



Working at Waters Edge: Spring 2012 Volunteer Project

By Magistrate Ann Weatherhead
Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court




The OAM Magistrates at Waters Edge Community Center at Buckeye Lake, Ohio.

The 2012 Spring Conference Volunteer Project took place at the Waters Edge Community Center in rural Buckeye Lake, near Newark, Ohio, not far from the site of our conference at Cherry Valley Lodge. The community center is home to several programs, including a food pantry, a clothing “store” where donated items are free for the taking, and the Tom Sawyer House where teens can stay for up to three days if they are in danger or just need some time away from their homes. The house is staffed around the clock and is a secure place of respite for neighborhood teenagers.

The night we visited, families were enjoying the weekly dinner with food provided and served by a local church, and area teens were playing a high energy game of dodge ball in the gym.

After listening to a description of the Waters Edge mission and the projects that are run from the site, the OAM volunteers split into groups with the goal of sprucing up the facilities. We did some house cleaning in the Tom Sawyer House, repaired the fence, removed debris from behind the garage, took the letters off of the Waters Edge sign so that they could be refurbished and planted some flowers at the base of the sign.

At the end of the evening we left the facility looking a bit cheerier, and we, in turn, left slightly muddier, and with a deep appreciation of the commitment and hard work of the staff and volunteers of Waters Edge as they bring the people of Buckeye Lake together and provide them with engaging programs and vital services. 



A.



B.



C.



Photos:

- A. Ann Weatherhead and Cindy Kirby take on the task of cleaning up the yard with a young helper.*
- B. Rob Crow and Penny Cunningham are hard at work.*
- C. Tom Freeman digs in to prepare for some colorful flowers to brighten up the landscape.*
- D. The volunteers listen with interest as Pastor Bob explains their mission.*
- E. Perdexter "Dex" Williams and Pam Heringhaus use their organizational skills to make the donated items easy to find.*
- F. Pastor Carolyn talks about the respite that the Tom Sawyer House provides to runaway and troubled teens.*
- G. Mike Kirby, George Reynolds and Quin Dressel clean up debris in the yard.*
- H. Dave Jump and Jim Lyle repair the fence.*
- I. Greg Clifford enjoys the manual labor needed to spruce up the area.*



