



Celebrating Summer Missions -- 2023, 2024!

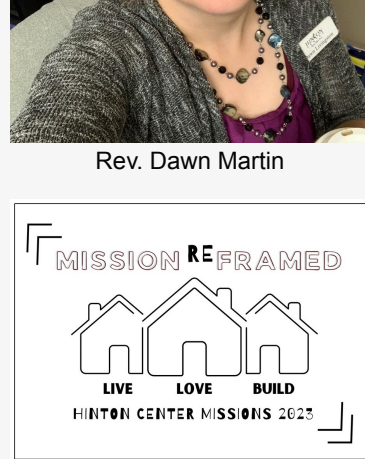
In this issue . . .

... we take a break from the cooler, crisp weather and harken back to the long, hot days of Summer 2023, when hundreds of young people and their leaders descended upon the campus of Hinton Rural Life Center -- playing, praying, singing, serving, and growing in love for God and neighbor, in our rural mountain community.

Read all about it!

- From the Director, Video Highlights
- The Numbers Narrative
- "The Best Week of My Life!"
- A Typical Week, A Typical Day
- Young Adults & Missional Leadership
- "Treasured" -- 2024 Summer Mission Outreach News & Registration
- Seeking 2024 College Summer Staff
- Ways to Support Our Mission Outreach

From Hinton's Director of Program Ministries, Rev. Dawn Martin



Rev. Dawn Martin



"This summer Hinton's Mission Outreach theme was "Mission ReFramed." We considered how we often jump into experiences in our lives with this idea of what it's going to be like or what it should look like. We have expectations and make assumptions, sometimes getting everything right... but sometimes we kind of miss the mark. Maybe we just had the wrong idea, maybe something beyond our control changed the circumstances, maybe there's more room for us to grow and learn beyond what we think we know.

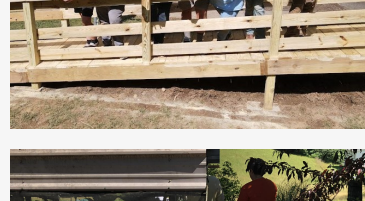
"We encouraged participants to seek ways to 'Reframe' their mission experience. Merriam-Webster defines 'reframe' as 'to frame [something] again, often in a different way.' How do we 'Reframe' loving God and others, living fully, and 'building up' one another?"

"We walked alongside our neighbors and helped create a positive impact on the lives of families in our community and the volunteers who participated. The experience was filled with growth, empathy, and meaningful connections. We believe in the power of togetherness, and this summer's outreach was an example of that."

Hinton Rural Life Center Summer Missions 2023



The Numbers Narrative



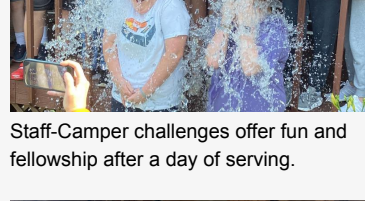
For decades, Hinton has offered a 10-week summer program for mission teams (primarily youth!) from around the country to experience a week of mission outreach in our rural mountain area. The youth and adult participants serve neighbors in our community through Hinton's Safe and Healthy Home Repair ministry. Projects may include: building ramps, porches, and steps; underpinning mobile homes; painting; repairing floors; and yard work.

The program primarily serves Clay and Cherokee counties, NC, and Towns County, GA, serving folks who live in poverty, many of whom are single parents, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, or people who are underemployed or unemployed. We encourage all of our volunteers to build relationships with the neighbors they serve and to learn their stories.

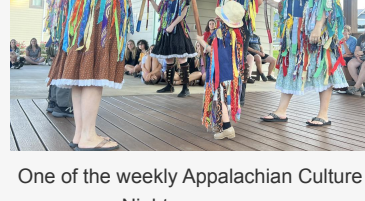
2023 SUMMER MISSION OUTREACH STATS!

- 50 homes worked on
- 200+ projects
- 34 mission teams
- 450+ volunteers

"The Best Week of My Life!"



Staff-Camper challenges offer fun and fellowship after a day of serving.



