

Running Out of Room is a Good Thing, Right?

We know it's been a while since we've sent out a newsletter. The KaracterKeys After School Program and the KommunityKeys Language Acquisition program started on time this fall with a bigger bang than we realized. We discovered that we are running out of room.

Our building at present is 2400 sq. feet. It's broken up into five very small classrooms with the foyer being used for the reading area and a storage area with an air hockey table being used for reading when needed. We desperately need more space for our existing programs and room to grow for those in the future. With constant requests coming in daily, we have had to turn away families whose children need help and have had

to limit the amount of much-needed services we want to provide to the community because of space limitations. In addition, we require a safe play area for children and

24,000 square feet (yes, 10 more times of floor space than what we have now) and in excellent shape. Each classroom measures 825 sq. feet...huge and empty...just wait-

ing for someone to come along and use them. This building would easily house what we do now...and we could grow into the rest of the space.

After much praying and consulting with our Board of Directors (who toured the building one afternoon) we have begun the process of having different building professionals (heating and AC, electricians, fire marshall and build-



a large yard. The one building on the east side of Sherman that fits the criteria is the Robert E. Lee School, located at 1002 N. Walnut.

The Lee School building, built in 1913 and remodeled around 1987 with new wiring and plumbing, sits on 3+ acres of land. It has a huge side and back yard that was used originally for school children to play at recess and to participate in sports. There is even a home plate fence still existing and a framework for a large swing set still in place. The building has

ing inspectors give us advice and an idea of what may need to be replaced or repaired (the building has been vacant for 10+ years) and the costs involved.

We have recently sent a letter to the owner who is selling the property telling him who we are and that we are interested in his building. In the meantime, we are continuing to pray for God's continued direction for this endeavor. Please join us in prayer as well.

We will continue to update you on the details as we receive them.



Grant Updates Foster Grandparent Help a Blessing to Ministry

Funding is coming in! The Clara B. and Aubrey Smith Foundation recently donated \$4000 for the organization.

We are awaiting an answer from the Glaser Family Charitable Foundation for our computer lab, called *Keys to Achieve*. We should hear something by December 31st.

We also are looking this month for the Regensberger Foundation for help with our Kom-munityKeys Language Acquisition classes.

In March, we are also expecting an answer from the Luella Kemper Foundation for our *Keys to Literacy* project.



As mentioned in the last newsletter, foundations typically do not award grants for general operating expenses, so private donations are needed to keep the doors open here at MasterKey Ministries. The foundations that we apply to also like to see private donations received.

We appreciate your continued financial support to MasterKey Ministries. All gifts are, of course, tax deductible.

The ministry has been partnering this last school year with the Foster Grandparent program through Texoma Council of Governments in Sherman. The program assists seniors find volunteer positions in their local communities and pays a small stipend to each volunteer to assist in gas and expenses.

David Hamilton volunteers at MasterKey Ministries' KaracterKeys After School Program 16 hours a week providing educational support and, when the kids arrive, a listening ear as they read to him.

David is a widower that was looking to make a difference in children's lives. He has truly blessed our children and our children have blessed him. We'll have a picture of him with the kids in the next newsletter.

Working Together: AUSTIN COLLEGE

Alpha Phi Omega came out and helped us with our Thanksgiving party. We had about 12 APO students. They planned different activities with a Thanksgiving theme.



The KaracterKeys' younger children did several hands on crafts while the older children played Capture the Flag, Thanksgiving style.

Alpha Phi Omega also helped with the Saturday Science Quest in October.

The AC students were as happy as the kids in the after school program.

In December, the *Asian Student Association* helped with decorating the building for the Christmas

season.

After the KaracterKeys kids were helped with their homework the association helped the kids put up the tree and our Christmas town. Board members stopped by to share a cup of hot chocolate with the kids.

The Asian Student Association has been helping with the after school program since last year.

Los Amigos, a student organization dedicated to promoting relationships within the local Hispanic Community, has been assisting with the Kom-munityKeys Language Acquisition program for the first time this year. They provide general support, language modelling and side by side tutoring.

Thank you, Austin!