

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Kids In New Directions



KIND



2018 AT A GLANCE



8,468 meals served



Two vans added



267,120 reading stars awarded



80% summer-fall retention



107 summer registrations



1,325 backpacks provided



521 pairs of shoes provided



500 community meals served

OUR GOVERNING BOARD

A strong part of KIND's growth has been bringing in new members to our governing board to strengthen our involvement in the neighborhood.

Our governing board consists of a diverse group of individuals, local business and community leaders in their daily lives: Kermit Dilworth (Member of Memorial Church), Jeff Evans (Owner of Evans Energy, LLC), John Haws (Member of Memorial Church), Nancy Hines (Former Executive Director of Physicians Charitable Foundation of Miami

Valley), Dave Judson (CEO of JJR Solutions), Jesse Lightle (Township Administrator of Washington Township), Ralph Rolfe (Interim Minister at Memorial Church), Keith Valiquette (Account Executive at Energy Systems Group)

Throughout 2018, our governing board sought to keep KIND's staff focused on providing for the local community while fulfilling the requirements of a non-profit organization. For their selfless efforts, we owe them a debt of gratitude. We are truly blessed by their involvement in KIND!

Kids in New Directions

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THE ESSENTIALS

POSITIVE GROWTH

Throughout 2018, KIND experienced tremendous growth. Our after-school program now hosts around 75 students every day and continues to grow. The bulk of our students attend Kiser Elementary School and Wright Brothers Middle School. Kiser's student population is about 50% international students. KIND has welcomed many of them with more than 2/3 of our students being refugees from Africa. To accommodate the needs spurred by this growth, KIND has brought in several teachers whose specialty is teaching English as a Second Language (ESL).

Through our partnership with Memorial Church, KIND has become a hub of activity in the summer. In 2018, KIND provided a safe and engaging summer program to help avoid the "summer slide" and to continue our mission of providing for the community. Nearly 120 students of various ages and grade levels took advantage of this program and were served in the following ways:

- 60 students were enrolled in our Elementary School Program
- 10 students were enrolled in our Middle School Program
- 10 high school students participated in the Montgomery County Youth Career Services Program (Youth Works)
- 36 high school students attended ESL classes taught by Monica Meyer (a teacher at Belmont High School)

With God's many blessings, we hope to continue providing opportunities for students to experience spiritual growth while serving our community.

TRULY WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2018, KIND began our partnership with YouthWorks, which aids high school students find employment and build their futures. YouthWorks provides wages for these students, allowing them to work for organizations like KIND. The goal is to build their independence and self-confidence on the same set of core values as our after-school program, and also to give them the job experience that they need to move forward in life.

During the summer of 2018, 10 YouthWorks students and two KIND super-



visors worked together in volunteer service. Most of these projects focused on community maintenance. They picked up trash, performed church ground maintenance, and helped local homes with yard work, among other services. In 2019, the group will increase to 15 kids with hopes that our community service program will expand as well.

TRANSPORTATION

Providing transportation is a vital part of the mission. Our parents do not have reliable transportation to ensure children regularly attend the program.

KIND currently operates with three, older 12-passenger vans. This summer the program served up to 107 children, providing transportation to support attendance, field trips and program development. It was necessary to borrow a van to meet the needs of the summer program. Unexpected breakdowns created a negative impact on summer activities and field trips in particular. Unfortunately, we had a number of children that were put on a waiting list because we could not transport them.

We added a fourth van in the fall thanks to support from the Kettering Family Foundation and Physicians' Charitable Foundation. We will receive an additional donation from the Mark Andrew Kreuzsch Memorial Fund to replace an older, less reliable van in February. Spoiler alert, the funding was received, however one of the older vans died.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

THE KIND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM: A TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Teachers often view their students as their surrogate children. They tend to both their educational and social needs and many are concerned about their “children” when they leave for the day. One aspect that has always been a burden to children and their families of Dayton Public Schools is homework.

Teachers view homework as a task that serves multiple purposes. Homework assignments can reinforce concepts that are taught during lessons. Homework provides an opportunity for families to become involved with their child’s learning and homework can reinforce the connection between home and school.

