

JOURNAL NOTES
from the Youth Mission Project

June 14 and 15 written by our 12 and 13 year old youth.

June 14, 2007

Leena

Today we went to Antioch Baptist Church and the Cleveland Food Bank. We learned how it felt to be homeless. We didn't become homeless but we talked with some of the people and we served breakfast. That was my favorite thing. It felt good to serve others.

Next we headed over to the food bank. This part was confusing. We had to sort different meats, sausage, and other frozen goods in different boxes. My hands became really cold. At the end of the day, it felt really good to know you were helping others by your actions and helping them to be feed.

Today we went to St. Augustine's Church, InterAct Cleveland Food Pantry, and helped to clean up at a youth shelter. After that, we helped to prepare for lunch and then we had to leave. My favorite part of the trip was opening up the cans of peas.

From the church, we went to a food pantry and either doubled bags or packed them. I was packing bags and helping to reload the shelves. I loved packing the bags because we had a special system that made it a lot easier.

We came home to the church to eat lunch. After lunch, we went to the youth shelter to help clean up the games. I liked the shelter a lot. The kids were very nice. I felt badly that they had to leave home because they were being mistreated. Helping out here was the best for me.

After this entire experience, I felt really badly for all who were hungry and wished I could do more for them. I really look forward to doing this again soon.

Gretchen

Today we went to a church and served lunch and people were very pleased. Then we ate lunch and had a prayer; it made me cry. Then we went to the Cleveland Food Bank. We sorted meat; it was cold and fun. I never thought volunteering would be fun!

Max

I was surprised how much food was needed to feed the poor and homeless people of greater Cleveland. It was fun to put food in boxes for the homeless. I filled 37 boxes. I felt a sense of pride in serving the poor. I saw how much I really have and how less fortunate others are. I really learned a lot today.

Therese

Today I found out how it felt to actually help and serve someone in need. It felt very awkward and weird, but also very kind and thoughtful. Being with people and others who have almost nothing really makes me think of what I have and how much stuff I don't need but want desperately. I felt

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horrible when I turned away a woman and her daughter when we didn't have any more chicken, but I had a plate waiting for me with all of the food on it we were serving that day, including a piece of chicken and I gave it to them. It would be hard to imagine what it would be like if I didn't have all I have today, but in comparison to the people I met today, I think it would be horrid.

This morning I woke up at about 5:50 a.m. and left at 6:15 to reach St. Augustine in time to serve breakfast. We sorted bread and ate breakfast. After breakfast, we went back to sorting bread. After we finished the bread, I was asked to cut up pieces of pie for lunch. As soon as I finished the pie, I began to sort a tray filled with plastic cups.

Then we went to InterAct Cleveland. There I sorted canned goods and bagged food into double paper bags. I thought that was a whole lot of fun.

At the end of the day, we went to a youth center to pick up things and clean up things. I helped to pick up games and sort them. While at the youth center, I learned about what they do, the kinds of age groups they take in, all of their rules, and everything they do to keep the clients healthy, physically, and mentally.

Overall, I had a great day and hope to do more volunteering in the future.

Mary Anne Bromelmeier

Jonyrma did a nice job preparing the group of thirteen for the day. We went to Antioch Baptist Church to serve lunch at 11 a.m. This is the same place our family served food on Monday night. Max and Leena cut a huge apple pie and put the pieces on the plates. Then Becca put the plates on a tray and took them to serve. We all had to wear aprons, gloves, and hairnets. Therese served the clients. There were about 40 for lunch at 11 a.m.

From Antioch, we went to the Food Bank. At St Augustine's, we set up about twenty tables of 8 people each. Then 40 people came. Most of them were men and they opted to sit alone at a table. I talked with a couple, (the Cavs had lost game 4 by 1 point last night). We made a quick impact when they needed to open many cans at once. We opened 20-30 cans in less than 15 minutes. Then we went to the InterAct Food Pantry. We did a good job as a team bagging items. Max was the stacker, Leena and Therese were the baggers, Midori passed them the food, and I grabbed items from the shelves. In about an hour we bagged about 60 bags.

Finally, we went to the West Haven Shelter. We met a man who told us about the shelter. He has worked there for about five years and seen over 600 youth during that time. The shelter holds about ten people, 12-17 years old. My biggest reflections are how I would like to find the time to do more. I also wish Ernst and Young would change its resource approach. Watching "Pursuit of Happiness" makes me wonder if there are people in the Cleveland area who have the skills we need but are unable to let us know.