charity work. Although sponsored children may live in need, they are still capable of improving their communities and making a difference. Children International – UALR Elementary Education Manager Paula Rogers said, “I think The Empty Bowls Project will be a ‘teachable moment’ for our children, helping educate them on the significance of child hunger.”

Benefits for a Lifetime

Children International – UALR’s goal for the coming year is to carry out the vision to engage more of our sponsored youth through signature programs. With that in mind, our agency is excited to implement the Game On! Youth Sports™ Program, in partnership with the International Alliance for Youth Sports, along with other youth activities, programs and events designed to increase participation. Linking our youth to positive social activities and programs is paramount to their continued growth and success.

With a clear vision for the future, let’s reflect on this past year. We expanded our after-school programs to serve more children, and those children have shown improved academic performance. I’m also pleased

to report that more parents than ever are serving as volunteers in the sponsorship program. With over 3,000 sponsored children and youth, these parents are doing a lot of good.

As agency director, I’m always excited about direct benefits. The Christmas, birthday and Easter gifts – along with back-to-school supplies – are much needed and much appreciated by our children. As our sponsored kids live in poverty, these gifts may be the only gifts they receive all year. It is extremely satisfying for me to know our organization brings much joy to the hearts and lives of children in Arkansas and throughout the world.

Kyle Miller

Program Highlights



Dental Clinic, the only elementary school-based dental clinic in the state of Arkansas. Volunteers from Pulaski Technical College's Dental Assistant program and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Department of Dental Hygiene provide cleanings, fluoride varnishes, dental sealants and restorative care through the clinic for sponsored children Pre-K through 2nd grade attending partner elementary schools. These volunteers go into the classrooms to educate children about the importance of oral hygiene and how to properly brush their teeth. They also pass out toothbrush kits and answer any questions related to oral health.

Something to Smile About

Although Little Rock is a modern metropolitan city, CI – UALR still supports children and youth with little access to dental care. But thanks to sponsorship, each year thousands of sponsored children and youth receive oral health assistance.

Delivering free dental care is no easy task. Fortunately, we partner with several amazing organizations that dedicate time, resources and volunteers to ensure healthy smiles for children.

These benefits are remarkable. All sponsored children and youth have access to our Future Smiles

At a Glance

Our dental program gets results!

- 23,859 dental screenings and toothbrush kits have been distributed.
- 2,825 children have received 8,527 dental sealants.
- 2,140 children have received two fluoride varnish treatments.
- 6,795 patients have visited our Future Smiles Dental Clinic.

Inside Perspective

From the Sidelines

As a Children International – UALR AmeriCorps member and the coach for our youth sports league, I help sponsored youth work toward a better attitude and improved self-esteem. Team sports help teach youth the importance of hard work, preparation and practice in success.

Most of our kids had never played organized basketball; however, they quickly realized that competition takes more than a will to play. These experiences gave our youth their first realization of how to handle conflict. By the end of the season, I noticed a marked improvement in how they dealt with winning and losing.

What I am most proud of, though, are the academic improvements our youth experienced who participated in the league. One improved his grades from a C-average to maintaining all B's for the rest of our season, and he is still doing well! Other students took pride in telling me how well they were doing and that they were ready for our off-season. I'm privileged to be their coach.

AJ Kelsey



Your Sponsorship in Action



Support for strong smiles



Opportunities to stretch the mind



Safe places to play



Gifts to brighten the season



Activities to grow and learn



Checkups to prevent illness