

# REFLECTIONS From Our 2010 MISSION TRIP

This summer 40 teens and 10 adults attended a Group Workcamp Mission Week in Buffalo, New York.

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**“Undeserved” – Buffalo, New York**

**June 19 – 26**

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“My second group workcamp was no less exciting than the first. This workcamp in Buffalo, NY was the largest this year with 429 campers at 60 worksites, 14 parishes from 7 states and a total of 12,300 hours of community service completed. Adding to this is 2,030+ food items and \$1,500 to the local food pantry. This year has been very rewarding and I can't wait until next year!” *Kathryn Golab*

“This Workcamp experience was nothing like I expected it to be. Just think about it: **Workcamp**. It doesn't sound like a place to spend valuable summer time. However, to me it was totally worth it. Workcamp was actually fun. I met tons of awesome people and new friends. The whole atmosphere was just astounding to be a part of. This was my first Workcamp and I would do a second....or even a third. It truly is a once in a lifetime experience. The camp provided me the opportunity to grow closer in my faith and to the other people that went on the trip. I have never been as close to God as I am now. I think that it was one of the best benefits that come from the camp, besides making lasting friendships.” *Shannon Desorey*

“Workcamp 2010 was great! It was awesome to be able to meet new people, while experiencing God in new and different ways. It was all so amazing to be able to change the lives of our residents. Everything was so fulfilling!” *Katie Fuller*

“This camp was first and foremost a blessing. In a time where God and I were growing apart, he gave me the courage to take time out and go. Now, however, I am happy and satisfied with my faith in Jesus. An interesting part to share was how amazing it was that 450 kids praised God in song every day. Finding that today is very rare. My crew, (who I worked with), were some of the most amazing people I have ever met. The programs were fun, faith filled, and important to using the theme “Undeserved”. We had fun, danced, sang, got emotional, and my crew won the “big game extravaganza” in which each of the 70 crews competed. All of these together along with free time brought the entire camp together as a family. My resident's name was Loretta Rhyme and she was an elderly lady who took care of her 6 grandchildren almost every day. She needed a new porch and we gave it to her. Even though my crew faced some tough situations with supplies we finished and grew closer through them. By the end of the week, I couldn't imagine not waking up to see them, but I know we'll keep in touch. The most important thing: everyone became one family with God.” *Teddy Delforge*

“This week has given me the opportunity to put others before myself. I have met so many amazing people at camp and bonded with the Dom's Youth group. It has pushed me out of my comfort zone and made me stronger in my faith. Seeing my resident so happy at the end of the week was the best feeling in the world.” *Sarah Sladky, Adult leader*

“I had an amazing week in Buffalo at Workcamp! I met so many amazing people and it was one of the most amazing weeks of my life! I absolutely loved my crew and it was so cool how we all became instant friends. The programs were very inspirational and truly helped my faith grow. I feel that this camp has really changed me for the better! I cannot wait to go back next year!” *Julia Hilbert*

“Being my second Workcamp I was constantly comparing this year to last year. I have found that this year was different in many ways. But whether those differences were good or bad, once again Workcamp had changed my life once again. My crew took a few days to bond and really open up, but I'm hoping to keep in touch with them. The friends I made were also a big highlight to my week, keeping me occupied off the work time. Overall, the people, whether it be the staff, youth leaders, or the teen's themselves, were accepting and loving toward everyone. One big difference from last year was I was fortunate enough to be helping a family. Though we only scraped and painted the outside of their extremely long house, we affected their lives. Most days the family kept themselves shut up in their house. On Thursday we brought 2 extra shirts and invited 2 of the boys to come paint with us. My crew and I bonded with them and loved seeing the youngest boys face light up the second we put a brush or roller full of paint in his hand. The next day 2 more older boys joined us. The mother couldn't thank us enough for taking care of her sons and playing with them. I hope I never forget them because even though I really only knew them for about 2 days I love those little boys. Even though the programs weren't the same as last year they were always powerful, I grew closer to God this year than last. Our Thursday program really got to me. I found that I knew deep in my heart where in my life I was wrong and felt guilt and regret. What struck me the most was feeling God's forgiveness, acceptance and love. My God sighting was this Down's syndrome boy that came up to Shannon and I when we were sitting around the cross. I hadn't met him, but I knew his name was Zoey. He hugged us and about a minute later whispered “I love you”. Later he prayed for everyone and went around praying with those sitting around the cross. I don't think I've seen more of Jesus in anyone else. I am truly blessed to be able to on this trip for the second time. Every time I come home I feel I have grown so much in my faith. I can't wait until next year because with its differences will come another uplifting and powerful experience.” *Ellie Stueckroth*

