

LPUMC Ministry Spotlight



This edition of the LPUMC Ministry Spotlight features a mentoring relationship our church just completed with JJ, a young man from our community. This was the first time our church had entered into a relationship like this, and we want to share a few of the highlights from our experiences we had working with JJ.

We first met JJ in May 2017. During our first encounter it was obvious he wanted and needed to work, and with some encouragement, he applied at

Dairy Queen and got the job! However, his rent was due and it would be at least two weeks before he would receive a paycheck. So, we decided to let JJ do odd jobs around the church and in turn, we would pay a portion of his rent. And to our surprise, he showed up every day!

This arrangement was meant to be temporary, however we discovered that JJ was truly benefiting from working alongside Pastor Doug. They did many chores together and everything they did proved to be a great learning & witness opportunity. He also benefited from working with church members, Derrill Thompson, Chris Bologna and Terry Wilt. In addition, JJ grew through life-lesson discussions with Sara Martin, staff person and Community Ministry Coordinator. JJ was eager to learn and grow. He showed tremendous potential and had a great work ethic. **These qualities, along with his determination to better his circumstances made us all want to invest our time and energy to help him become successful and independent.** So, with the Council's blessings we entered into a more formal mentoring relationship with JJ.

JJ began working with the volunteers in the Clothes Closet. His physical strength is one of his many assets and proved to be a great blessing to the Clothes Closet Ministry. JJ also began meeting with church member, Connie Shepherd who helped JJ with his resume, interview techniques, and tips on how to best fill out job applications.

We believe that the time and attention we gave JJ over the past year was an excellent use of the churches resources and we consider our first mentoring relationship successful. The photo at the top of the page shows the many lives that touched JJ and the affection that was felt among all involved. Great News! – JJ is now employed full-time. He is taking all we taught and shared with him to his new job every day.

This was a great learning opportunity for our church, and if we decide to embark on another mentoring relationship we can apply the many lessons we learned. LPUMC made an impact on JJ's life. **He has a greater opportunity at being successful because of us. Praise the Lord!**