One of the weekly Appalachian Culture Night programs

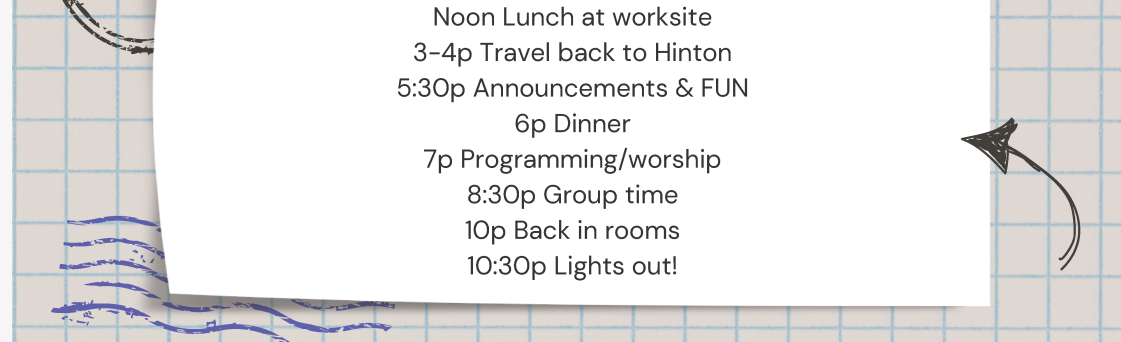
Hinton Center's mission outreach impacts the lives of participants. Sadie, a middle school youth, shared her experience: "I would just like to thank the summer staff because my time at Hinton was one of the best times ever!! I loved all of the getting-to-know-one-another activities and fun experiences with the summer staff. It was truly one of the BEST weeks of my life!!" A young adult participant said, "I'm thankful Hinton has been part of my life since 6th grade!"

In addition to the Safe & Healthy Home repairs, our programming includes Appalachian Culture Night, poverty awareness and perspective activities, and more. An adult volunteer shared a poignant realization: "The Empathy/Sympathy activity was very impactful -- will try not to say 'at least' anymore." This was in response to learning what could be an insensitive comment when consoling someone who has experienced loss or tragedy.

In general, our participants' ratings for the overall experience averaged 4.76 out of 5. All aspects, including lodging, meals, projects, interactions with staff, Appalachian Culture Night, poverty activities, worship, and more received scores of 4.12 or above.

A Typical Week, A Typical Day

Unless you've participated in one of Hinton's Summer Mission Outreach weeks, you may not know what a typical week or day is like for the participating mission teams. The experience actually begins the Thursday before teams arrive with a Zoom meeting for all of the adults attending the upcoming week. Teams arrive on Sunday, between 2pm and 3:30pm, followed by a time of orientation, fun activity, dinner, and worship. Monday through Wednesday, teams serve our community, primarily through Safe & Healthy Home repairs, but may also spend time in our firewood lot, building up the inventory for the coming winter. The evenings offer opportunities for poverty awareness activities, Appalachian Culture Night, and worship. After breakfast and a final time together on Thursday morning, teams either depart for home or choose to enjoy area activities.



Forming & Calling Young Adults to Missional Leadership



2023 Summer Staff: top left to right -- Kelsey Widener, Malina McKinzie, Michael Buehring, Terry McCabe (Hinton construction ministries assistant); bottom -- Carson Brown, Makayla Finger, Sydney Harrell, Melody Franco (Duke ministry intern), Ella Stilwell



First-time staffer Kelsey Widener

Our college summer staffers played a pivotal role in making our 2023 mission outreach successful. They dedicated their time, energy, and passion to serving others. Here's how two of them described their experience:

First-year staff member Kelsey Widener: "Summer staff training and the summer experience helped me in so many ways. It helped me become a better leader, follower, and person. It taught me not to see my weaknesses as a bad thing but as growing edges. I left training confident in my ability to lead. I will take a lot of different aspects from the training with me as I go through life."

Returning staffer Ella Stilwell: "Summer staff training and leadership development has exponentially helped my growth. I started out attending missions as a camper, then I decided to participate in a staffer-in-training event. After the event I applied to become a summer staffer. The training helped me grow and know that I could be a successful staffer. My first summer, we spent the first three weeks focusing on training and development. I learned so much about myself and how to be a better leader. The training and working for Hinton Rural Life Center has changed my life. I just finished my second summer, and the training keeps getting better and better. This past summer I learned a lot about what it takes to lead while also following."

Rev. Dawn Martin, director of program ministries, highlighted the impact of this ministry and its effect on young adults' lives and faith. "The experience of serving as a summer staffer is transforming and uplifting for both mission participants and the staff, as well as the community we serve. We're accepting applications now for 2024 summer staff [see below], and I can't wait to meet them!"

