

ANDOVER TOWNSMAN

Letter: Generosity at Bible school nets playground

August 14, 2008 05:22 am

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Editor, Townsman:

The Professional Center for Child Development in Andover and Lawrence made some cherished new friends with the children at Andover's Vacation Bible School. Each year during the VBS week in late July, the group chooses a local nonprofit or charity to focus on and work for. This year the Professional Center for Child Development was fortunate enough to be asked to participate.

Andover Baptist Church, Free Christian Church, South Church and Saint Michael Parish in North Andover gathered to plan this week for the children. As the PCCD parent and community liaison, I was asked to come to one of the planning meetings and tell the group a little about the Professional Center and they were able to fill us in on the VBS service project for the summer of 2008. The group chose to work toward some items for our center's new playground. Children of all abilities love to play!

The Professional Center for Child Development serves families and children birth through 7 years. All are welcome, from the typically developing toddler and the child who may have a delay in his or her speech to a child who has complex health care needs.

The children at the Vacation Bible School learned about the children at the PCCD during a short presentation on the first day. Throughout the week they gathered offerings and donations for the playground. Youth participation in service projects such as this helps to shape the values and character of the community. We appreciate the children and the special group of adults who brought us into their hearts. I was asked to join them on Friday, Aug. 1, for the closing songs and donation presentation. We met in the Sanctuary at Free Christian Church on this hot day — but, I still had chills running down my spine from the generosity of the children and families of the Vacation Bible School.

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