However, with many of our students, homework becomes a stressful task that many times is not completed. The reasons are many such as not having the adequate materials to help with homework, the families may be busy with other more pressing issues or there may be a lack of understanding of the homework due to language. Whatever the cause for incomplete homework, KIND provides a solution.

As part of its afterschool program, KIND offers daily homework assistance for children in all grades. Homework begins soon after the children finish a hearty hot meal provided by KIND volunteers. They break into grade groups and go to designated areas. Our teachers are familiar with both the children and the curriculum. They begin to understand each child’s strengths and provide a little extra practice for weak areas. It is also helpful to watch older students begin to “teach” concepts to the younger children.

Oftentimes, this helpfulness carries into the home environment that provides additional homework support. Children begin to build confidence with their academic skills, creating happier children, families and teachers.

— Nancy L. McSherry, M.Ed.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Our outdoor Classroom is a key part of our program results. Over the



past three years, we have received funding from the Iddings Foundation, Miller Valentine, Reynolds and Reynolds, Levin Family Foundation, and the Physicians’ Charitable Foundation for this critical project. Thanks to a gift from the Mark Andrew Kreuzsch Memorial Fund, we completed the project by resurfacing our parking lot which is used as a playground. It is a gathering place for children and families at any time as a neighborhood playground. It serves as the backdrop for STEM classes so our children can experiment in an outdoor environment. Our exercise programs and games also benefit from the outdoor classroom. As a whole, the Outdoor Classroom allows us to expand programs and the minds and bodies of children with so much more.

The space also serves as the center of community events. Shoes for the Shoeless (S4TS) serves as our largest outreach for the year over two events. On April 28th, we hosted our first S4TS event where 273 children received a free pair of shoes and a bag of socks. S4TS, Memorial Church, the University of Dayton, and KIND board members, staff, and volunteers made the event a huge success. With all of our community events, we fed over 300 children and parents at the event. The second S4TS event was held on September 22nd. S4TS distributed 248 pairs of shoes to children of the neighborhood. We also provided lunch where over 250 people were fed at the event.

STTEM

Our science programs include both the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery's Exhibits to Go and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) from our resident STEM teacher from Valley View Schools. The winter/spring session included three classes including Boonshoft Animals, Boonshoft Attraction Action, and Boonshoft Matter.



STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and math; but at KIND we use the acronym STTEM. The additional “T” is for teamwork, which we believe is an important skill for students to master. STTEM is a problem-based teaching approach. Students are posed with a problem, and need to use their skills in science, technology, teamwork, engineering and math to solve it. STTEM fosters inquiring minds, logical reasoning, and collaboration skills. By adopting this approach, KIND develops students’ thinking and problem-solving skills to prepare them for a constantly changing world and job market.

The summer STTEM project was the “Egg Drop Challenge.” Children used their knowledge of forces and motion to engineer a device to protect their egg from cracking from a three-story drop. Children were not given any instructions on how to build their device, or how it should look. They used what they learned in KIND and at school to engineer their product. At KIND, we strive to instill important skills in our students that will help them work on a team. We believe working as a team will produce greater outcomes than working alone. With this philosophy in place, students had to use the team working skills that have been taught at KIND to work as a cohesive group.

Students’ devices fell into two categories. One that had a protective shell that would protect their egg from a three story drop, and another that would serve as a parachute to gently drop the egg to the ground and reduce the speed at which the device fell. There were 12 teams that built a device, and 8 teams successfully built a device that protected an egg from a three-story drop.

READING

During KIND’s Summer program, students practiced their reading using the RAZ Kids program. Students were required to read a book at their level, and take a quiz after they were done. They would answer comprehension questions pertaining to the book. The questions ranged in Common Core standards and style of questions (literal, inferential, and comprehension), depending on the student’s reading level. Something unique to consider about KIND is that many of our students have limited or no experience with the English text and consider English to be their second language. Bearing this in mind, the approach we took was to expose these students to the English text and make them comfortable with it to help them in the upcoming school year. We may or may not have seen growth, but we would make sure the students were better equipped with the tools and more comfortable with the English text.

