

14 E. Casino Road
Suite E
Everett, WA 98208

Phone:
425-243-2190

info@crmkids.org



Newsletter August 2015

2015 Summer Update

Snack & Fun Games on Casino Road

This summer a group of CRKM volunteers spent two days a week at an apartment complex on Casino Road. It was a great way for our regular Club kids to stay connected with CRKM and also provided opportunities for new kids to get to know about our programs. Our volunteers spent time with the children doing a variety of activities and sharing stories over snacks. The kids never grew tired of playing games like sharks and minnows, soccer, or football. Keeping our program going through the summer months helps us to build and maintain strong relationships with our kids and the community.



Through ongoing support from our donors, CRKM is able to regularly provide snacks for our children throughout the year. This summer the owner of the Bluffs, Russell Hirsch, expressed his desire to offer kids a healthy snack alternative and generously donated the funds for CRKM to provide them with delicious organic produce. While the children had fun tasting new fruits and vegetables, volunteers took advantage of the opportunity to teach them about making healthy food choices! We are very grateful for the support of the Bluffs!!

What CRKM Children Taught Me by: Shana Livingston, CRKM Intern

For two months, I was blessed with the opportunity to intern at Casino Road Kids Ministries, under the guidance of Tyrone McMorris. I discovered CRKM when I volunteered with my church Growth Group in December of 2014. I was able to cook a meal for the kids at CRKM, and join them during their Monday night bible club. In March of 2015, when my professor said to find an internship for Spring Quarter, I immediately thought of CRKM. I thought this would be the perfect place. I was familiar with the organization, it was an internship that challenged me, and above all, I was able to grow in my faith as a follower of Christ.

During this internship, my job was to attend Monday and Thursday night bible clubs, attend Girl Scouts Monday after school, assist children at Tuesday/Thursday afternoon homework club, and help out a 2nd grade teacher at Horizon Elementary from 9am until 2:30 in the afternoon.

One of the most impacting days of my internship was the day of my birthday. I had just experienced a death in my family and was in no mood to celebrate, but once I walked through the doors to the classroom, all I could do was grin! I had only known these kids for a short amount of time, and I was showered with blessings and gifts. But most of all, I was shown so much love. I had never experienced so much love in one room. Kids crowded me when I walked through the door and emptied their pockets, dying to give me anything for my birthday. Even after class, I went to homework club and bible club and

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the same thing happened. Kids made me cards from scratch paper, gave me pencils, key chains, and an insane amount of hugs. It was overwhelming. The feeling is so indescribable and I wish I could transfer my feelings from that day to this paper. But to sum up what I want to get across... There is no greater feeling than receiving unconditional love. I understand now, that this is the kind of love God shows us everyday. God is innocent and kind and loving... much like a child. They are resilient, selfless and the most incredible and loving creatures that God has ever created. Kids deserve so much loving and I can't imagine myself being absent in their lives.

I hope that one day, I can create a safe place just as CRKM has done for these kids, and love them the way they deserve. I hope that one day I may create an environment where children are free to express themselves and grow within themselves and their relationship with the Lord. And In return, while I teach them all about life and what it has to offer, I hope that children may never stop showing me what life is all about.

Start Out Right

Over 400 people on Casino Road attended our annual back to school event called Start Out Right. Start Out Right provided 320 grade school children with a new backpack with school supplies. Children also played various Carnival type games, received a snack, met a local Marine, ate Otter Pops, had their faces painted, and connected with local community members. One teenage volunteer told me he seen a young boy holding his backpack and crying. He went on to say the boy was so happy that he had a backpack. The teen volunteer continues, 'I see why this event is important to children.'

We are grateful for Mill Creek Foursquare, South Everett Foursquare, South Everett Mukilteo Rotary, Toys for Tots and Officer Golden for partnering with CRKM to inspire and empower children on Casino Road.

Serving Together,



Tyrone McMorris
Executive Director
Casino Road Ministries
tyrone@crmkids.org



Other Way To Support CRKM

When you shop with the businesses below, please select **Casino Road Ministries** as your charity of choice. The businesses have agreed to designate a small percentage of the proceeds from your shopping to our ministry, all at no cost to you.

Fred Meyer

Go to <https://www.fredmeyer.com> and sign in to or create your account. Select **Casino Road Ministries** as your Community Rewards partner of choice (organization #80261).

Amazon Smiles

Go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and sign in to or create an account. Under your account click "Your Charity" and choose **Casino Road Ministries**. Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases. As you know, every little bit helps so we hope you will take a few minutes to sign up for these additional ways you can help to support our kids!