

## **Presbytery 2021 Grant Report- Third Presbyterian/Wilson Commencement Park** **By Melanie Jones- Director of Arts and Enrichment, Third Presbyterian Church**

- **What were you hoping to accomplish?**

We were hoping to accomplish doing family trips on select weekends or during the week when not in school. There was a need to build community within Wilson Commencement Park and give families who might have faced recent trauma an opportunity to bond and create good memories. This also reaches and touches a population in a location where transportation is insufficient and gives access to what is beyond the neighborhood.

- **How did this grant energize or transform your congregation or community?[]**

I am attaching some pictures from our three events

- Hidden Valley Safari Park
- Trolley Museum Family Fall Festival
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus at the JCC Little Tykes Theater

- **What did you learn from this project and what obstacles did you experience?**

The obstacles that came happened when the Omicron wave of COVID hit and right before the winter. This delayed us from having as many monthly trips as we would have liked. However, we are grateful for the option to continue safely in the Spring months. The children will have a special program to look forward to during the Spring Break.

- **What are your next steps?**

We plan to continue in safety during the Spring what COVID limited us from doing safely. We will complete this with some of the following trips scheduled

- Corning Museum of Glass
- Buffalo Zoo
- Family Movie Night or Skate Night

- **Please share a story of where you saw God in this project**

I felt God's presence when we saw parents and children bonding with each other and the parents taking the lead. To be able to have some tools to set the stage and let good experiences unfold organically within families. To see the children show kindness and community to our driver on the Hidden Valley Trip by eating lunch with her and talking about her work. To allow people to experience grace by not needing resources and experiencing more life and activities around them.



