

# Friend Ships July 2013 Activities Report

FRIEND SHIPS at PORT MERCY 1019 N. 1st Ave. Lake Charles, LA. 70601

Tel: (337) 433-5022 Fax: (337) 433-3433 Email: info@friendships.org Website: www.friendships.org



Dear Friend Ships Family:

On July 13th, we celebrated the graduation of the Sea Hawk Class of 2013. These wonderful young men and women have grown so much this year as they have served with us here at Port Mercy. Sea Hawks is a one year program for young men and women between the ages of 18-25 designed to develop future leaders in the work of the Kingdom of God by building character spiritually, mentally and physically while they are trained and participating in relief missions.

What makes a Sea Hawk? A servant's heart, a steadfast faith, a strong work ethic, a readiness to be a young leader in the work of the Kingdom. They give us a year and we help them to become one who is even greater in faith, with strict personal habits, fervent in prayer, a boldness in ministry, a warm respect for the elderly, a loving hand for the poor and a heart for the needy.

When a young man or woman decides to participate in Sea Hawks, they are saying to

the Lord, "Let me take what may be the most important year of my life, a directional year that sets me on a path to make the best choices on where and how I will serve and most importantly, who I will serve. Let me set everything aside and give you, God, this precious year and say to you, I am the lamb to lie down on the altar. I bring nothing but myself. Let me come without murmuring or accusation, without scar or blemish. I believe that your Word is true so let me give you my

first fruit, that you will help me and direct me so that I will make the right choices in work, marriage, family and continue to put you first, God, that all the rest of my life will go well." Because of your support, we are able to offer this program as a full scholarship, so that financial ability has no consideration in who is accepted into the program.

Here are excerpts from graduate comments on how a year of Sea Hawk training has been a benefit:

*. . .after going to Jean Lafitte, New York and then to Roatan, my fear of talking to people left. While I was in Roatan, my relationship with God grew a lot. . . God made himself real to me in a lot of different ways. Now I know for a fact that He is there and He will always care for me. . . After Seahawks I will never be the same. MALACHI*

*This year at Seahawks has been a year of character development and sharpening for me. Seahawks has helped me to find a balance between using the gifts that God has given me and developing the character and foundation that I need to continue operating in them. KYLE*

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*I honestly don't even know where to start. There has been so much that has happened in my life this year and so much that God has done for me! . . . my faith has exploded into something great. It is not the faith that my parents or church wanted me to have, it is MY faith. I have learned to fully rely on God for everything and that no matter what the situation, it is in His control. JOSEPH*

*Seahawks has instilled discipline in me and given me work ethics, it's showed me that God is in control of my life if I let him. . . This program has shown me how to finish something I start even when it's so hard I wanna scream and run away. It's given me honor towards other people. BEAU*

*Sea Hawks has grown my faith exponentially starting with believing in myself- that I can accomplish difficult tasks at hand no matter what they are. JEREMIAH*

*I learned that the only way to make it through anything is by relying on God's strength. STEPHANIE*

*The biggest change for me this year was being able to have a totally new mindset towards my actions and how they can potentially change my future both in positive ways and negative ways. I have also become closer with the Lord and my faith has grown a tremendous amount just over the past few months. MICHAEL*

*Coming here and being a part of this ministry has been the best thing that I could have done for my relationship with God. SHANE*

*Sea Hawks has changed my life in the fact that it stripped me of everything I had built myself up to be, giving God a chance to open my heart up and give me a love for people. I've learned more life skills then I would*

*have learned back home, learned and grown more spiritually, and learned more about myself and who I am in Christ. HANNAH*

*The biggest change for me? Discovering just how great God is, He expanded my faith, letting me know that there is no limit to Him. There is nothing too big for Him! God showed me that He loves to give and provide to those who are faithful to Him and He responds to our faith! TANISHA*

*I learned that I can trust people other than the few people that I trusted at home. My favorite part of the year was when I went to Roatán. I definitely grew a lot there, it was such an adventure! ELIZABETH*

The Winter 2013 class that joined us in February continues with their year and we await a new class of Sea Hawk recruits that will arrive early August.

In other Friend Ships areas, Storehouse One Los Angeles and Lake Charles collected and distributed 33,000 pounds of wonderful food. The crew and Sea Hawks conducted regular outreaches to the local community.

The team in Roatán, Honduras hosted two women's events with the ladies seeking and praising God all weekend, some with fasting and prayer.

Thank you so much for all that you do to help us. We appreciate you tremendously. Remember, He who helps the poor honors God!

Together in Christ,

Don & Sondra Tipton & the Friend Ships Crew