

*This is the second of what will become a long-running series which we are calling the Nonprofit Chamber of Services Nonprofit of the Week. This series has been established with the intent of increasing awareness of the many causes and efforts taken on by our nonprofit brethren. If your nonprofit has a particular event taking place during the course of a week, an anniversary for example, please make this known and we will do all possible to accommodate a spotlight that coincides. On behalf of our membership, we wish to say "thank you" for taking a few moments from your busy schedule to learn a bit more about our community of nonprofits.*

This week we are highlighting the Latch-Key Program located at Christ Community Church, a United Methodist Congregation, at 2130 S. Webb Road. During my recent visit to their facilities, I had the pleasure to visit with Carol Reames, the congregation's oversight committee chairperson and program staff.

The initial focus of the program, started in 2000, was to provide affordable before and after school care for 12 children. Today the program provides care for 39 children in kindergarten thru fifth grade. Children are provided with breakfast in the mornings and an after school snack. Parents most benefit though from knowing that their children will be taken to school on time in the mornings and safely picked up after school.

Of course the children see things from a different perspective. Anita, who has been a student of the program for three years, says that what she really enjoys is the program's 'drive-in movies'. The activity gives students an opportunity to select from two consecutively running movies on differing televisions while enjoying popcorn – just like a drive-in movie theater. Anita's mother, Mary, said that she felt most happy with the staff and savings in child care expense that she enjoyed by enrolling Anita in the Latch-Key Program.

Beyond the activities presently offered at Latch-Key, the program intends to expand to include a tutorial program in January 2006. In addition to being funded by a grant, the program also benefits from church contributions earned during their annual fundraiser called "A-MAZE-IN-GRACE". For more information on this unique event that will be held this coming October or for information on this program in general, please visit their websites at <http://www.cornfieldmaze.com> or <http://www.cccum.org>.