During the summer, KIND read a total of 42 hours over a span of seven weeks. Each student on average read 5.28 books with a roster of students totaling 58. Considering a large portion of our roster has English as a second language, we let them listen to books and take quizzes so they would be able to practice their comprehension. Each student on average listened to 11.43 books. Using data the program collected over the summer, the students grew an average of 15.36 points on their quiz from the beginning of the summer program, to the end. This means that by the end of the summer program, student’s scores were up 15.36 points compared to the beginning of the year.

During the fall term, there are 37 students on our RAZ Kids roster. Students on average read 9.27 books; but considering most of KIND’s children use English as a second language, most students listened to books. On average, students listened to 13 books. From October to December of 2018, students’ overall average quiz scores went up from 61% to 70%.

An external motivation RAZ Kids utilizes is awarding stars to students depending on their performance. If students read a book, they are awarded a certain number of stars. Depending on how well a student performs on an assessment, determines how many stars they receive. A strong performance yields more stars, whereas less stars are awarded for weaker performances. Students are then able to use their stars to purchase different items for their online avatar. During 2017, students earned 98,270 stars. In 2018, students earned 267,120 stars.

FINE ARTS

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS

Given that all humans have a base need to create, KIND's art curriculum has encouraged students to express themselves by engaging in the artistic process. Finding opportunities for artistic enrichment outside of those offered in school is often difficult for our students. For this reason, KIND has enlisted the help of Jamie Aubin and Maiya Hodge. Jamie is the owner of SPARK Art Studio in Kettering and Maiya is an artist there.

Art classes have provided an opportunity for our students to expand their critical thinking abilities and connect to different cultures through the study of art history. Not only are our young artists creating works of which they can be proud; they are also building on their knowledge of math, science, and the world in which we live. By exposing our students to a variety of artistic styles and materials, they are able to conceptualize their visions and bring them to life. In recent months, our students have woven textiles using a loom, created canvases using acrylic paints, studied the works of local artists, and made decorative planters which they later grew plants in.

When students have a chance to express themselves in the classroom, their confidence and self-esteem experience tremendous growth. These qualities will carry them through all walks of life as they find new and creative solutions to the challenges they encounter.

HEALTHY APPETITES

In 2018, KIND began offering classes that focused on nutrition and student-driven healthy choices. With so many of our students' caretakers working at different times of the day, they may not always have an adult at home to help guide them in feeding their growing bodies. Instructors Mary Beth Pope and Carrie Wilkerson seek to remedy that by teaching our students facts about basic nutrition. They also allow them a chance to make their own healthy after-school snacks by choosing and combining simple ingredients.



The instructors hope to not only build the confidence of our students' decision-making abilities, but also encourage them to share this new found knowledge with their families. KIND firmly believes that greater health will lead to greater happiness for all of God's children and their families!

SEWING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

At KIND, students in grades 3-8 are offered the exciting opportunity to participate in sewing, quilting, and embroidery classes. These classes, taught by Soammy Feliciano-Hurst from River's Edge Elementary, emphasize increasing awareness of sewing practices and materials, develop language skills, and building leadership qualities in our students. These classes explore all skill levels from basic mending with a needle to designing quilts using the latest computer technology. The students have the ability to become captains after they submit an essay, demonstrate an even temperament, and express a willingness to learn. In the sewing room the captains are key in maintaining a successful and safe environment while working with various tools. At KIND, our sewing program is piecing together relationships and trust one thread at a time!

