

August 2009



# HAPPY NOTES *at home*

for the Vineyard Church family



**Back to School Blast**

by Happy Leman

## Introduction

Our annual Back to School Blast is scheduled for Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. This is an event we've done for the last two years to help single parents who have low incomes get their kids back to school with a special boost from the Christian community.

## The Purpose

With these tough economic times, the cost of \$400-\$500 to send each child to school is a large burden for many families. In these times, we find that the help we give during the "Back to School Blast" is well worth the investment. In fact Jesus said in Matthew 24: 34-40 that to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, invite strangers in, care for the sick, and clothe the naked is just like doing the same things for Him. After all, our children are the future leaders in the church and the Kingdom of God.

## Last Year Results

Last year the program was very successful. Here are a few statistics:

- Gave away 512 backpacks with supplies to over 200 families.
- Gave 77 haircuts and did 120 manicures.
- 14 school physicals, 3 eye exams, and 3 blood pressure checks were performed.
- Doppio fed 420 people.
- Food pantry gave away food to 135 people.
- Car Care did 15 oil changes.
- The Prayer Team prayed for 30 individuals and/or families.
- Encouraging words (prophetic ministry) was given to 30 individuals/families.

## Our Church's Part

The Vineyard Church commits between \$5000-\$7000 every year. This, of course, is in addition to all the staff time that goes into organizing and planning. When that is added, we probably end somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000 each year supporting low-income single-parent families with their children's education and well-being.

## Your Part

As a leadership team, we're asking as many people as possible to bring backpacks and school supplies. The backpacks can be purchased for \$5-10 at Wal-Mart or other big stores. The school supplies can also be purchased for between \$10-15. **Please note that we are currently short on help and on our entire list of needed items except crayons. It's not too late to bring in supplies and/or to sign up this weekend - we can't do this without your help!**

## Final Thoughts

When everything is added together, this outreach is important to this community. We as a church are contributing somewhere between \$20,000-25,000 to helping school children. This is a perfect opportunity to get involved with actually doing something that makes a difference in the lives of children. It's a positive memory that we can give in the name of Jesus.

All backpacks need to be purchased and brought to church by this weekend. We need them no later than August 9<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your help. God Bless.

Happy

*Happy Notes at Home are a monthly reflection of community life at The Vineyard Church  
and are produced by Happy Leman.*