

## COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES: CREATIVE COMMUNITY MINISTRY

You remember learning to color inside the lines, don't you? The result is a neat, predictable portrait. But, for those who are willing to go outside the lines - well, there are no limits to the beauty that can be created, once you are willing to go beyond the predictable!

Several months into our community outreach, we are producing a beautiful portrait, indeed! Our gatherings are multi-cultural and multi-generational. We've shared popcorn and watched movies like *Soul Surfer*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *UP*; played football and heard athletes' testimonies at a remote tailgate; enjoyed a Harvest Festival; celebrated Thanksgiving as a community family, and marveled at God's grace as we watched *The Nativity Story*.



Whether it's our North Starkville neighbors we are reaching out to or volunteers and partners like the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 4-H and Scouts, laughter abounds and relationships are being forged. Marie is just one example. She is a single mom on disability, experiencing many of the same joys and struggles that any mother faces. Over the last few months, she has opened her heart to us and has become a precious friend, pitching in to make everyone feel at home as she works alongside us to serve other guests. It is so wonderful to see someone we have served, become the one who is serving. It is giving us a great opportunity to witness and make disciples. Justin is another - a college student with a love for people and for fun, he has become our "cruise director," and the kids that come, seek him out when they enter the door. The joy of the Lord is evident in his life, and he shares it with children and adults alike.

One month, Susan found festive paper tablecloths with games like tic tac toe and outlines of pictures that were made to be colored. We placed boxes of crayons on each table and encouraged children and adults to just have fun. During Lee Ann's message, she heard one mother exclaiming, "No! Stay inside the lines!" Lee Ann laughed a little and praised God that going outside the lines can produce such beauty.



Local ministry, like ministry anywhere, isn't always neat and tidy. There are needs that you're not exactly sure how to meet and questions that have difficult answers, but how amazing it is to see God's divine plan revealed!



CWM is blessed to have a wonderful 10,000 square foot facility with 7,500 square feet of open worship and activity area. We are thrilled to see how God is opening doors and leading us to develop the CWM headquarters into an outreach center to be used to *establish fruit that remains*. Come and go outside the lines with us and see what God will do. We'd love to have you join us for our next local event or partner with us to transform our facility in a way that will bring glory to God as we share the good news across the street and around the world.