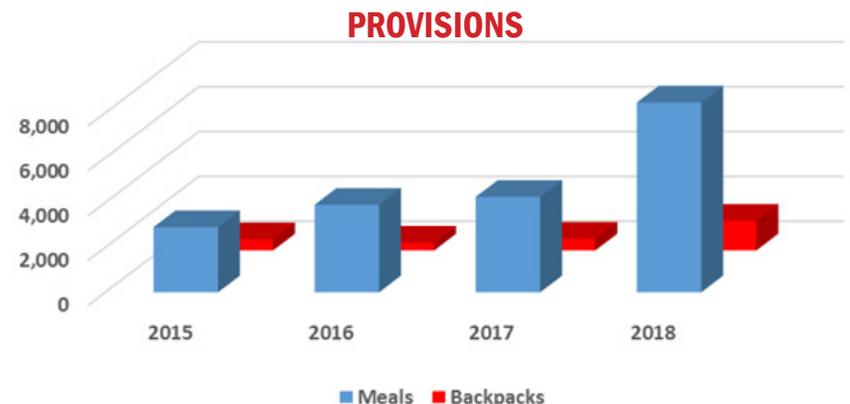
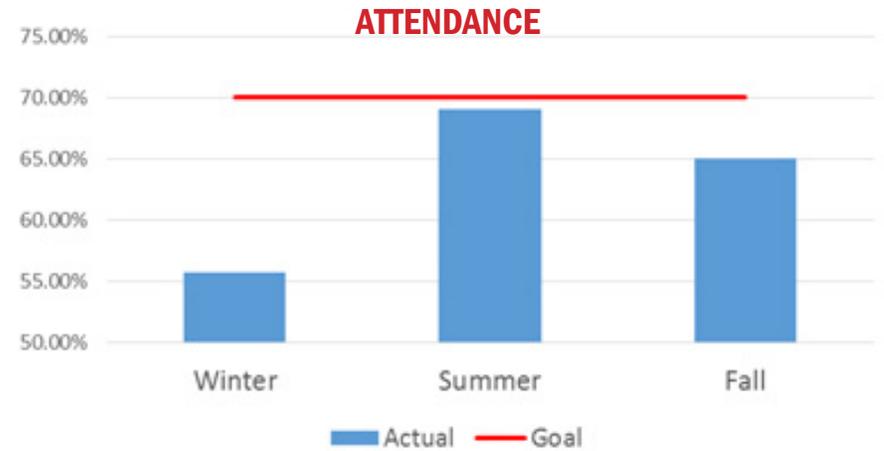
PROGRAM EVALUATION

