



[Email This Story](#)

August 10, 2006

Ark angels food

Applebee's hosts youth camp members

By LAUREEN FAGAN
Tribune Staff Writer

The Applebee's Restaurant at Main Street in Mishawaka was alive with energy Friday as children with the Ark Angels youth camp were treated to lunch at the facility.

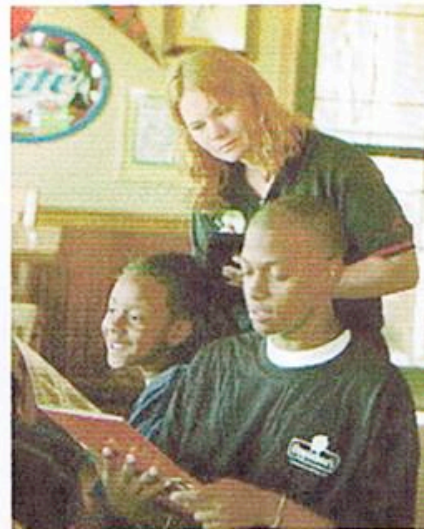
"Instead of just donating a dollar, we wanted the kids to come in and enjoy themselves," said Marlene Peacock, manager of the Applebee's.

"We wanted to give to the community and wanted the kids who worked so hard this summer to learn about the nonviolence" to be guests of the firm, she explained.

Ron King, director of the Ark Angels camp, said there were about 50 kids on hand from the camp, held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center on South Bend's west side.

The main objective is to broaden the experience of those in the youth camp -- drawing the distinction between the underprivileged and underexposed, he said.

"To certain resources," King added, explaining that can mean character classes,



Dawn Wilson, server at Applebee's at Main Street and University Park Drive in Mishawaka, takes orders from Loretta Williams, 10, seated at left, and Jareen Austin, 15, both of South Bend, during a free trip to the restaurant as part of the Ark Angels anti-violence camp.

performing arts and even ordering lunch in a restaurant.

"It means a new relationship," King explained.

"What these kids are learning through the camp is that people care about them," King said. "Kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

The program, which includes teaching children Stephen Covey's effective habits, is co-sponsored by South Bend Parks and Recreation.

Jakar Jackson, 12, of South Bend, was able to remember some of the seven habits.

"First things first," he said.

Win-win.

And Sharpen the Saw.

Jakar couldn't remember the meaning of that last one, but Tiyon Hardon did as he colored on a children's menu and looked up to help out.

"It means to renew yourself spiritually and emotionally and physically," he said.

Tiyon, 13, of South Bend, said the most important thing he did was meet old friends from his old school.

Across the table, Keshawn Lewis, 9, said he enjoyed going to gym and having fun.

"And we go on field trips."

But it was fun for the assistance staff, as well.

"I meet new people," said Breanna Redding, 15, of South Bend, a teen leader for Ark Angels summer camp.

"It gives me a new love for children."



Kevin Robertson, 12, of South Bend, colors while waiting for his meal Friday at Applebee's restaurant in Mishawaka. The group from Ark Angels, an eight-week camp for anti-violence instruction, was invited to a free lunch Friday by Marlene Peacock, manager of the Applebee's.

Tribune Photos/GREG SWERCZ



Jalayna Rich, 7, of South Bend, listens to others give their food orders to a server Friday at Applebee's restaurant in Mishawaka. The North Main Street eatery offered the Ark Angels anti-violence camp members a free meal for the culmination of the 8-week camp where students learned effective habits and responsibility tools to help them in the future.