“I think this helped me grow WAY closer together with my friends. I loved the feeling of finishing my project and helping others out.” *Susan Rutkowski*

“Workcamp was awesome! It was an amazing experience and I definitely want to come back next year. The best part was my crew and my resident. They were amazing and I don't think I'll never have a crew as great as them.” *Holly Ordianans*

"Camp was an opportunity to get away from the things that often hold us back in life, and allow us to offer up our time and abilities to someone else. I was able to join a group of kids that were so inspiring, they worked together and never complained or fought. They all had completely different backgrounds, and if not thrown together in this unique situation, they may not have been friends at all. However, they all shared stories of their home life and talked about their viewpoints of everything from God to music to favorite restaurants back home. The common goal of finishing the project was their common thread, and I was able to watch it all unfold, which was very special. On a spiritual level, I felt enriched, because I saw the power that Christians can have by coming together. Our resident repeatedly told us what a great thing we were doing, but as for me, painting his garage was "no big deal". The big picture was uniting as Christians to help others, and in the process spreading positivity and God's love." *Nicole Fischer, Adult Leader*

"During my experience at workcamp I learned a lot, met new people, and helped serve others. The things that I learned is having faith and being able to serve other people. God will be with you no matter what. At workcamp I had a crew and four other people were with me working on an elderly mans deck. I grew really close to more people including my resident. A God sighting that happened while at work was when my resident came outside and talked to us about his whole life. Our resident even joined devotions with us. Devotions are when we come together and pray and worship the Lord. This week I have become closer to God and grew really close to other people. It was a life changing experience for me, and I will definitely going back next year." *Taylor Hall*

"Through this experience I was not only able to become closer to God, but I was also able to form new friendships and learn more about myself. The Prodigal son discussions helped me to realize that even through our fault and sins that God will always love us and be there for us if we need guidance. I was able to truly put my faith into action by using my gifts from God in order to help my resident and the community of Buffalo. I learned that because we are made in the image and likeness of God we are called to be stewards to one another in order to strengthen our relationship as children of God. This experience was truly spectacular because not only was I able to help paint my residents house, but I was able to realize how much of an impact I made through my work. I believe that I have grown in my faith throughout this experience, through the work that I've done and the friendships that I've made. Ultimately through this workcamp I was able to deepen my relationship with God and thank God for giving me the opportunity to go on the trip." *Audrey Ackley*

"Workcamp was quite possibly the greatest experience I have ever encountered. This one single week taught me the importance of family. My five person crew and leader formed a bond that will live on forever. This week I also comprehended the meaning of being spiritual. My own personal spirituality had never been defined until this past week. I know now who I am, where my current relationship with God is, and where I want the aforementioned relationship to be taken. I am so thankful for this mission trip opportunity. It allowed me to delve into and answer some of the questions I possess about my faith. I thank God for the opportunity to serve." *Maura King*

"Every year that I go to Workcamp I seem to find something new to take away, this year was no exception. It is always a pleasure to see the youth grow in their faith while serving people who are in need. Seeing this transformation in the youth also helped me to put my faith back into perspective. Workcamp 2010 in Buffalo, NY was a tremendous experience for me!" *Steve Pawkow, Adult Leader*

"Lean on me, when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend, I'll carry on. For, it won't be long, till I'm gunna need, somebody to lean on."  
*Alison Markey*

"I learned so much about how much God is at work with our youth at St. Dominic's, and all those other participants at the workcamp. Our high school youth really have very mature spiritual lives, some perhaps more than others as you would expect with any group, but all who went on this trip are very much aware of the importance God plays in their lives. They have a very strong sense of service to others and I sense a yearning and a capacity to serve even more than they already do. I personally saw Christ in the faces of everyone at one time or another on this trip. And that makes these workcamps truly fit in with our Mission Statement at St. Dominic's. This week strengthened my own personal faith and relationship with God through the wonderful relationships I experienced with workcamp participants and the resident family we helped. I feel truly blessed to have gone on this trip and hope every adult to consider taking advantage of future opportunities. I definitely would like to do it again." *Jerry Buting, Adult Leader*

