



THE TREK

ISSUE 2: FEBRUARY 2023



TIME OF SERVICE

BY MEGAN WALLACE

Our trek continues into the new year and we are glad to share what happened in December and January. Our AmeriCorps members have been busy with different service opportunities. Pictured above, our staff and AmeriCorps members went to the Habitat for Humanity Restore where they repainted the store's parking lot area. We appreciate all they have accomplished and continue to do to support our camp, students and community!



PFEIFER KIWANIS
CAMP NEWSLETTER

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CIT HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 10th, nineteen Counselors in Training attended the CIT Holiday Party. This was the first official CIT gathering for the new CITs that were chosen at the end of 2022 Summer Camp. CITs were asked to wear festive outfits and bring a gift for the white elephant gift exchange. Upon arrival, CITs decorated the Camp's classroom (also called the CIT Lounge and Rec. Room during the summer). After decorating, they played games such as "candy cane tag" and "thread the needle with the pig." They also participated in the wrapping paper fashion show, created scratch off holiday cards for the elderly, and wrote Pfeifer Camp thank you letters to those who support camp. Snacks and sweets were plentiful.

Our next CIT event will be scheduled in late March/early April when we have our first overnight of 2023.



CAMP GARDEN

Last year Pfeifer Camp hired A.B. Stewart as Garden Director to help oversee and implement garden projects. For the 2022 season, they tested and amended the soil to promote healthier plants, re-established the herb garden outside of the greenhouse, and installed an efficient irrigation system. Some of the plants that were planted and harvested include: tomatoes, watermelons, cantaloupes, cucumbers, squash, beans, corn, eggplants, peppers, peas, okra, sweet potatoes, basil, sage, mint, parsley, thyme, oregano, and rosemary.

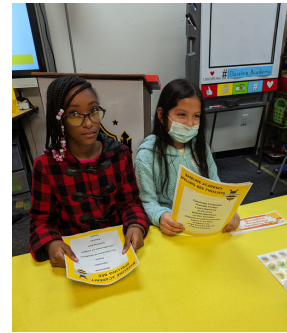
Looking forward, A.B. is writing grant proposals to fund and make the 2023 season more sustainable. While the garden rests, Pfeifer Camp's main garden goal is to install a sturdier fence to keep the critters out. With that in mind, we want to thank the Trinity United Methodist Church for donating a portion of their proceeds from their yearly rummage sale and contributing \$1,000 towards our fence. We hope to get a fencing quote soon and start building in early spring.

BASELINE ACADEMY

Jane Mendel Reading Day is a day of service dedicated to Jane Mendel, an active youth volunteer, and mother of four. Her sincere effort resulted in the creation of what we know today as the Volunteers In Public Schools Program (VIPS). Baseline AmeriCorps members participated on this special day by volunteering to read to the kindergarten classes of Chicot Elementary.

The Baseline school wide spelling bee was held Dec. 15th for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. This event was established by the gifted and talented teacher, Krystal Williams who had help from two 5th graders (pictured to the right). AmeriCorps members helped set up and cheered on the 15 participants. There were 19 rounds of the spelling bee which resulted in 120 words spelled. The 5th grade winner went on to compete in the district spelling bee.

Once a month, AmeriCorps member Yaielle, visits former Baseline Academy students who have graduated and are now enrolled in Cloverdale Middle School. During her visits, she works along side City Year AmeriCorps members who serve at the middle school. They provide a space for her to visit and have lunch with students. These visits are a great way to follow up, stay connected between summer camp and overnights, and let students know that we, as Pfeifer Camp, continue to care about each individual and want to help them succeed.



IMPACT STORY

BY AMERICORPS MEMBER
AARON MCCOLLOUGH

Today I pulled several kids from one of my classes to work on math and get ready for their upcoming test. It started out kind of rough and they just had a hard time focusing in. But once we got moving, it got better and at the end they were asking to get to do more problems to work on. It was really cool to see that progression from how we started to wanting to do more problems to show and practice that they know how to do it.

LAWSON ELEMENTARY

mCLASS® is a national adaptive early literacy assessment and instructional system that helps educators reach each student, making learning attainable. Each day, the program guides every reader along an individualized, instructional path toward their literacy goals. At Lawson, every 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grader is placed into a small group of students with similar literacy levels. Our AmeriCorps members help with three different small groups. Together, they read and complete lessons. The goal is to meet students where they are academically and not where they are expected to be. With this program, students build their academic confidence and enjoy the learning process. For more information on this program, visit their website at <https://amplify.com/programs/mclass-boost-reading-edition/>.

Winter weather has resulted in several days of indoor recesses. Our AmeriCorps members have and continue to bring the fun indoors with Character Building through Organized Play (CBOPs). Every week, these activities allow our members to interact with each class from kindergarten through the fifth grade. Some of the types of activities played are icebreakers, name games, camp favorites, energizers, team builders, and diversity activities. These fun activities provide a deeper connection and learning opportunity. CBOPs promote group development and opportunities for participants to reflect on their experiences, develop specific skills, increase their knowledge, or clarify values.



