

Adopting a School Through *Good News Club*



Dear Pastor,

I want to share some ideas with you about expanding your impact in your *Good News Club* Elementary School by truly 'adopting' the school as your mission field. Below are some ideas that you may incorporate to help your church show Christ's love to the families and staff of your school.

- ***The school counselor*** can be a wonderful contact for you year-round. You can write on a simple 3"x5" index card the name and **phone number of your church with your ministries listed**, so she can reach you for things your church may offer. Perhaps this is **counseling, ESL classes, a food bank or clothes closet**. Contact her before the weather gets cold to let her know that if she notices a child needs a **coat or warm clothes** to call you, and that you'll perhaps be able to help. **Coat Drives** can be wonderful for schools that have a high need. Also let her know that your church family may be able to contribute **gift cards for the holidays**. She probably will know after a few weeks of school who the needy families are and can give you an estimate. Offering **gift cards in increments of \$20** or so will allow her to dole them out as she sees the need. Remember how much joy you get from shopping for your own children and try to allow the parents of these children to shop as well. They wouldn't want to have to tell their children that the gifts came from others, so encourage your church family to contribute funds, rather than gifts. Though she can't tell you the names of the needy families, she can give you a report of how your church helped and what the reactions of the families were when they received unexpected assistance from your church. That alone is priceless!
- ***Having a Christmas Store*** is a way to allow your church to get more in touch with the parents. These usually work on a ticket system, whereby the counselor can tell you how many children are in a family and their ages, and the parents get a certain number of tickets for each child. Then they can come shop at specified times and days in a room of your church. Perhaps once they see the loving people there they'll return for more activities! Why not have a ***Christmas Across America Party*** for the kids on these days?
- ***Don't forget the teachers!*** Taking **special treats** up periodically can do wonders for the teachers! Perhaps you do this once a month or focus on the high-pressure testing weeks. And of course there's **Teacher Appreciation Week** in which you can decorate the teachers' lounge and provide little gifts or goodies. Ask the school for **teachers' wish lists** and see what they'd like for their classroom. Having a **Prayer Request Box** in the Teachers' Lounge is very much appreciated. Be sure to take the requests out and pray, though! Put little index cards and a pen next to the box to make it easily accessible. You can then pass the requests on to others in your church. Involving as many people as possible in your ministry will help gain support in every way.
- ***Every school needs more mentors and tutors***, so encourage your congregation to be involved in this way. Simply **reading to young children** once a week is a very big need, yet pretty simple to do.

I hope this has given you some ideas of ways to reach more people through your club. May God richly bless you as you invest your time and gifts in Kingdom work!

Sincerely,
Lauri Mayberry
Director, CEF Dallas Area