"My first workcamp was an amazing experience. I learned so much about my crew, my youth group, other people at camp, and also about myself. Daily programs brought us all together each morning and night and gave us a chance to be reminded of what we were at camp for – to serve God. The music sang at these programs was awesome. It created a spiritual experience for everyone because it was upbeat and made us excited for the day. Overall, my camp experience was one that I will never forget, and I look forward to experiencing it again." *Hailey Rowen*

"I thought of positive experiences as luck. Now I will see the positive experiences as God sightings. When everyone works together as a team we can accomplish great things. Many hands make light work." *Liz Sendelbach, Adult Leader*

"This is one of the best weeks I've ever had. It was so easy to make friends and I have definitely grown closer to God and my faith, it really made me realize how lucky we are and how we are undeserved. I can't wait for next year cuz I am sure it will of course be better every year I go. Work camp 2010 was great. Hearing the residence really open up on what they have been thru made me feel comfortable and feel like I was home, they treated us like family. Feeling like you belong is the best feeling in the world."

*Carolyn Attwood*

"Since this was my first workcamp, I wasn't exactly sure what to expect. I knew people who have gone to workcamp and have told me about their experiences, however that isn't enough. I needed to experience this for myself and my week in Buffalo was so meaningful that I can't put it into words. Everything we did at camp was awesome and focused on some spiritual aspect of our lives. I loved the morning and evening programs where the campers joined together and shared their faith through prayer and song. It was so touching to see hundreds of people sing their hearts out no matter if their voice was pitchy and squeaky. In addition, I also loved getting to see people I haven't seen in a while and meeting new people. Most importantly was the tremendous impact my crew, my worksite and my resident had on me. They taught me the value of hard work and the negative impacts of being self-centered. I saw God working through them and in them. I learned a lot from my week in Buffalo and I hope my experiences and memories will stick with me for the rest of my life. There was no way for me to expect what workcamp would be about, however this was truly amazing!" *Rachel Sladkey*

"My experience at work camp was great. I loved meeting all kinds of new people, mainly from Wisconsin. They were all nice no matter what age you were everyone had an open mind about meeting people. The crews were so mixed up and crazy. My crew had their good days and their bad days. Some got along better than others but we all had great attitude and a wonderful resident who cooked us a meal on the last day (and may I say, it was the best New York meal ever). We got our site done and another we helped with, God did so many good things this week because he had us get a great resident and a wonderful crew. I would definitely do it again next year. The services were also good at night, we sang great songs and some of them really got me thinking and got me to cry. I'm so undeserving to go on a trip like this, but God still lets me with his love. Thank you God." *Elise Howland*

"Work camp 2010. . . No regrets. This week I learned that even faith the size of a mustard seed can go such a long way. We have so much and they have so little. Yet, they are twice as thankful for everything, so much more than we are. God does wonders and the sooner the world figures that out, the better." *Joey Grandelis*

"Throughout this experience, I learned more than just how to paint a house or to build a porch. I learned the importance of God in my life and how to let him in. I saw him during this time through the crew I worked with, the friends I made, and the people I helped. He showed me how to live in a way that is more beneficial for not only myself but others in my life. This week has changed me for the better and I hope to maintain a strong connection with God as I continue on in life." *Hannah Coulin*

"My work camp was a lot of fun this year. I loved meeting my crew and working. I grew closer to God by working with my crew on our project. This work camp is one to remember forever. I made a lot of new friends." *Nick Attwood*

"I experienced many different things. I had the opportunity to serve a community and to serve people who really needed help. Every day, my residents told me how grateful they were for the effort we put in. Every day, my resident joined us for prayer and was a very strong believer in God, which helped me to grow closer to God. I had a good experience overall and glad I went." *Anna Sendelbach*

"Work camp for me was a spiritual renewal through the service I did, the people I met and the things that I witnessed. I witnessed God working through the Holy Spirit to bring my crew together and finish the job that we were given. I could feel the Holy Spirit's presence alive in the people around me at this camp. I am leaving Buffalo closer to God, and that is all I could have asked for." *Andy Miller*

