

Camp Akwaba Celebrates 10 Years of Peace Building

Camp Akwaba recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary of providing a summer camp experience for more than 250 urban children based upon the ideas of building peace and reducing violence. Supported by Mercy Medical Center and Community Christian Church in North Canton, the camp is held at Peoples Baptist Church in the Skyline Terrace community and enrolls 36 kids each year, ages 6 to 10, from the neighborhood, the church and Canton City Schools. The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton provided funding this year for the camp held July 11–15, and like most years, more than half of the children were returning campers.

Karen Feller, director of Mercy Medical



Center's mission outreach department, says, "The focus for mission outreach is to promote and support health and safety in the community. Camp Akwaba fits right in."

Over the past four years, the camp adopted the Peace Builders program. Peace Builders is a national program designed for school curriculums. After Canton City Schools formed a local chapter, Camp Akwaba became the first camp to adopt the program.

In the lively but structured environ-

ment of Camp Akwaba, children are taught Peace Builder principles and divided into "families" to practice them. Lisa Seeden, a peace coach and program assistant for Mercy's mission outreach department, has enjoyed watching how the children's lives are affected by the camp. Former campers have joined local high school and college students as counselors, an example of children who not only became Peace Builders but who also have learned how to pass it on to others in the community.

Blood Demand Rising

Statistics indicate that 97 percent of the population will need a blood transfusion at some point in their lives. In the United States, more than 4 million individuals receive blood transfusions each year, and demand continues to rise. However, only 5 percent of eligible Americans actually donate blood each year. Blood donations are used to help

surgery patients, accident victims and patients with serious illnesses, such as cancer and hemophilia.

To ensure the local supply of healthy blood, Mercy Medical Center operates its own Blood Donor Center, which is a partner of LifeShare, a nonprofit, FDA-licensed, independent blood-services organization. Blood donations stay in the community, meeting local patients' blood needs.

Give Life

To learn more about LifeShare or to become a donor, please call **(330) 489-1333** or **800-223-8662**.

