

## Serving: Be The Miracle! Small Group Stories



- From Lisa Kuznia. “Our family and our very small group picked a service project to collect winter coats and clothing for refugees from Myanmar (Burma), and take them to a Lutheran Church in St. Paul, who will distribute them. I was overwhelmed because I had no idea how to go about this. Then the Holy Spirit reminded me that we lived in a neighborhood full of kids and adults of all sizes and shapes. I made copies of a note I had written explaining the project, then I went door to door on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. It turns out we had a virtual “used Target” at our finger-tips! Nearly every neighbor contributed clothing and softened their hearts to the plight of the refugees.”
- One small group planned to help a Lewis house family move, but when they couldn’t pinpoint a date, it was decided to throw a pumpkin carving party. One group member brought face paint and painted everyone’s face with a Halloween theme. They had a blast taking lots of photos of the kids with painted faces, designing their masterpieces. They got together again a few days later to look at the photos. The kids felt proud of how their house looked with all the jack-o-lanterns in front for Halloween, and the church members got to spend some time in their sweet spots!
- One Hosanna! couple wrote to say they appreciated the group who raked tons of leaves for their adult son and family. The small group knew the homeowner was battling cancer, but did not know that he was at his lowest point of his 2-year battle. He was really down with pain, nausea, and fever. But the morning after the leaf raking, the adult son said he “felt like he turned a corner the night before.” He proceeded to start feeling better, little by little, and three days later felt 80% better. The mom described it, with this quote: “Hosanna! shows up, things get done, and things started to change for our son!” Also, other extended family members now attend Hosanna! because they sense the Spirit of God when they come.
- One group visited the home of a family nearby. It had been one year since their mom passed away unexpectedly. While the men mowed the lawn, the women concentrated on bonding with the two daughters. They baked cookies and cooked meals together. Because there were enough hands in the kitchen, one woman began cleaning in another part of the house. During this time, God set up a divine appointment for her with the grandma, which appeared to have ushered in some much needed peace. Praise God, for He is good.
- Randy Beadle told us during his *Be the Miracle!* study he realized that working in theatre was one of his sweet spot stories. (He did theatre in high school and had forgotten how much it meant to him.) God not only opened a window for him to see the sweet spot, but also opened a door. He is now serving as a volunteer at the new community theatre in Lakeville, as assistant stage manager. He is excited about spending time on a worthwhile project, as well as sharing another God story in his life.
- One small group, consisting of blended families, went outside the list! They spent a day at the National Federation for the Blind in Minneapolis, which is an old mansion that serves as a home for visually impaired people learning independent living skills. They have next-to-no budget to maintain the mansion, so the Hosanna! adults and kids did maintenance, yard work, and odd jobs. The long list ranged from repairing the plumbing to polishing the chandeliers to giving the carpets a shampoo, all in Jesus’ Name! ...That’s the church leaving the building!