"Work camp was such an amazing experience for me! I truly saw God at work in so many ways – through the kindness and extreme gratitude shown by our resident, the way that my crew worked together and grew closer, and in the whole camp joining in singing and praising God. I learned that you can do so much good and change someone's life in just one week, and it's so fulfilling to serve while building your faith. From camp, I'm taking away new skills, friendships, and a closer relationship with God that I hope to build on in the future. I'm so grateful to have had this opportunity." *Meredith Klinker*

"My time at camp was amazing! Camp was welcoming and by the last day we were family, just like our resident said. Through songs, prayer, games, and worship I strengthened my faith in God. The theme was undeserved and each day we found out more about ourselves, our friends, our family, our faith, and our futures. The experience is life changing and you get to listen to other people's stories. I will definitely be attending work camp next year!" *Claire Pytlík*

"My work camp experience was a great one. I made new friends and I also came closer to God. I learned that complete strangers can come together and do wonderful things. That the power of Jesus helped a lot of us to become closer to God and that a group of about 400 can change the lives of people and a whole community." *Danny Attwood*

"My first experience at work camp was truly life changing. By being surrounded by a large group of devoted teens I grew closer to God. I also realized how grateful I should be for all that I have because I built a porch for an elderly couple who didn't have all that and seeing their faces when we revealed the finished porch helped me reach this realization. I also made friendships that I know will last a lifetime. By the end of the week I felt as if I had known my crew members for years. We had all really opened up and shared some emotional experiences together. These teens were all ages and from all over the country but that didn't mean anything when we were all having fun and working hard at camp together. Through work camp I have become more spiritual, grateful, and developed more friendships."

*Sara Brzozowski*

"Being at camp has been very eye opening. Throughout this week I've learned a lot about my faith, myself, family, friends, and future. I created new friendships within my crew, with my residents, my own youth group, and other youth groups. It's very mind blowing to see all these people so dedicated to not only helping out, but their faith too. Going through everything made me reflect on myself too, I learned that you can't be selfish in this world otherwise it won't turn out to its fullest. Also, my attitude has changed to one where now I know God is always watching me and that I should be making every decision for him. When I get home, I'm determined to be more faithfully active, treat everyone around me with kindness, and continue to keep making a difference. This has been one of the best weeks of my life and I can't wait to come back." *Kristy Stevlingson*

"This was my third work camp. What really made my week this time was my awesome crew. It consisted of my adult leader and a 13 year old boy, both also from Wisconsin, as well as a 15 year old girl and 16 year old boy, both from Pennsylvania. Even though there was a large age span and many differences within us, we didn't let that bother us or slow us down. We all connected and grew closer every day. By the end of the week we didn't even call each other best friends, we called each other family." *Annalise Wilcox*

"Camp was extremely fun. I enjoyed meeting new people from all over the country and becoming friends with them. It was amazing how so many different people could come together with one common goal: to change someone else's life. That's exactly what each crew did and during that process we bonded as a group and our faith in God grew. I can't wait to go on my next work camp." *Ari vanWilligen*

"This was my 2<sup>nd</sup> work camp and I had an amazing experience, I grew so much in my faith and my relationship with God. I realized how much you can inspire somebody from volunteer work. I made friends that I will know for life. I am walking away from this work camp with best friends, a much stronger faith, and knowing that you make a difference in the world. I highly recommend this experience. I will be coming back next year." *Megan Heitman*

"Workcamp was an amazing experience. I hope to go back in the future years, too. I met so many awesome people that I hope to stay in touch with and maybe see them next year as well. I'll never forget all the memories I'm bringing back home with. This camp really made me notice how much my faith means to me and how well we have it back home. I can't wait for next year." *Sarah Hepperla*

"My camp experience this year was one that I will never forget. I made new friends that I will keep in touch with and hopefully see them next year. See we paid a lot of money to come here, but the experience was priceless." *Abbey Tanguay*

"Workcamp was amazing!! I couldn't have asked for a better youth group and work site!! The theme opened my eyes of how truly undeserving we all are to loved by God. It's also made me realize how fortunate we are to live in a community and in a world where we take sooooo much for granted. Then coming here we realize that we don't deserve the things we ask, want, and need. I loved going to Niagara Falls with my mom and another youth group besides ours. Thanks for such a great time." *Meredith Rix*

