

MESSENGER

Not Even 100 Degree Temperatures Could Break Our Spirits

Folks arrived as early as 8:45 a.m. on Saturday to get started on the Davis project. We had a ramp to build and some front yard landscaping which needed TLC. Walter and Deidra began trimming the shrubs and I started clearing the underbrush. It was soon decided that to really make the front yard look nice we



*New ramp makes a homecoming possible.
Tidied-up yard and fresh flowers
make it extra special.*

needed to mow and edge the lawn, so off went Ralph to get his mower AND Roma, because she was taking too long to get herself there and I wanted to share the fun of getting dirty and sweaty with my sidekick. Next, I had the bright idea of putting out fresh mulch in the flower beds, so off to Wal-Mart went Deidra. As the day progressed we kept saying "let's do...it won't take that much longer." Yeah right!

The Three Amigos (Greg, Darrell and Orval) were joined by Nic in constructing the ramp. Ralph even jumped in to help put in some of the screws (after he finished mowing the lawn). Wow, what a team they made.

Throughout the day various Davis family members came out to talk to us and express their gratitude. They said they certainly didn't expect all the things we were doing. They knew about the ramp, but not the yard work. Mr. Davis's son said that he and the rest of the family had been trying to keep up with everything for the past several months following his mother's stroke, but

finally decided that spending extra time with her was much more important to them than the chores, so they got a bit behind. We assured him that we would have done the same thing and that it was a blessing to us to be able to help them out.

Wendell Davis told us that it was going to be awhile longer before his wife could come home to

stay due to her having another stroke last Monday. However, he was going to bring her home the next day for a visit, so she could see how everything was prepared for her. His hopes were that this would lift her spirits and give her the encouragement she needs to get better.

As the day progressed and the sun beat down harder and harder, our bodies drooped a bit (okay, a lot!) and we had to crawl to the shade of the big tree. However, our spirits were high because we knew without a doubt that we were making a difference in the lives of some very special people.

When the job was done, we packed up our stuff, admired our handy work, and said good-bye to our new friends. We drove away thanking God for the many blessings He had bestowed on us this day, which included a generous donation to Mid Cities AMBUCS by Mr. Davis.

(Enjoy additional photos in Photo Gallery)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Weekly Meeting 6:30 p.m. IHOP @ Glade Road	3
Weekly Meeting 6:30 p.m. IHOP @ Glade Road	10
Weekly Meeting 6:30 p.m. IHOP @ Glade Road	17
Weekly Meeting 6:30 p.m. IHOP @ Glade Road	24
Weekly Meeting 6:30 p.m. IHOP @ Glade Road	31

ACTION ITEMS

- Please arrive at the weekly meetings no later than 6:15P if you plan to order food.
- Next week's door prizes to be provided by Janice.
- Brenda send Janice photos for scrapbook.

50/50 Winner: Roma
Door Prize Winners:
Helen~Connie~Janice~Walter

GUEST SPEAKER CHALLENGES US TO TAKE ACTION



Huge thanks to Teresa Ramirez, 7-year Yellow Rose AMBUC, for teaching us to focus on the person not the disability.

People First was the topic of Teresa Ramirez's speech. Her words came straight from her heart because she has firsthand experience being the grandmother of a precious little girl with Down Syndrome. She stressed how important it is to recognize the person not the disability.

She asked, "Who are the so-called handicapped or disabled?" Then she stated that "According to

stereotypical perceptions, they are people who suffer from the tragedy of birth defects, paraplegic heroes who struggle to become 'normal' again, victims who fight to overcome their challenges, etc. Categorically, they are called 'retarded', autistic, blind, deaf, learning disabled, wheelchair-bound, etc... Who are they really. They are moms, dads, sons and daughters, employees and employers, friends and neighbors, students and teachers, leaders and followers, scientists, doctors, president, and more. THEY ARE PEOPLE!!"

