



Giving Kids Hope and a Second Chance

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

As we kick off the new school year, we reflect on how grateful we are for our wonderful volunteers! This newsletter highlights a handful of those people who selflessly give their time and energy to our students.

Adults can have a greater influence over a child than the child's peers.

Research shows that mentoring is the best way to change the behavior of children.

I have been working at McAdams Academy as a once-a-week cook for almost 2 years. In fall 2017, my last child had left home for college, and I felt a bit lost without kids to care for anymore. When I heard of McAdams, I remembered how my sons were very troubled as teenagers, and I felt I could come love and take time for troubled kids, some of whom might not have a good home to return to at night, and who might long to be loved, as I did as a lonely teenager. I have definitely had opportunities to talk to and even pray with kids individually. I serve lunch to groups of kids and can talk to kids then, but kids also individually come into the kitchen and help me cook, or help clean up the kitchen. "Cooking with the cook" can be a reward for a student who has finished school-work or been cooperative. It's great to get to spend time directing kids and helping them learn kitchen skills, and also to get to be kind and non-confrontational. For example, I am not a teacher, and I do not have to make them get any work done. Kids (especially our McAdams kids) need to know adults care about them. One day, one of our day school kids came in (I don't remember why, but she was eating by herself). I'll call her Jacinta. I sat down at the table with her. She said to me, "Are you afraid to die?" I admitted that it is a scary thing, since death will be the end of the life we have here, but I believe that I will go home and be with the Lord. She told me that she did not believe in God, but as we continued to talk, it was clear she had been to church, and she was struggling with spiritual matters. She told me that she had not yet asked Jesus into her heart. I wish I could remember what I said in return. As we talked, I thought how she had seen much in her time, and how she seemed like a woman in her 30's, and not a girl. I asked her how old she was, and was shocked to learn she was only 14. It is tough knowing difficult things have brought our kids to us, but I enjoy seeing the regular Academy kids during the year they stay with us, if they continue in the program. Some of the day school kids that I see, I never see again, but when they have come into the kitchen and talked with me, I remember their names, and continue to pray for them. I am thankful for McAdams Academy, and for Jesus shining His love through us. Please continue to pray for us, and that kids will be drawn to know the love of God for them.



- **Suzanne Berg**

My initial volunteer role was to help students with math in the Academy, but that quickly morphed into mentoring in both the Academy and Day School. I have been fortunate to develop relationships with 4-5 of the young men, several of which I pray become ongoing. As with so many in our society today, these young people, a product of many of the toughest trials and adversities life has to offer, are vision limited. Listening is all that's required early on, and I have learned much from every one of these kids. One example . . . riding around a rough part of town with a 17 year old former gang member who was critically wounded in a shooting and having that young man describe his world up close and personal - eye opening for this naive senior citizen. The relationship can and often does grow into openness and trust. Once established it's easy to share a far different vision of life . . . of family, of law enforcement, of education and of faith. As Chuck shared many moons ago when I expressed frustration over how our efforts in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program seemed to produce little, "Our job is simply to obey then turn the rest over to God." McAdams offers us that opportunity to obey - and to turn the rest over to Him.

*If you love me,
you will keep my
commandments.*

John 14:15

- **Cy Nobles**



Where do you go for help...when things are seriously not going well...and it's been that way for a long time? Many people have family or friends who are available continuously and consistently, who are good help, and are ready with successful guidance. A teenager is going through many changes in life, rapidly. What happens when decisions and circumstances result in seriously difficult circumstances? Would you wish for a kind person to patiently listen, understand, and care enough to help you get through the moment, or the day, the week, the month? Or how about some help with school work? It wouldn't be just nice...it's a life saver. McAdams is prepared with teachers, staff, and volunteers to meet

this need for teens. Yes, and with food, too! Most of the teens that come to McAdams are having big struggles. Most of the teens realize, deep down, how difficult things are in their lives. Most of them appreciate, deep down, the help that is available at McAdams. When a teenager is out of options in life, hope is low, anger and frustration are high, wouldn't it be the best thing in the world to have someone who is there for you? I volunteer...I am that person.

- **Susie Lavender**





Dr. CHUCK'S CORNER

Final Thoughts from the Director

For those of you who read our newsletters, you know we work with a lot of emotionally traumatized children. The pain children experience may be the result of events happening over time, or it may be a single traumatic experience. Most would agree that pain is a normal part of life. Suffering can, if handled correctly, build character and compassion equipping us to help others when they struggle. When childhood trauma is not dealt with in a healthy fashion, children can acquire destructive coping mechanisms that can follow them into adulthood. Most of the children at McAdams have never had an adult teach them how to work through their emotional baggage. The result of this deficit is that the coping skills they develop usually produce harmful behavior, behavior that has life-altering negative consequences.

A teen, new to our program, walked

into a relatively quiet room where students were studying or playing games. The child stopped, looked around and without cause, started picking a fight with another student. After I broke up the fight and things settled back down, the same young man began picking on another child. Why was he doing that? In a regular classroom, we would label him a bully and suspend him from school. Experience has taught me to look deeper into a persons' life to better understand the way they act. This young mans' "comfort zone" was chaos. In short, he felt more secure (or at home) in a chaotic room than he did in a quiet room. He was feeling threatened in a quiet room.

One of the greatest challenges, when working with students at McAdams, is holding youths accountable for their bad behavior while, at the same time, understanding that each child is struggling with things in their life that they don't know how to fix.

Helping others requires a lot of listening and understanding. "The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out" (Proverbs 20:5). Children need discipline, structure, and appropriate consequences (both negative and positive) to learn how to behave in society, but there is something else children need as much as consequences. Children need a person of "understanding" who will help them navigate the deep waters of their heart so they can grow emotionally and find meaning and purpose in life.

Unlike other schools, we provide counseling for the student and their families. Each year, we have devastated parents (many single mothers) who are struggling as the result of their teenagers' bad choices. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we meet with hurting families.

REGISTER TODAY!

McAdams 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

September 20, 2019

Sand Creek Station, Newton KS



Contact Bev Jackson with any questions:

bjackson@mcadamsacademy.com

316.655.0419

McAdams Needs:

- ➡ NEW BUILDING
- ➡ 15 PASSENGER VAN

Other practical needs can be found on our Amazon Wish List:

tinyurl.com/yxfhktso

Items can be purchased and shipped directly to the school.

Our programs help expelled youths, and children in the foster care system from falling behind academically and address behavioral problems that often ruin their ability to complete their education. Every day we have opportunities to make life-changing interactions with our students. You can help us invest in their lives in the following way:

DONATE - Donate online by going to one of our websites, ictcbar.com or mcadamsacademy.org -OR -
Mail a check payable to CBAR or McAdams Academy to 2821 E. 24th St. N. Wichita KS 67219

VOLUNTEER - Tutoring, Mentoring, Cooking, Games, whatever you enjoy doing we have a place for you! Please give us a call (316) 239-6472 or come visit us and see where you can help!

PRAY - We need your prayers in every aspect of this ministry; individual students, their families, staff, and material needs for the ministry. *We are developing a prayer ministry for the school, please let us know if you would be interested in participating.*

Visit our website at: mcadamsacademy.org to learn about McAdams Academy's unique alternative educational programs.