"I never thought that one week would change my life, but through workcamp, it happened. Seeing all of the families that have so much less than I, but made the best of it really opened my eyes to how undeserving I am. The programs, my amazing resident, Carol, and an inspiring person named Zoey Mercado allowed me to embrace my faith and to let it grow – big time. I will definitely do this amazing experience again and I thank God for this opportunity." *Angela Verish*

"My experience in Buffalo this year consisted of meeting a bunch of new people, strengthening my relationship with God, having lots of fun, and helping a person who is one of the most faithful people I know. This person was Sandra Shaw. She was my resident this year. The minute I met her I knew she was special. She helped me to see that God works in mysterious ways. He brought me there for a reason. Sandra is a wonderful faithful woman who lives to serve her family. By the end of the week, she was calling us her family and that was one of the best things I experienced in Buffalo this summer. Sandra wrote us a poem. In it, she called our crew "workcamp angels." That is my God sighting of the week. To know that I touched someone's life enough to have them call me an angel. Sandra had the chance to read her poem at our evening program and I broke into silent tears. That touched my heart, and I will never forget her. I will definitely come back for a third year of workcamp next year!" *Kaitlin Malliet*

"This was my 5<sup>th</sup> workcamp - my 2<sup>nd</sup> as an Adult Leader. I would have to say that although I felt the actual camp was lacking from those in the past, what made it awesome for me was the youth. It never ceases to inspire and amaze me the way God works through them during the week. I grew close with them, and in turn, became closer to God in the process. If you have never attended a workcamp before, I highly recommend it. It may not only change your life, but also those around you. God bless." *Jeffrey Kowalski, Adult*

"Workcamp was such a great experience. I came in wanting a better relationship with God and I received that easily. Through the singing and devotions I became much closer to Him. In addition, my crew and resident exceeded my expectations. I grew to love all of them and even though we were all different, we meshed. The best, however, was seeing the tears in Gail's (my resident) eyes when she saw my crews hard work & perseverance in building her a porch & painting a room & a hallway. Overall, workcamp will forever be the highlight of my summer. I would like to attend next year." *Matt Wilcox*

"I was amazed by the teens on my crew. The work ethic that they possessed was the best I've seen in all my workcamp experiences – 6 trips." *Joe Ordianans, Adult Leader*

"I never thought that one week could change my life. After having gone to the Buffalo workcamp I can honestly say that I am a different person. Spiritually, my faith grew immensely and through my experiences with my resident and my crew I have become more appreciative of what I have and more humble. However, even more surprising, I had never dreamed that I could become so close to a group of people. I have made friendships that will last a long time in my crew and youth group. I'll really miss the friends I made from other states, but if I could do the experience again, I would." *Grace Buting*

"This is my second workcamp and I loved it. It was filled with friends from all across the nation, faith, and fun. Everyone is so open and nice it is easy to work together for a worthy cause and genuine people. Workcamp 2010, No Regrets!" *Ryan Kohl*

"With this being my third workcamp and last year having been so great, I questioned myself a little at the beginning of the week as to whether this trip would be my best one yet. In a different setting than usual, sleeping in a gym rather than rooms and being spread out across a campus, I tried not to compare this year to my last two trips, which I attribute to naming this workcamp again my favorite one so far. The relationships I have built with old friends, new friends, residents, and most importantly God, at least I hope will stay with me for a long time to come. The bond that was formed between my entire double crew of 12 people amazed me considering we had never known almost any of them before. By the end of the week, they are some of my best friends. Every evening at the program, I saw God present in all 429 campers as we sang, danced, played games and prayed. I had been counting down since last September to this week and it did not disappoint me at all. I loved every second of every day and cannot wait until next year! ☺" *Patrick Jordan*

"This was my third camp and although there were some things that I didn't really like about the set up this year, I sort of embraced the changes and had fun anyway. I had a double crew and everyone worked well together. Plus, I really got to know a few of them and I feel like I've known them for way more than a week. Our resident, Flo, was so grateful and her positive outlook on life was an inspiration to all. Her grandchildren were adorable and I'll never forget them. I met many wonderful people, made some amazing friends, grew closer with the friends I already had, and strengthened my faith all in the course of a week. Also, between many laughs, I helped make a difference in my resident's life. Another awesome experience and I highly recommend it. I'll be back next year." *Michelle Chiang*

