

FUMC Bentonville Samaritan's Feet
Mission Trip: May 14-15,2021

In May of 2021, 17 volunteers from FUMC and three other churches went on a mission trip to Cookson Hills UM Indian Mission Center in Cookson, OK. It was a successful and exciting learning experience. Plus, it was an excellent team that got along and worked well together.

The main focus of the trip was to distribute Samaritan's Feet shoes to Native American children. The distribution was led by Samaritan's Feet Representative Kyle Alexander. On Saturday was the distribution of the shoes. Participants were given a nice tote bag along with a new pair of socks and shoes and a small collection of hygiene items. Crocs were available for adults who needed them. There were fewer participants than anticipated. But this lower number gave the volunteers time to talk and pray with the children and their families. The result of lower numbers was a God lesson in "quality" rather than "quantity." Everyone served was very appreciative, and the children loved their shoes.

On Friday, work was on projects that needed to be completed at the mission. Some worked on cleaning rooms in the dorm and washing curtains. Others worked preparing and organizing the gym for the shoe distribution on Saturday. Everyone was well fed by meals prepared by Chef JJ and her assistants. Friday evening was a real treat. Pastor Judy Deere of the mission invited 3 Native American sisters to come and speak and dance for us dressed in their tribal costumes. They were so talented and happy to share their traditions with our group. Pastor Judy also shared about her life as a Native American in OK. It was a very entertaining yet informative night.

Many of the shoes purchased for Native American children remain, and to that population, they shall go. Plans are to return in the fall to do another Samaritan's Feet at schools in the OK area. More info will come when these plans finalize.

FUMC Mission Team