

It's Spring Time!



(Left) Ian Harris, one of IHS SPASE college bound students and (Right) Mrs. Deb Primos and other volunteers in Teaching Garden

It's springtime in Mississippi, so that means it's time to prep our teaching garden. We have begun preparing and planting in the garden with local youth and their families. We are anticipating a great harvest in the coming months. The purpose of our teaching garden is to have a space where kids and their families can learn the skill of gardening and the importance of healthy eating. The teaching garden provides an opportunity for much learning and growing.

On a few beautiful sunny days in April, some of IHS students, parents, and grandparents helped prepare and plant. The students who came were able to use tools to dig and aerate the soil before planting the seeds. The children beamed with curiosity as Mrs. Deb Primos, Master Gardener, taught them the science behind each task they completed. For example, when planting the seeds,

they had to dig a specific amount of inches into the soil to avoid the seeds from rotting. In addition, she instructs the children on soil preparation, cultivating and harvesting. Mrs. Primos takes advantage of the many teachable moments about planting techniques and garden management and relates them to biblical teaching. She emphasized the importance of seeds going into good soil as we stated

in passages like Matthew 13. Verse 8 states, "Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." The word of God is the seed that grows when planted in the good soil of our life.

While working in the garden, several parents reminisced with their children about their early years of gardening. It is fun process and also an important skill that can stay with a person throughout their whole life.

After everything is planted, the children and parents are anticipating seeing a greater yield. Our summer harvest usually provides an abundance of vegetables and blueberries. In addition, the produce provides a source of income for some students as they are able to work part-time in gathering and selling the crop.

CAMP SITE DEDICATION NOTE-SHREDDING CEREMONY

WHEN:

May 27, 2021 at 11:30 AM CST

WHERE:

IHS Campsite and
Agape Training Center for
Relational Health
3574 N. Liberty Street
Canton, MS 3904

The event will be live-streamed for the general public on our website at www.inhissteps.org. Click on "Dedication Ceremony". There will be limited in-person guests due to social distancing guidelines.

All the vegetables in the garden are organic and free of pesticides. There is great concern about food not being as safe because everything is mass produced. There tends to be a greater concern for quantity over quality. The IHS garden provides healthy vegetables and fruits for some of the families in the community. IHS wants to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our families. As the apostle Paul states in 1 Corinthians 6:19, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own." Therefore, we teach our children and their families the importance of being good stewards to their bodies.

Art Classes Through Virtual Mentoring

In 2020, the entire world shifted as the pandemic spread and our lives were interrupted. Because of social distancing, many schools and businesses went virtual. The community in Canton, Mississippi was duly impacted as well. In His Steps Ministries needed to adapt quickly. **This is why we created our new Virtual Mass Mentoring Program.** Thankfully, in this age of technology, programs like zoom and other virtual platforms have enabled us to continue ministering in creative ways.

The consequences of the pandemic seemed dire at first, but now we see

the challenges as opportunities for growth and creative ways to do ministry. The goal of this program is to reach students virtually while remaining socially distanced at In His Steps, and we were forced to find ways to use technology to impact student's lives. Since we still cannot have large groups of students and mentors in the building, IHS was able to virtually go into student's homes. We have been able to collaborate with one of our partners, Crossway Community Church, Irvine, California to offer a virtual art class.



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At In His Steps, we always strive to cultivate new skills and passions in our students, and many of our S.P.A.S.E. students are interested in art and other creative subjects.

Art and drawing is a way for students to learn new skills while expressing themselves. Art instruction helps youth develop motor skills, language skills, social skills, and decision-making. It also encourages self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity. This program is unique because it also incorporates God's love and biblical foundations. Christin Howard, IHS Sports Director, said, "We are consistently showing God's love throughout the program and during devotionals; we are exposing them to innovative activities that are improving their leadership skills, social skills, and self-confidence."

IHS implemented this program to further develop useful skills and utilize technology to do ministry. IHS values innovation and creativity. The pandemic forced us to think outside

the box to continue the impactful ministry. Mrs. Carolyn Bacon, Director of Personnel and Volunteer Coordinator said, "We were praying about things that could be done to serve our students during this time since we could not meet face to face."

