



## CENTRAL CORNER

### MY HOMETOWN 2023 SYNOPSIS

During 2023 My Hometown was just beginning in the Central Salt Lake City area. With the help of our missionaries, especially those attending wards in the Liberty Stake, many projects were identified that we could tackle. Five alleyways extending from Kensington Avenue were cleaned up thanks to a map created by a member of the community. With the help of another citizen, several other alleyways were also identified and cleaned up. Five projects on the Jordan River Parkway in April were finished with the help of many volunteers from several areas of the city and beyond. We then had a Box Lunch Social to join together and educate our missionaries on the service opportunities to come.

A Teacher Appreciation project was completed at Franklin Elementary School that thanked 65 people who never seem to get noticed since there is no PTA at the school and families of students have a tough time. Everyone has a lot of kids and works more than one job. The Principal was thrilled to have someone care about them!

Our Days of Service helped many people in the community with their yards and homes. We made many friends and connections that will last forever. We also were granted five \$25,000 grants by NeighborWorks that will benefit very deserving people in our community. Assist is also helping several people to upgrade and improve dangerous conditions in their homes with grants of \$5,000 each.

Our Community Resource Center worked in conjunction with the Columbus Adult Education Center to further education in our area. A flagpole was donated by the SLC Exchange Club and erected in front of the CRC on our September 9 Day of Service which was a day coordinated with the National Day of Service. Then we had a BBQ for all our missionaries after a great Day of Service. We also had signs and banners partially donated and placed on our building to better identify the My Hometown CRC and the CAEC to the community as well as classes available free of charge. Many classes have been offered this year, and we intend to expand our curriculum in the coming year.

One other great activity was our "Night at the Bees" where we joined with our missionaries and their families to enjoy a great ball game together at Smith's Ballpark along with hot dogs and drinks. What a great way to spend a perfect summer night!

Overall we were able to complete 70 projects during 2023 with 1,154 volunteers and 3,583 hours happily donated. Through the year we have made connections with many community organizations and churches and have not only done service projects for several, but have made many friends along the way.

We have done several winter projects since our Days of Service have been completed. Wrapping of gifts for the Breakfast with Santa event for South Salt Lake, bell ringing for the

Salvation Army, and currently we are involved in providing volunteers for the “Movie Nights” held at the First Methodist Church for the homeless population. We were also privileged to do a Sub for Santa for 20 children in the Tauffer Park Ward. MHT joined with the Columbus School for a Christmas Dinner and Social that was great!

We produced a special Christmas video devotional with messages from the city, several community groups, and in partnership with several churches which was very successful. This video was sent as a special Christmas gift to all our missionaries as well as those who participated in making the video a success.

We feel blessed to have been serving together with our amazing missionaries and leaders who so gladly respond to the need for help and the charge we have been given to “Build Zion” in our SLC Central Community.

Rick & Sue Hall - Executive Directors SLC Central Community

