



www.acornoutreach.com

Dear Friends of Acorn,

Happy Thanksgiving! 2008

The second half of 2008 has also been a bit hard on the Ogle family, but God is faithful, we are continuing to do outreach, and our wonderful volunteers have helped to keep the ministry alive and flourishing. For the last number of years, our board has focused on one primary goal: for Acorn Center to become the community and spiritual center of the Division street neighborhood, through our programs and activities, and through the relationships we are developing. Here's a recap of what's been happening recently at Acorn Center.

English and computer classes: Recent immigrants as well as long-term Spanish speaking members of the community come each week to learn English. Our small classes allow us to develop relationships and help our students with their specific needs. A new volunteer, Chris, has been helping those who are interested in learning how to use computers.

Spanish classes: There is a committed group of women who are studying Spanish and enjoying connecting with Spanish speakers here in Corvallis. Hey, guys, you are welcome to take the challenge and join us!

One-on-one tutoring: One of our latina Acorn neighbors meets weekly with a Spanish speaking volunteer, to learn how to read and write in Spanish. Another meets with her tutor weekly to study English and computers to help improve her job skills.

Healthy cooking class: 11 women and 7 children enjoyed cooking and eating some of our special holiday foods in this one-day class.

Community garden: With 10 raised beds in front and 2 new ones in the Gomez' back yard, this was the most successful garden year we have had.

Celebrations: Last Tuesday evening we celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday with about 25 of our teachers and students. The parents of one of our students from El Salvador were visiting and we were delighted to be able to invite them to a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner.

Calvin Church Discipleship group: The middle and high school girls from Calvin are meeting on Wednesday nights at Acorn. Recently, one of the latina girls from the neighborhood, who used to come to our Good News Club, has started attending the group, since she can walk from her house.

Youth worship practice: A group of young people use the garage space weekly for music lessons and practice as they help with worship at Iglesia Emanuel.

Future ideas: We are hoping to have more people in the neighborhood make use of our free high-speed internet connection, and would like to have scheduled hours for this in the future. Also, Ellen will be back in her office for regular hours starting in January – maybe we'll start a coffee shop ministry!

AND FINALLY: We're on the web! www.acornoutreach.com

Just in case you missed it at the top, please check out our new website. Many thanks go to web designer and graphic artist, Jeff Jimmerson, who donated his time and creative talent.

With best wishes for a joyous Christmas and New Year,

Ellen