

SERVANT SPOTLIGHT

By Sandi Rowe
Connections Ministry Team

Our church is very blessed to have Liesl Schneider in our midst. She is an outgoing gal, who is passionate about outreach, so she started our **AWANA PARENTS OASIS**.

Most of us know that our church percolates with activity on Wednesday nights throughout the school year. But, do you know that, in the hospitality room, Liesl Schneider percolates the coffee and supplies the sweets to make an inviting place for our Wednesday *parent* visitors to pass their hour and a half amongst friendly followers of the Lord? Some 20% of the Awana kids come from unchurched families. The **AWANA PARENTS OASIS** seeks to be a place where that unchurched *parent* - often a single mom – can find warmth and caring, a listening ear, a friend to lovingly meet a need, an invitation to come to church on Sunday, or just a smile and acceptance.

Friendship Evangelism is the mission of the **AWANA PARENTS OASIS**, and here's how Liesl describes the blessings of seeing God at work in this comfortable setting. Liesl has gained friendships with women she might otherwise never have known; she marvels at how distinct the individuals are, how warm and how enjoyable the fellowship. She sees this as a precious opportunity to have individual relationships with them – because it's that one to one relationship that models our relationship with Jesus Christ, which is after all personal, one to one.

Talking to Liesl, I understood the importance of familiar faces in this winsome setting. If you have several Wednesday evenings during the school year that you'd like to just "Be there," you're invited to GET CONNECTED with Liesl and the **AWANA PARENTS OASIS**... maybe offer to bring treats – you'll treat yourself to the joys of Friendship Evangelism.

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