

Mission Spotlight

Presbytery of Cincinnati

February 2012

“And He Began To Send Them Out Two By Two”

Pleasant Run and Northwest Community Churches Partner at One Way Farm

“He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.”

(Mark 6:7)

At the beginning of 2011 Bobbie Bella, pastor of Pleasant Run Presbyterian Church, received a letter from *One Way Farm*, a home for abused and abandoned children in Fairfield, OH inviting churches to offer worship opportunities. Being familiar with their facility, she was attracted to the idea but could not envision their church having enough volunteers to sustain such a ministry on a long term basis.

It seemed an impossible venture—that is, until Kevin Murphy, pastor of Northwest Community Church, contacted her to see if they could partner the two churches together

in order to respond to such an invitation. In March 2011, after participating in extensive training, the two churches began to regularly provide worship, faith conversations, and a meal with the children and staff at *One Way Farm*.

“It’s been really rewarding,” commented Greg Hudson, chair of Pleasant Run’s worship committee and regular volunteer. “I have always enjoyed working with teens and children. At first, we were unsure about what we would encounter because we had heard about what these kids have been through. But, they see that this is genuine and they have been really receptive to our presence and what we want to talk about.”

“Their questions put us on the spot sometimes,” reflected Cari Wynne, a member of the Northwest Community Church.

“Their life experiences raise legitimate questions for them about a loving God and it forces us to think about what we believe.”

“I have a new gratitude for the people who have laid a foundation of faith for me,” added Bella. “The children at *One Way Farm* have not had that stability in their lives. The simple truth about God’s grace, God’s love, is an essential message to receive when you are a child.”

“This ministry has provided the chance for our church members to step out of their comfort zone,” remarked Murphy. “When you go into a ministry like this you have to place your trust in God’s Spirit—you have to trust that you will be used by God in that particular moment with that particular child. All of our mission projects scratch that edge, but this one really puts you in the midst of it. God’s



Spirit has led us through lively conversations and prayers that have arisen from the very depths of their hearts.”

“It was a ‘no brainer’ for me when the invitation first emerged,” added Wynne. “You are asking us to work with some of the most troubled and abandoned children and expose them to God’s love. How can we pass up an opportunity to make a difference in these kids’ lives?”

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.
(Mt 25:40)



One Way Farm Children’s Home has served abused, abandoned, neglected and troubled children at its Fairfield OH location since 1976.