

Love in Action

Bridging the Gap SLC Summer Reading Project

When you ask a question, you just never know what the answer will be or where it will lead...

Sandy Gessner-Crabtree looked at the research about summer reading loss and asked the question, "Can Silverdale Lutheran do anything about this? Can we make a difference?" The answer came through conversations with Pastor Bill and Cathy Bohman, SLC Community Connector, who said "Let's see where God wants us to work..." Then *Bridging the Gap - SLC Summer Reading Project* was created.

Consistent educational research has shown that the more restricted access to books during the summer severely hampers the ability of low-income students to maintain their reading level from June to September. Intervention is especially important in the primary years, as 3rd grade is the critical year for the mastery of reading basics. Studies have discovered a simple solution. Low-income children who are given a significant number of new books of their own choosing at the beginning of summer break, will indeed read throughout the coming 10 weeks and enter school ready to learn at least at the same reading level...with no summer reading loss!

Funded by a \$2,000 Silverdale Lutheran Endowment Grant and a \$1,500 Rotary Club of Silverdale Grant, SLC bought books suggested by the librarians to share with every second grade student at Esquire Hills and Silver Ridge Elementary Schools. SLC is now a Scholastic Books Literacy Partner which enabled us to purchase quality books at a considerable discount.

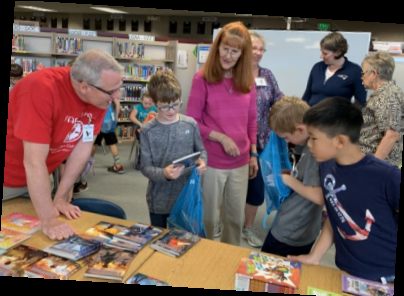
Our simple gift of 10 new books to each child was met with wide eyes & smiles, tons of excitement and much gratitude by children & staff!! Thanks, SLC, for impacting the educational readiness of 126 of our community's children! What a gift of grace...



May 30th Bridging the Gap Prep Crew



So many choices...SLC folks created bookmarks at the May "God's work. Our hands." servant day.



June 14th Book Distribution at Silver Ridge



SLC members volunteer as Reading Buddies for 2nd graders at Silver Ridge



Book Distribution at Esquire Hills on June 17th



Each child received a cool mesh backpack with a name tag to hold their new books.



SLC members serve on the staff of Esquire Hills and as volunteers.



Even after choosing just their first two books, the students sat down & started to read...

God's work. Our hands.