

### **Reflections from Rama Road Elementary: the things they carry**

The children who attend Rama Road Elementary carry many things to school each day. For nearly all, this includes the worry and stigma of poverty. This fall, thanks to a child of Christ Church and the generosity of others that she harnessed, they will also carry new backpacks stuffed with supplies and love. Jane Harrell, age 8, took her third annual school supply drive parish-wide this summer and what she collected could fill an aisle of a Target store. It stocks the shelves and classrooms of Rama Road Elementary now, an avalanche of abundance in a place that often goes without. Like their Rama Road peers, the youngest of Christ Church carry things as well, including worry about the world and a heart for helping. This September, our goal is that *all* of them carry hope in their backpacks, too.

### **Reflections from Rama Road Elementary: fences**

A main goal of The Micah Initiative is to tear down the fences that separate us from people in need. It is a sweet irony, then, that the biggest project thus far at Rama Road Elementary has been to build a fence. This is a very important fence because it protects the children from wandering dangerously near Rama Road as they play outside. Spearheaded by Burch Mixon who negotiated with CMS for months, and by the grace of an insightful and anonymous Christ Church donor, a 250-ft. perimeter fence now encloses the playground area. The only thing it separates anyone from is worry.

### **Reflections from Rama Road Elementary: we gather together**

Throughout summer and fall, relationships have been sown at Rama Road Elementary. More simply put, we've made friends there. And friendship doesn't take a holiday. Which is why feasts are being lovingly prepared this Thanksgiving for 50 Rama Road families who could use some extra blessings. Turkey and trimmings galore, from a big roasted bird to homemade pie and fixings enough for 10 with leftovers. Christ Church youth will label and decorate delivery boxes next week. Help has turned out in great abundance to make it happen and make it special. Our gratitude for Rama Road runneth over.