

CCI Summer Day Camp helps Homedale kids grow

HOMEDALE—Catholic Charities of Idaho held their first ever BEACH/PLAYAS Summer Day Camp in Homedale this summer.

The camp was held at the former St. Hubert's Parish Center thanks to the support of the Homedale community and the generosity of Our lady of the Valley Catholic Community in Caldwell.

The camp program staff included: Marcia Munden, camp director; Brenda Brain, counselor; Elizabeth Calderon, assistant counselor; Crystal Villarreal, assistant counselor. Elizabeth and Crystal are both participants in Catholic Charities of Idaho's (CCI) BEACH Club High School Peer Educator Program. In addition, CCI had three teen volunteers, Cinthia Monreal, Martha Benitez, and Roxie Barroso, Homedale, and one teen volunteer from Caldwell.

Campers participated in a variety of curriculum-based enrichment activities designed to foster healthy social, academic, and physical development. Other creative and crafty activities included options such as making tie-dye t-shirts, rain sticks, and turkey calls and creating camp journals.

Catholic Charities of Idaho credits the support of many organizations and volunteers in making this year's camp a successful and fun-filled adventure for the young campers. Art Faire, a non-profit organization that mobilizes artists to share their talents with youth, provided a talented young artist who engaged the campers in clay, photography and collage projects.

"Two motivated and disciplined high school students, Nathan Brain and Lisa Strader, came from Boise six times to teach safety skills through Tae Kwon Do," said Munden. "Each day campers had a nutritious lunch provided by the Idaho Food Bank Summer Feeding Program at the local park. Thanks to Paul's Market in Homedale, six cases of water and a gift certificate towards purchasing snacks helped get the campers through ten long, hot days."

Many other contributors helped out in various ways including Edward's Nursery, Boise, Costco, individual donors, tour guides, and CCI office staff.

On the two Friday field trips, the campers visited educational and entertaining sites in Boise. On the first field trip, campers were treated to a tour and presentation at the Peregrine Fund world Birds of Prey Center, and an scavenger hunt at the Zoo Boise. The second Friday brought a tour of the Idaho Museum of Geology and Mining – including a short guided hike to discover the geology of the area and evidence of volcanic activity, and finished off with a trip to the Idaho Botanical Gardens which included the Flower Power workshop.

Munden said this year the camp program ran Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. during the last two weeks of July. Catholic Charities of Idaho hopes to expand the program next year with more weeks and additional creative learning activities.

For more information and fun photos of camp experiences go to the Catholic Charities of Idaho

webmMarMarsite at www.catholicidaho/cci/, and watch for coming events.



FIELD TRIP — Participants in the Catholic Charities of Idaho BEACH/PLAYAS Summer Day Camp in Homedale, pose for a group photo

while on one of several field trips they took this summer. CCI hopes to expand the program next year.