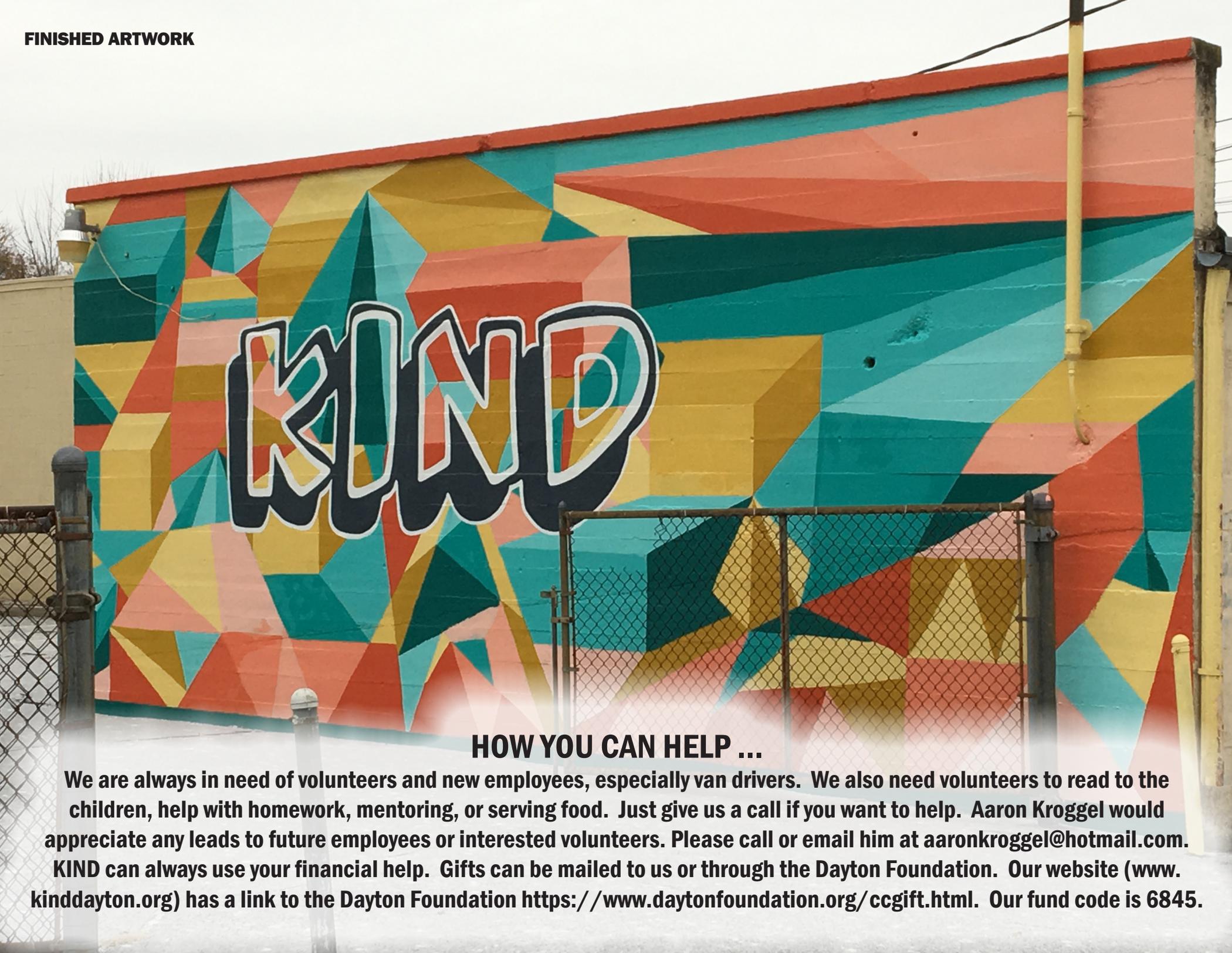
The KIND Board has been diligently working for the past four years to improve the curriculum and grow the program. The winter/spring afterschool program only achieved a 55.66% attendance rate which was caused by a number of factors including the winter weather. We were also challenged by a limited number of children attending the program. Over that time period, the average was 17 children of the 38 registered.

This summer the vision, preparation and collaboration with partner organizations came together and enrollment increased to 107 children. We averaged 47 children per day over the seven-week program. Over 68% of the children that attended the winter/spring program attended the summer program which is above our goal of 65%. Children that only attended KIND for a portion of the summer were directly related to two events. First, Dayton Public Schools ran a summer program in June and through a partnership with them, the children attended KIND during our July program so we were not competing but rather partnering.

The second reason is that we allow for continued enrollment over the entire summer term so the data represents children that might have enrolled at the end of the program. We do that so that children can join KIND for the next program session. The summer program led to a good start for the fall program. We had a maximum of 69 children in attendance and an average of 49 over the fall program. We are more limited in the fall and winter because we cannot use the outdoor classroom consistently.

The increased attendance over the summer has driven our feeding numbers over our expectations. We served 8,468 meals which was above our goal of 5,000. We planned to provide 500 food backpacks this year. We provided 1,325 backpacks in 2018. Those numbers compare to 4,258 meals and 525 backpacks during 2017.



A large, colorful mural on a building wall. The mural features a complex geometric pattern of triangles and polygons in shades of teal, yellow, orange, and red. The word "KIND" is painted in large, bold, black-outlined letters with a white fill, centered on the mural. The mural is set against a background of a chain-link fence and a clear sky.

KIND

HOW YOU CAN HELP ...

We are always in need of volunteers and new employees, especially van drivers. We also need volunteers to read to the children, help with homework, mentoring, or serving food. Just give us a call if you want to help. Aaron Kroggel would appreciate any leads to future employees or interested volunteers. Please call or email him at aaronkroggel@hotmail.com.

KIND can always use your financial help. Gifts can be mailed to us or through the Dayton Foundation. Our website (www.kinddayton.org) has a link to the Dayton Foundation <https://www.daytonfoundation.org/ccgift.html>. Our fund code is 6845.