



Youth Faith In Action Teams

Harrisburg: *JD Weaver, Tara Davoodi, Sophie Holmes, Christina Pannullo, Henry Burd, Callie Burd, Kate Welch, Michael Gauthier & Soccoro Sliker-Diaz (adults: Lynn Koenig, Dave Welch & Nick Haigler).*

VA's Eastern Shore: *Sophie DiFrank, Sophie Clarke, Zachary Snowden -Moore, Jenna Kronenberg, Allison Welch, Sidney Flumbaum, Meghan Murphy, Victoria Pannullo, Daisy Lewis, Joe Anderson, Lindsey Schneider & Casey Bettencourt (adults: Rachelle Cummins, Gunnar Gunnarsson, Rev. Jenny & Nick Haigler).*

Tell us about the projects you were assigned to.

Daisy: I helped at a daycare called "Kids Club" as well as tutored elementary school kids, sorted for a thrift store and socialized with adults who have brain injuries at "No Limits."

JD: *My group vacuumed a church, organized tools for a farm, setup a food bank and other cleaning and organizing.*

Christina: The first two days we went to a house to help sort through stuff of a couple who were in poor health and were hoarders. My group also went to ManorCare where we visited residents.

Tara: *Our group did mostly yardwork, picking up trash, cleaning up an alleyway, and working at a foodbank.*

**Did you connect with anyone in the community that you served?
Did you learn something from any of these interactions?**

Rachelle: We met a 91 year old at the nursing home who had lost her husband 10 months ago and said that she needed something to do so she decided to volunteer at the nursing home to work with the residents. She showed us that it's never too late to show up in a community and serve others. Really wonderful witness for all.

Tara: *I connected with a man who had been working at the foodbank for six years and really knew the community. I learned a bit more about the community's demographics and how the foodbank did its best to serve people in need.*

Joe: The people in the community were very welcoming and I got to connect with many of the kids who played soccer.

What surprised you this week?

Socorro: That everyone was so friendly, kind, and welcoming to me.

Gunnar: *How energizing it was to be engaged with the community we were serving, especially the children and their families associated with Kids Club.*

Tara: What struck me was the conditions in some parts of the area, such as all the drug needles in the alleyway.

What's something you remember from the evening programs?

JD: The theme of the "Good Life" and how it's much deeper than being rich and partying all the time unlike it's portrayed in the media. It is much more spiritual and related to how you connect with God and other people in the world.

Daisy: *The leaders sharing personal stories about themselves and their personal struggles in the hope that they can help someone else. They selflessly made themselves vulnerable.*

Michael: People worship in different ways.

Christina: *At evening worship we sang songs and did "Yea Gods" which is when you say something that someone did that you are thankful for or when you saw God that day and everyone responds with, "Yea God!"*

What was the hardest part of the week and why?

Christina: The hardest part was sorting through stuff in the attic of the couple who were hoarders. I wanted to come and help them in ways that I thought best. As a volunteer, I had to remember that however the resident wanted us to organize, that is what we should do even if it meant putting things in the keep pile that I thought were useless.

Socorro: *The hardest part was leaving because I got to really love the Harrisburg community.*

What was the most rewarding part of the week and why?

Rachelle: Giving energy and time to people who really need the help and knowing that God is going to do something amazing with all of this faith, hope, and love.

JD: *The fact that we got to see all of the people we helped which allowed us to see that they were extremely grateful and happy we were there.*

Any God sightings you can tell us about?

Daisy: The selflessness of a woman in the community whose young son was severely injured that week after being hit by a car, but who still showed up to Kids Club and drove home around 10 kids a day and cooked a meal for our group on the final night.

JD: *I saw God in the people in the community that were helping themselves, in the volunteers, and especially in the people who ran the church that we stayed in because they sacrificed their whole summer to serving God and the community of Harrisburg.*



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