



# Footprints

## September

### 2018

#### Summer at STEP!!!



**Jennifer Gibson and her mentee, A'Keira, work on building a tower from marshmallows and spaghetti during our Summer Mentoring Program this July at the STEP Gym in Eastgate Terrace.**

The kids are back in class, and we're already hard at work getting our school-year programs up and running again... but we're not quite ready to move on from the summer just yet.

In July, over 70 followers of Jesus from churches across the area descended on the STEP Gym in Eastgate Terrace to disciple children from our community one-on-one. For three weeks, volunteers committed to three consecutive nights of games, crafts, off-site fields trips, Bible studies, and just generally loving kids toward Jesus.

The Summer Mentoring Program is a great way to try out mentoring without signing on for a year-long commitment. It might seem like only a few hours, but we serve the God who turned a few fish and a little bread into an all you can eat buffet! We were thankful to see Him do it again this summer.

Some kids like to take it easy the two weeks before school starts back, but not STEP kids! For the ten "school" days leading up to classes, thirteen of our elementary students were working with their Literacy Camp tutors to ensure their minds were back in shape before heading back to campus. Twenty-four volunteers worked one-on-one with kids from the neighborhood to improve their literacy skills and give them an extra dose of encouragement heading into the school year.

While the Summer Mentoring and Literacy Camp are both short-term commitments, we see meaningful relationships grow each summer. Everything we do at STEP is one-on-one. Because of this, Jesus can use a few hours to move hearts toward one another and Him. Thanks to all our STEP Summer volunteers!



**Amy Dixon serves by leading story time during the second week of Literacy Camp. A huge thank you to Amy and Kathy Rogers for their help this year!**



**Jeff Davidson and Rashad work on a fidget spinner craft at Literacy Camp this summer. Jeff has served as both a mentor and a tutor for multiple years here at STEP.**

#### ***Come... Serve... Grow!***

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**Find out more at  
stepministries.org**

We invite you to join our monthly support team:

## Friends of STEP

Your recurring gifts help enable this ministry to disciple young people through:

**Weekly One-on-One Youth Mentoring**  
**Service Projects & Life Skill Training**  
**School-Year Tutoring in Eastgate**

**STEP's In-School Encourager Program**  
**Retreats and Summer Camps**  
**Summer Literacy Camps**

To join **Friends of STEP** visit **stepministries.org**, click on the **DONATE** link, and follow the instructions there. You may also mail a check monthly or set-up recurring payments through your bank's bill pay option. Make checks payable to **STEP** and simply mail it back to our return address. Of course, special gifts are appreciated as well.

We appreciate your faithful support and prayers more than you can know!



### Meet Juli Atkinson

Juli Atkinson does a little bit of everything around here. She mentors in our Friendship Club. She facilitates the Encourager Program at Ridge Road Elementary in North Little Rock. She is also the Paid Childcare Coordinator at Park Hill Baptist, one of our partner churches. Deciding that wasn't quite enough, Juli took over organizing our Literacy Camp and came on staff to start our After School Tutoring program. Juli and her husband, Ronnie, live in Park Hill in North Little Rock and have three children. "I love STEP Ministries and the opportunities that it has given me to serve the families who live in Eastgate Terrace and the students at Ridge Road Elementary."