During these virtual classes, Kevin Adams and his wife, Patty, instructs students on various drawing and art techniques and encourages them to be creative. In His Steps has partnered with Kevin Adams, an animator and artist based in California, to teach weekly virtual art classes.

Mrs. Bacon says in the future, "we would love to be able to offer more activities virtually. This class has allowed us to serve more students and has open new doors." For now, our Virtual Mass Mentoring program has started with virtual art classes. **However, our hope is to implement other subjects and skills that students are interested in collaboration with IHS partners and friends in Mississippi and beyond. If you have an idea or would like to get involved, please contact us; we would love to hear from you.**

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. JANET STROBECK



*Your life was
a blessing,
your memory
a treasure,
you are love
beyond
measure.*

Mrs. Janet Strobeck and her family have been a blessing to In His Steps for over 30 years. Rev. Jasper Bacon, Executive Director of In His Steps met the Strobeck family while he was a student at Wheaton College (1979-1982). She and her family were a "Godsend" to IHS.

Mrs. Strobeck transitioned from this life on April 7, 2021, and is now in heaven with her Lord and Savior. There are so many wonderful things that can be said about the life of our dear friend and sister in Christ. The first is her deep love for Jesus, which fueled her passion and love for people. Her desire was to see In His Steps Ministries succeed and be a place for people to hear the gospel and experience the Lord's transforming love.

In her own words, she once stated, "Thank the Lord for people who have come to know the Lord through the work of In His Steps Ministries." Her compassionate heart and Christ-like love gave witness to the fact that she was truly a child of God. (I John 13:34-35) She was a passionate prayer partner. She stated on numerous occasions that she prayed daily for the Bacons and the work of In His Steps. Her prayer was for the Lord's will to be done through IHS.

We are glad that God allowed our lives to be enriched by her. As much as she will be greatly missed. She left us with a legacy of a life well lived for the Lord. She is gone but never forgotten.

**Blessed be the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
mercies and God of all comfort,
who comforts us in all our tribulation,
that we may be able to comfort
those who are in any trouble, with
the comfort with which we ourselves
are comforted by God.**

II Corinthians 1:3-4

SPECIAL BLESSINGS FOR IHS

Eagle Scout Service

On Saturday, April 24th, Grayson Adams from Eagle Scout troop #15 came to the main IHS campus to built picnic tables with his father and troop friends. Together they build two sturdy picnic tables and four benches. They spent the day cutting, building, and staining the tables. They built the tables to be used at the new location for the IHS Campsite and Agape Training Center for Relational Health. The tables will be used starting this summer for the two events planned for the Canton youth. We are so grateful to Grayson and troop #15 for sacrificing and serving us.

Campsite Volunteers

On March 27th, members from Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, Mississippi spent the day at the Campsite and Agape Training Center. They came to assist with landscaping and general cleaning both in the house and outside on the property. As a faith-based ministry, we rely on the Lord to provide for the needs of this ministry. He has faithfully delivered through Christian partnerships.

Unexpected Blessings in April

We are thankful for the unexpected financial gifts in April. One donation came from a new contributor from Norway. A second blessing was the donation of a pre-owned car from a family from Huntsville, Alabama. God continues to provide for the needs of In His Steps. Thank God for those who made the contributions.

THANKSGIVING & PRAYER REQUESTS

- ◆ Thank God for His ongoing provisions and protection of IHS ministries.
- ◆ Pray for the revival of the Church. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- ◆ Pray for God's wisdom in developing the Christian training center and IHS camp.
- ◆ Pray that God will send the right people to serve with IHS.
- ◆ Pray for spiritual growth for those being disciplined by the IHS staff.
- ◆ Pray for a greater success of IHS ministries and the salvation of many.
- ◆ Pray for God's financial provisions for IHS campsite.
- ◆ Pray that IHS will be an instrument of peace in our divided society.
- ◆ Pray for IHS S.P.A.S.E./High school college bound seniors (Kayla, Kanitra, Jurmarcus, Ja'Kobe, Ian, and Chemper).