

**THIS IS ONEIDA
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE**

Oneida is blessed with nearly 1,000 volunteers annually. These amazing people come from all over Kentucky, and in the past year we have also had groups from Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, and Tennessee. They typically stay with us for a week and bring time, talents, resources, and skills we sometimes don't have. These folks are a huge part of our ministry and are a great blessing to us. A recent group from Clear View Baptist Church in Franklin, Tennessee had many retired educators in their group. One of those educators, Dr. Ed Thiele, also dabbles as a bit of a poet and penned the following poem about his group's experience volunteering at Oneida.

We all are called; that's why we're here. At OBI we feel God near.
The president is full of zeal. His mission call is very real.
Enrollment now is growing fast, exceeding all the recent past.
The crop of mid-school kids has grown, and there is quite a happy tone.
Our crew is certainly well-fed, and working makes us yearn for bed.
Our task assignments are diverse. Some are good, and some are worse;
And whether thrilled or only bored, our jobs are rendered for the Lord.
The corn has brought a generous yield, and rains have blessed each verdant field.
The harmony of happy hearts enriches people of all sorts.
We are a motley crowd of folks who love, and laugh and share our jokes.
Last night the rain fell very strong, but sunset filled our minds with song.
And Kayla came; what joy she's found since Christ has turned her life around!
Next Aaron told how much he's changed since OBI his heart arranged!
No wonder we are pleased to come and make ourselves so much at home,
For dedication fills the air, and we see beauty everywhere.
How good God is to let us do His work; eternity's in view.



Larry A. Gritton, Jr.
OBI President

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