

Dear _____,

Hello! My name is Rachael Groll, and I am writing to inquire about our organization doing a free Summer Outreach Program for the children of residents of **Forest Green Estates** in Meadville, Pa. Our goal is to increase community relationships, social interaction and community involvement.

We started our outreach to the community six years ago at several locations around Meadville and would like to include the residents at **Forest Green** this year. Currently we work in both privately owned and publicly owned community areas. The outreach program was birthed within our church as we formed relationships with the families in the community. We noticed that there were some needs the children in various communities had and decided to do something as a church to try and meet those needs. We started by going to the neighborhoods at least once a week to help the kids in any way we could. Most of those interactions were informal, and range from homework help, to giving snacks and providing meals, to playing on the playground, to teaching healthy conflict resolution. Those informal interactions, which we call our mentorship program, were all done by individuals with clearances and trained within our church to work with kids. We started to realize that there were many more children in the neighborhood than we saw on Sunday mornings, so we decided to take the Kids Program that we were doing every week to the kids.

The formal program, what we call our Sidewalk Outreach, starts in June once kids are out of school. Only the kids that want to participate come, as we pass out sign up sheets the day before the program. The program is typically held in a parking lot, on the sidewalk, or on the lawn, and includes games, music and dancing, an object lesson, a story, and a life lesson. Those lessons can include anything from Forgiveness, to Bullying, to Being Honest. We typically do a prayer at the end, and then dismiss the kids. Some of the Sidewalk Outreach nights have also offered other ways to meet needs in the community by offering meals and clothing. We would like to be able to offer this program to the residents of **Forest Green Estates**, as many families that live there have requested to be included.

In addition to the Sidewalk Program we do, we have also tried to meet the needs of the community in general. Last Christmas we bought every child participating a pair of shoes. We also offer a mobile food pantry monthly, as well as free weekly transportation on both Sunday morning and Sunday evenings. We have hosted some special events where we have offered Free busing, including our annual Back to School Bash. We also offer family events and Block Parties.

We would like to partner with you in any way possible in order to meet the needs of this community and look forward to hearing from you. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your time!

Rachael Groll
Children's/Outreach Pastor
rachael@livingwaterschurch.tv