



September 2017 Edition

WHISPERING Pines

Jefferson Christian Academy—A Self-Supporting Adventist Boarding Academy

What's Growing On at JCA?

By: Vickie Esau

We praise God for the success of our summer Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. We sold twelve produce baskets each week from mid-May through the end of July with various ripening vegetables. CSA members enjoyed mixed lettuces, kale, chard, beet greens, collards, tomatoes, cucumbers, purple hulled peas, green beans, garlic, bell peppers, hot peppers, beets, eggplant, turnips, radishes, sweet corn, and okra.

The community members had many positive things to say about our program. "I looked forward each week for my basket", Sylvia Downs stated. "There's nothing like fresh picked, organic, garden produce delivered to your door. My grocery bill actually went down and I ate more fresh stuff! Can't wait to do it again." JoAnn Pollick commented on how easy it was to work with the agriculture department. "I enjoyed meeting and getting

to know Vickie. The variety in my baskets was interesting because it challenged me to find creative ways to use different things. It was all very good. I enjoyed the experience." Susie Powell touched on how the variety of produce kept things interesting: "It was fun seeing what would be in the basket each week. Always a good variety. And much easier than having my own garden!"



Vickie Esau
Director of Agriculture

The feedback that we have gotten overall has been a positive one. Tari Jenkins notes, "I would highly recommend the CSA program to everybody because the produce was really good and it saved us money." We are so grateful for everyone who supported the program.

Since school began a month ago, we have been busy cleaning up the summer garden, adding soil amendments, re-tilling and hilling our rows, then getting our fall crops in. We planted a lot of fall produce, including broccoli, cucumber, and kohlrabi. We'll start up the fall CSA program as soon as we start getting a steady supply of veggies again.



With everything planted, we are trying to keep it all watered and weed-free. We're learning the difference between cultivating, which is done quickly and easily while the weeds are small and weak, and weeding, which requires much more time and hard labor because the weeds have been allowed to get well established. Our goal is to diligently cultivate so we will never have to weed again! It's a great analogy for the task of building our characters for eternity. Let's deal with the "weeds" in our lives immediately, while it's relatively easy and painless.

ACS Disaster Relief Training

By: Brenda Wilson & Michelle Rodriguez

On August 25, Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas Gulf Coast with winds topping at 130 mph. Since then, other hurricanes have followed in various areas in and near the United States. Adventists have been historically involved with disaster relief since 1874. While ADRA helps people internationally, Adventist Community Services (ACS) aids when disaster strikes on a domestic level. One way that the government and volunteer organizations depend on ACS is to handle and distribute donated goods. In order to best serve them, volunteers often go through a training process, which is what Jefferson Christian Academy was able to do.

The local Jefferson Academy SDA Church community services department hosted a Donations Operations training on September 11. The training program was taught by Adventist Community Services Disaster Relief Area Coordinator for East Texas, as well as a certified ACS DR instructor alumna Brenda Wilson ('79), who also serves as the local community services leader. Among those attending were the Academy students, faculty, and staff, along with members from the local and area churches. "I was very pleased with the enthusiasm and attendance for this training," Brenda says.



When we help in areas that have been affected by a disaster, we are ministering to people's immediate needs. In Matthew 9: 35 and 36, the Bible says that Jesus was moved with compassion because He saw the needs of the people and saw that they needed someone to care for them and minister to their immediate needs. We at Jefferson Christian Academy are ready and willing to provide help where God will send us to minister to people's needs by bringing them the basic necessities of life.



Needs List!

- ◆ Sponsorship of a Student—\$20-\$500/mo.

JEFFERSON ACADEMY ALUMNI Homecoming Weekend

Date: April 20-22, 2018

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ken Micheff

Please keep us updated with any address or email changes at: jeffersonchristianalumni@gmail.com

AGRICULTURAL NEEDS LIST

Project #1: Outdoor Garden—\$950

- ◆ 2nd year High-Brix soil amendments, nutrient drenches & foliar sprays

Project #2: Miscellaneous supplies—\$500

- ◆ Row covers, battery packs, sprayers, timers, organic sprays, seed & seed-starting supplies: starting mix, trays, heat mats and lights

Project #3: Extend well water to garden—\$150

- ◆ PVC pipe, fittings and hydrant