"Treasured" -- 2024 Summer Mission Outreach News & Registration

Our 2024 summer missions theme is "Treasured," and we are taking group registrations now! Youth groups, college groups, intergenerational church groups, families, and individual adults are welcome to register for a week of summer missions. (We take youth under 12 if accompanied by parent/guardian.) We require a 1:5 adult to youth ratio, but we recommend a 1:4 ratio. Groups are responsible for providing their required number of adults. **We welcome all** — faith-based or non-faith-based groups — who come to participate and serve fully and respectfully in all aspects of the Summer Mission Outreach program. To find out more about how you are treasured and to sign up to bring a mission team, visit www.hintoncenter.org/summer-mission.

SUMMER 2024

treasured

DATES:

WEEK 1: 5/26-5/30

WEEK 2: 6/2-6/6

WEEK 3: 6/9-6/13

WEEK 4: 6/16-6/20

WEEK 5: 6/23-6/27

WEEK 6: 6/30-7/4

WEEK 7: 7/7-7/11

WEEK 8: 7/14-7/18

WEEK 9: 7/21-7/25

WEEK 10: 7/28-8/1

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give us the Light of the knowledge of the glory and majesty of God [clearly revealed] in the face of Christ.

2 Cor. 4:6-7 AMP

VISIT HINTONCENTER.ORG FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION.

Summer Missions AT HINTON

MISSIONS@HINTONCENTER.ORG | 828-389-8336

\$395 PER PERSON | REGISTER BY DEC. 1, 2023. TURN IN PAPERWORK BY MAY 15, 2024, AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT.

THE *all-inclusive* EXPERIENCE

MEALS:
4 BREAKFASTS
3 LUNCHES
4 DINNERS

PROJECT MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET FOR EACH PARTICIPANT

LODGING (LINENS PROVIDED)

programming & worship led by Hinton:

- Appalachian Culture Night
- Poverty awareness activities
- Daily group devo times
- Two worship services
- Staff/Camper challenges

Safe & Healthy Homes Focus

Did you know your zip code is a better predictor of health than your genetics? Home assessments are completed to check for potential safety issues, such as tripping hazards, lack of smoke detectors, drafts, etc., that can be addressed.

IMPORTANT DATES

2024 SUMMER MISSION OUTREACH

Early-Bird Discount Extended!

If your first deposit is received by 1/15/24 and all forms are submitted by 5/15/24, you get a 10% discount for the entire group applied to your final payment amount, due 5/15/24, with your forms. (For a group of 15, that's a savings of \$592.50!)

Payment Schedule

DEPOSIT: Pay when register, \$150/person; required to secure dates

SECOND PAYMENT: Due by 3/1/24, \$100/person

BALANCE: Due 30 days prior to arrival

Seeking 2024 College Summer Staffers, Apply Now

Hinton is accepting applications from college-age young adults to serve as Service Ministry Leaders (SMLs) for our 2024 Summer Mission Outreach program, 10 weeks in which Hinton hosts youth mission teams from across the country to serve in our Safe & Healthy Home Repair ministry (plus two weeks of training that begin mid May). Hinton equips our SMLs to live out their Christian faith, build formative relationships, and serve by leading activities and programming with volunteer groups both on and off the worksite. This is a paid position, with lodging and most meals provided. If you're interested or know a young adult who might be, visit <https://hintoncenter.org/contact-us/#employment> for a complete job description and online application. Apply by February 23, 2024.

Ways to Support Our Mission Outreach

Your support makes an impact on the lives of our rural Appalachian neighbors, community volunteers, and mission teams, as well as the communities to which they return. Through your donations (financial, "in-kind," and volunteer time/skills), you partner with Hinton to: help make homes safer, healthier, and warmer; help parents provide new clothes for their children at Christmas; train community members and congregations to better support those with mental health challenges; equip young adults to serve as missional leaders and discern calls to ministry; provide educational and networking opportunities that empower local residents to become community builders. Click the button below to learn more about how you can support Hinton Rural Life Center.

DONATE TO HINTON CENTER TODAY!

OUR MISSION

Inspired by Jesus Christ, Hinton Center serves individuals, congregations, and rural communities through individual, educational opportunities, and missional outreach.

To UNSUBSCRIBE, email karen@hintoncenter.org.