

THE KID LIFE

It's hard to believe that 2023 has come and gone! As I look back on 2023 my heart is filled with gratitude for a great year of partnering with the parents of Mapleview Community Church and our community in developing the hearts and minds of children for Jesus.

Brooke Godmere gave great leadership to this ministry for the first few months of 2023 and then she started her maternity leave in April. She welcomed her son, Mayer, on March 31 which made her family now a family of four. I am very thankful for the patience and support of the volunteers and staff that made me feel welcome and supported as I learned and got up to speed on all things THE KID LIFE.

Our Sunday ministries continued to grow each week, with our weekly attendance being over 100 kids. We love welcoming new families into our church community. We have over 80 volunteers each month that serve and give of their time, abilities, and gifts to teach and love the children of Mapleview. I honestly believe we have the best volunteers EVER. We could not do what we do each week without each one of them.

Weekly, we continue to open our doors on Wednesdays for Playgroup where we welcome moms and dads from our community and church to come and build relationships with one another while the kids play and build relationships with each other.

Some of the special events that happened this year were Stellar Kidz

Kamp, where we had 135 kids in attendance and gave them a great week filled with trips, fun activities and we got to share Jesus' love. We had over 80 volunteers involved that were the real MVPs of the week! Other special events included the Princess Tea in August, Trunk or Treat in October, and our Family Christmas FUNtastic event in December.

We made some updates to our kid spaces and fine-tuned the discipleship components of our curriculum. We saw some staff changes, where we said good-bye to Stephanie Van Arragon and her family who moved north to plant a new church, and we welcomed Symone Bartley-Nova as our admin support. We continue to be thankful for our other staff, Alisha Preston and Mercedes Kenny who served faithfully and with excellence each week wherever they were needed. We also have many volunteers who serve behind the scenes during the week that help make THE KID LIFE run so smoothly. What would we do without you?

What an amazing year it was! I am thankful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, and I am confident that 2024 will be another great year for THE KID LIFE!

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Ratz
Interim Kid Life Director