"To ensure inclusion, freedom and respect for all, we must use *People First Language*. We are naturally curious when we ask what's wrong with... We don't mean to be rude, we want to know what's wrong because we care. Be very careful with your words because they can be perceived as condescending to the parents and can hurt a child's spirit. *People First Language* puts the person before the disability and it describes

what a person *has*, not who a person *is*. For example: Are you 'myopic' or do you wear glasses?; Are you 'freckled' or do you have freckles?; Is a person 'handicapped/disabled' or does she have a disability?"

"When you encounter a person with a disability always address them directly not just the parent or caretaker. Call them by name even if you are certain they don't speak. Remember, they are a real person with real feelings and want to be recognized."

Teresa shared a video by Kathie Snow, who is a motivational speaker driven by the purpose of making the world a better place for her son who has cerebral palsy. To view the slide show and other information visit Kathie's web sites: www.disabilityisnatural.com or www.kidstogether.or/pep-1st.htm

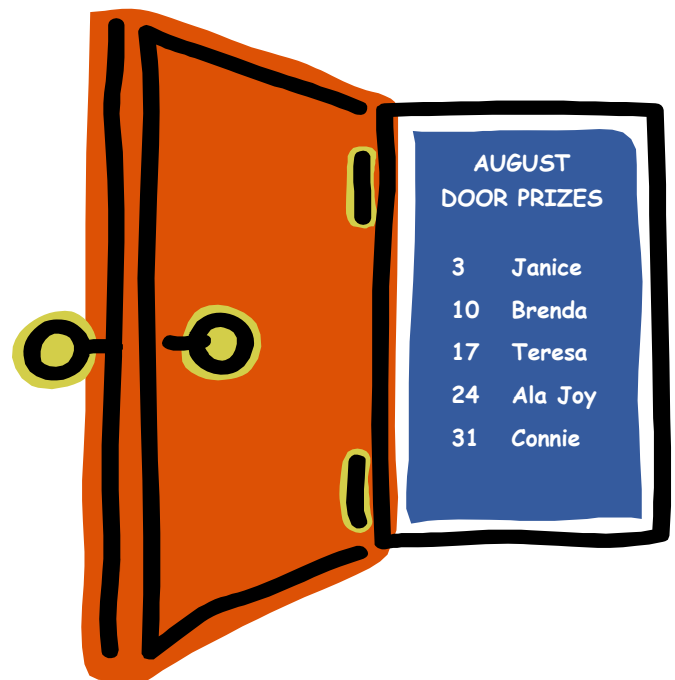
In closing we were challenged to see the Ability not the Disability. *People First Language* is right. Just do it— NOW!

BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS

- We received two email requests for trykes. Janice forwarded the information to Stacey for follow-up.
- Motion made by Ralph and seconded by Deidra to reimburse monies spent Saturday for mulch and flowers. Note: Flowers were donated.
- Fundraising Committee meeting followed directly after regular meeting. Ala Joy will bring suggestions to the Board on 8/10.

Please continue to pray for:

- Stacey's dad who is in the hospital.
- Mrs. Davis (ramp recipient) that she will be able to come home soon.
- Kaitlyn for healing of brain tumors.



SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS



Kathy Citta, Teresa's best friend came along to lend a hand with the video presentation. We enjoyed having her as our guest even if she is younger than most of us. (A little inside joke.)



Mary's granddaughter Regan, who will be 12 years old next month and going into the 7th grade, made our evening very special by being there. Come back soon, Regan!



COMING SOON

Lots & Lots of School Supplies

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO BOUGHT SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND/OR DONATED MONEY TO BUY MORE!!



Photo Gallery



Deidra helped Ralph mow the grass



Wendell Davis & a neighbor (who brought us ice cream bars) admire the ramp



Roma seeks refuge from the HOT sun!



Nic makes sure Darrell measures twice and cuts once



Ralph wouldn't call it quits until ever blade of grass was cut.



Greg's idea to bring the big umbrella was truly brilliant!



Walter's handy trimming makes the hedge look so much nicer!



The Davis kids are thrilled with everything we did for their parents.



Brenda & Roma struggle to finish cleaning out the last of the shrub beds



Before



After



Yea, it's a wrap!