IMPACT STORY

BY AMERICORPS MEMBER
JAMES ROSE

Today I had a great time with the fifth graders. We were doing holiday arts and crafts and I had such a good time. I got to talk to all the fifth graders about what they were doing for winter break. I had no idea kids got multiple holiday gatherings. The kids were very respectful towards each other while talking about their trips and families.



MLK SERVICE DAY

Once considered a bank holiday to commemorate the contributions Martin Luther King Jr. made in the pursuits of civil rights, MLK day is now considered a national day of service that builds upon his dream of all coming together for a greater purpose.

"With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood". - Martin Luther King Jr. ("I Have a Dream" speech, Aug. 28th, 1963)

Throughout the nation different businesses and organizations found ways to better their communities. Our AmeriCorps members served at the St. Joseph Center of Arkansas where they painted indoor facilities, cleaned bee hive boxes, cleaned out the chicken coop, moved gravel to the pollination garden, and created a composting area. After all projects were completed, they went to the Clinton Presidential Library to view the "Women's Voices, Women's Votes, Women's Rights" exhibition.



LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

In honor of MLK day, Engage Arkansas also created a state wide project. Using retired newspaper dispensers (donated by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette), over 50 little food pantries were established. We adopted two pantries and placed them at Baseline Academy and Lawson Elementary schools to raise awareness for and combat food insecurity.

We participated in this project because our schools are both Title 1 schools. Over 70% of our students from both schools receive free or reduced lunches every day. In addition to providing the lunch program, several of our students receive take-home food bags on Fridays to bridge the hunger gap they face every weekend.

We want to acknowledge and thank the schools for being the hosts, the donors who helped in our food drives, and our community sponsors (the Church at Rock Creek and the Little Rock Church) who will continue to take care of and stock our little food pantries. To find out more information or how to get involved, visit the website <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>.

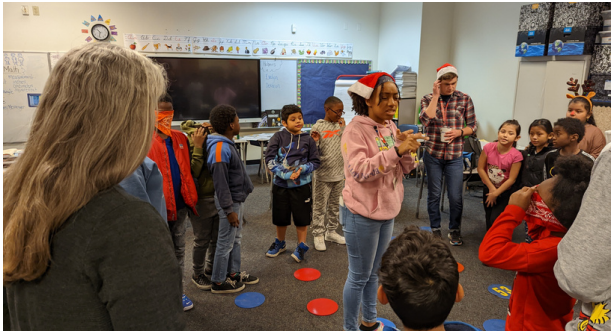
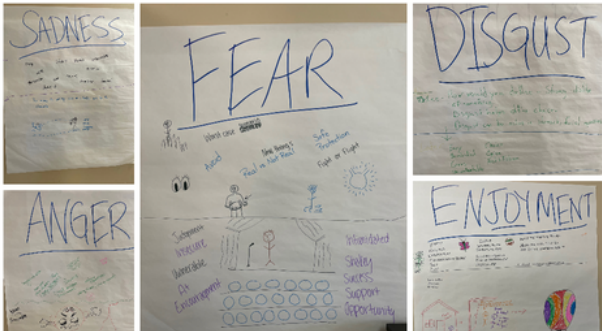
SEL TRAINING

Coming back from winter break, Pfeifer Camp staff and AmeriCorps members participated in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) training courses provided by the Arkansas State University's Childhood Services. During the two day training, participants were given literature, resources, and activities to apply when engaging with students and campers.

IMPACT STORY

BY AMERICORPS MEMBER
YAIELLE GOLDEN

We had a training on SEL and Emotion Coaching and it was very helpful. I learned a lot about dealing with others' emotions (especially children) by walking myself through my own emotions. We went over ways that people kind of misinterpret how others feel and how to fix it. I learned the difference between sympathy and empathy and how people can react to certain situations with either one interchangeably and not realize it. At times people prefer you to be empathetic to them rather than to have sympathy for them and that all depends on what you say and how you say it. I also learned that it's possible to feel multiple emotions at once even if they seem to be polar opposites. It was really insightful and I plan to apply what I learned to the schools and beyond.



NOW HIRING

It may be winter, but we are getting ready for the summer 2023 term and the full 2023-24 term! Do you know a young adult who enjoys the great outdoors? Do you know an enthusiastic kid-at-heart who loves to play games? Do you know a college student looking for a great service experience to add to their resume? Look no further! Tell them about our AmeriCorps positions as a camp counselor and school mentor. Summer training starts June 4th and the position ends July 31st. Our full 2023-24 term starts September 2023 and ends July 2024. AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance throughout their term. Once their term is completed, members also receive an education award that can be used toward current school expenses or past student loans.

For more information on how to apply, email us at pfeifercamp@gmail.com or call us at (501) 821-3714 or visit our website at <https://www.pfeifercamp.com/get-involved/ameri-corps/>.

