

Mission work is family project

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Carl and Maxine Brandt and their granddaughter, Jes-c Brandt, spent June 2-8 on a mission trip in Kansas, Okla.

Working with World Mission Builders, the group constructed a 9,000 sq. ft. dining hall at Cookson Hills Christian Ministries as part of a longer project spanning June 3-15.

A team of 60 workers ranging from their 20s to their 80s volunteered on the trip, with a majority of the workers being over 65 years old. Jes-c was the youngest volunteer in the group.

During construction the workers battled the hot Oklahoma sun and fatigue, but with the help of donated crane services, the dining hall was pieced together.

Carl's favorite part of the trip was seeing the joy on people's faces when they saw the building coming together. Carl noted, "The parents and the staff were blown away by the work we had accomplished."

Cookson Hills provides Christ-centered care, education and therapeutic services for at-risk youth. Currently the facility works with approximately 80 students. With an increase in applications, Cookson Hills is expanding their campus to include 12 additional housing units for students and their families.

Carl and Maxine hope to return to Cookson Hills in October to help build more structures.

Their mission work in Oklahoma will continue in September as they travel to Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in McLoud, Okla. They will be building a chapel as a part of a larger project to place chapels in all of Oklahoma's prisons.

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