

Oasis of Kingsport Back to School Luau

The Oasis of Kingsport hosted a Back to School Luau event on Friday, July 29th with an overwhelming response! Meals consisting of a hotdog, or hamburger, chips, cookie, cupcake and drink were served to 375 men, women and children attending. Partial funding of the meal came from the June 5cents a Meal Offering from FPC. Backpacks full of school supplies filled according to school grade and teacher supply list were provided to 226 children. Some other agencies who also participated include, Grandma Jo's Cookies, Sullivan County Sherriff's Department-provided finger printing, Girls Inc.- supplied 262 back packs and 15 boxes of school supplies, LIHEAP energy assistance program- provided 200 filled draw string bags, Kingsport Moose Lodge 79, Chapter 1106, with Jenella Oliver -provided shoes and school supplies, and West Ridge High JROTC.-provided volunteers. Free haircuts were given to all children with parent permission who requested them, and there were free shoes and clothing as well. Free Christian Concert was also provided by singer-songwriter Tobias Tisdale, and the band NeverTHEless. In spite of the thunderstorms and pouring down rain it didn't rain on the luau parade, so to speak. Around 100 people started lining the street outside the gates 2 hours before opening the gate at 4pm. The event was so successful that at one point, Kingsport Police Department had to be called for crowd control.



I compared the success of the event to the Jesus's blessing of the Loaves and Fishes. When we began preparing for the event we had a very small amount of school supplies and a few backpacks, but the board and volunteers prayed for the supplies to come in and volunteers to help make the event happen. And those few supplies were not only blessed to supply the needs of all attending, but we also had enough left over to donate to these other causes: Back Packs to Kingsport City Schools, Greenville Baptist Children's Home, Clothing and Shoes to Isaiah 117 House, and remaining to Kentucky Flood Victims.

The Oasis is so grateful that FPC has partnered with us, and because of God's Blessings, and partners like you, we are able to also be the Hands and Feet of Christ to the Kingsport Community and surrounding areas. Thanks so much! Martha Pendley