

MyNails SPA Day

Monday, June 20, 2016, was a bright and sunny day, and I was a bit apprehensive about the activities that I had planned for the day. Many weeks prior to this when I was talking to folks about summer activities that may be a possibility for our AIM Friends, someone suggested a SPA day for our ladies. You can imagine how I was about to respond to that idea, however, I asked for suggestions and I had to listen as my Friendship staff provided suggestions for the day. First, our ladies would have their hair styled, then their fingernails painted. Kaye Peasley, who provides music at our Gratiot Friendship location insisted that we do our SPA day at her church, the Mt. Pleasant First Church of the Nazarene. Kaye and her husband, Jim, had something else up their sleeve. Mt. Pleasant First Church of the Nazarene is also home to Clothing INC. and Kaye and Jim are extremely committed and dedicated to that mission outreach to the community.

Early in June we began telling our Friends about our SPA day and started making appointments. A total of 34 of our Friends responded and we set up appointment times. We also hired two registered cosmetologists and three nail technicians. We were set to go, but I was nervous having never done this before.

Our hosts at the Mt. Pleasant First Church of the Nazarene could not have been more accommodating. We sat up two stations for our cosmetologists in the coffee area just outside the sanctuary and our nail techs were just down the hall. Pastor Selvidge was extremely helpful as we transformed the area into our salon.

Our Friends began to arrive and their transformations were almost magical. Curley hair was straightened, straight hair was curled, and the smiles of our Friends extended from ear to ear as they looked into the mirror to see their finished hair style. After hair it was on to having their nails done, and they were able to choose the color and in some cases even a nail design. As more of our Friends arrived for their appointments, excitement filled the air and everyone was complimenting each other on their "new look!"

Just when everyone thought their pampering was coming to an end, Mrs. Peasley gave everyone an opportunity to visit the clothing pantry and pick out some gently-used clothing. Friends and even care providers were given the opportunity to visit the clothing pantry and take whatever they needed for themselves and their families. Over 600 clothing items were distributed that day.



At the end of the day, we were all tired. What a day it had been, but the real frosting on the cake came when one of our nail technicians said, "This has been a day of uppers. Everyone was so appreciative!" Two of our helpers traveled all the way from the Muskegon area to help and their Facebook comments were, "When you do this again, be sure to invite us because your Friends are GREAT, and after spending the day with them, they are our Friends too!"