



“Focus on God’s Children: the 2008 Lutheran Social Ministry Appeal”

“People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:13-16).

Jesus continues to bless the children through us. Last year your gifts to the “Focus on the Children: the 2007 Lutheran Social Ministry Appeal” made possible Witness and Service grants to congregations as they found creative and effective ways to touch the lives the children and families in their communities. A few of the programs you supported are:

- The “Love for Children” day camp of the West Berks Mission District
- Cooperative Summer Day Camp – San Martin de Porres and Christ Lutheran Churches, Allentown
- A music readiness program at St. Luke, Reading for pre-school age children in the inner city.

- Bear Creek Summer Day Camp for the inner-city children of Wilkes-Barre

Jesus continues to bless the children through the ministries of his church. Generous gifts to the “Focus on the Children: the 2008 Lutheran Social Ministry Appeal” will allow that work of blessing to grow throughout our synod.

- † Focus on our children, God’s children.
- † Pray for our young people.
- † Get involved with children at your church or in your community.
- † Make a generous contribution to the “Focus on the Children” appeal. Your gift will be a blessing to you and to the children it helps.

From the evaluation of the day camp in Wilkes-Barre:

“It was wonderful to see how well the children who come from a variety of backgrounds came together as community throughout the week. One young girl named Sharon who is autistic was very difficult to connect with at the outset of the camping week. As a result of a lot of community building experiences, it was inspiring to see how Sharon opened herself up and became close friends with a couple of the other girls.”