

A BIG BUZZ!

HOMELESS HELP WITH HONEY HARVEST

Students in John 3:16 Mission's homeless recovery program harvested over 500 pounds of honey from hives on Mission property this summer.

Wearing bee-proof suits, students removed the honey laden frames from the hives, extracted and then bottled and labeled the honey for sale.

The honey is sold under the name **Beeloved Trading Co.** (see sidebar) and proceeds help support the Mission's work with the homeless.

"This is the leading edge of our social enterprise program at the Mission," said **Rev. Steve Whitaker**, the Mission's CEO. "The purpose is to provide our students with work therapy and to prepare them to re-enter the workforce when they graduate our program."

While the students learn beekeeping skills, more importantly, they learn or re-learn the value of work and the habits that lead to success in any workplace.

"We're talking about things like showing up on time with a good attitude and being ready to work," Pastor Steve said. "They get the satisfaction of doing a job well, making a good product, and being rewarded for their efforts."

The Mission currently manages 24 hives at its Refuge location just northwest of downtown Tulsa. The program started in 2016 and there are plans to add to the beekeeping program and to expand into other social enterprise and work therapy endeavors.