

Volunteer of the Month

South Marshall Street has been the focus of volunteer efforts for many years now for a group of members of Immanuel Congregational Church. This is far from the only



volunteering that ICC does, but has been the consistent focus for a core group for a very long time. They often host small events, or “pop-ups”. They are called “pop-ups” because the volunteers just show up on a particular weekend afternoon for a few hours with a different surprise event each time. The children who have lived in the neighborhood have become familiar with these people who come

with food, games, books and often other gifts. In the fall it might be pumpkins with cider and donuts.

The most recent example of this was the “Pop-up” that took place on March 18th. Despite chilly and windy weather, several volunteers hosted the many happy kids and their parents that afternoon for egg coloring and crafts, pizza and snacks, and of course, books. There are always books.

It's not all ICC though. They have many partners who join in. This time, the thanks for volunteers and pizza went to Trinity Episcopal. Grace Lutheran along with Salvation Army's Marshall House contributed the eggs and supplies. Immanuel brought volunteers and books, and Asylum Hill Congregational came with more volunteers and craft materials. And Marshall House, along with eggs provided the hospitality.

Children and adults from all parts of South Marshall Street participated. Part of the challenge for this street is the differences among the residents. There are Habitat Families in the new homes recently built on the southeast part of the street, immigrant largely Karen families on the Southwest part of the street, Section 8 housing on the Northeast area and those staying at Marshall House across the street. All together, there are more than 200 children on this one block. It's a great place to volunteer. To join in, contact Nancy Rion at (860) 521-8261. For more photos go to;

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/M1bP6RyS7Q130ZSG2>