"This year was the first time I attended workcamp. I didn't know what to expect, but I was pleasantly surprised. I was put into a group with three guys and one girl, and of course the first day the girl was too sick to come out to the site. Being stuck with all guys was quite the experience; I was soaked by the end of the day by spray bottle happy boys. On God sighting of my week was when my group member, Conner, opened up about his father and how he passed away. This was great for me since I started to open up about my father's death, which was really something amazing because I don't open up my personal life to many and I had never talked to someone about my struggle. This showed me it's okay to open up and let your wounds heal and that God is there willing to help you through them overall. I am very glad that I went to workcamp; out of something I didn't know what to expect I got something that will be part of my heart forever." *Maggie Sinclair*

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## Summer Outreach Camp (SOC) 2010 - Reflections

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### You might first be wondering what SOC is?

Our primary goal is the spiritual growth of teens. As the ultimate expression of Christian Service, camps offer a fun, challenging, faith-building mission adventure they will never forget. SOC is a short 4 day time of community service offering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders an opportunity to perform hands-on home-repair projects and help with other work for people in need in our Waukesha County area.

We were housed at St. Williams, in Waukesha, who graciously opened their doors to us! We used the classrooms for sleeping, gym for eating, and the parish hall for programs. SOC begins with a program on the first evening and then again in the morning, during which participants learn more about the camp, get to know other campers, and receive important training for the meaningful work ahead and most importantly pray together. Youth start each day with an early breakfast, gather for Morning Prayer and then head "off to the sites." When the work day is done we return to get what we need to shower and go swimming at Buchner Pool. After dinner we hold our evening program. Programs include fun activities, learning experiences, dramatic devotions, guest speakers and more. We end the night with a snack and youth group devotions.

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This past August 4-7, 67 teens, 15 adults, 4 Youth ministers all representing 5 different parishes came together for our 5<sup>th</sup> SOC - working on 8 homes and for 2 organizations in Waukesha County. Our Theme for SOC 2010 was "Build to Last" Matthew 7:24-28

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### Here are a few reflections from some of the St. Dominic SOC attendees.

"For 3 days we were sent away from our family's to participate in the S.O.C camp. During those 3 days we slept in dorms, worked hard hours on our designated worksite, swam in a pool, and made great friends. But those are the littlest of things we did, we also brought smiles to our resident's faces, changed not only their lives but our own, learned things about ourselves we didn't think we were capable of and defeated the hardest of challenges. My team had the most challenges but we learned to work through it together as a team and make the best of it. I think that after my experience working on Mother Rose Mary's house who was a hoarder I really started to notice how I take life into a new perspective. I stopped taking what I have for granted. I started caring about the things I already have instead of the things that I wanted. I personally think the dorms were a ton of fun because we all lived together, slept together and ate together and became more of a great big family instead of just friends. I really enjoyed this experience and can't wait for next year!" *Tiffany Bianco*

"I had a great experience at summer outreach camp. It was fun and an enlightening experience seeing how other people live, and it's an experience that I will remember forever. I especially loved working with different people and making more friends. The morning and evening programs were terrific (as well as the food) and the songs we sang had such great meaning. I definitely will be returning to summer outreach camp next year!" **Finola Hughes**

"I had a great experience at summer outreach camp. This was my second year attending Summer Outreach Camp. The experience was the same yet different. Each group(s) is assigned a resident. The group(s) goes to work on that resident's home. The jobs are already picked out for us. My group was in charge of cleaning out her gutters, cleaning out her garage, and scraping and painting her whole house. We had two days to do the job. We also do much more besides working on houses. Every afternoon we got to go swimming at Buchner Pool. We started and ended the day with programs. The programs included group activities, singing, and praying. We also had free time every night. We could go in the gym, outside, or in the dorms. I left Summer Outreach Camp this year feeling really good. I had made new friends, grown closer to God, and had a lot of fun." **Kaitlin Trokan**

"I had a great time helping others at SOC. I met many new people and also enjoyed time with old friends. I made a big difference in someone's life in just two days. Our resident was amazed when we completed our work at her house. SOC taught me to be thankful for what I have and helpful to those in need. I really enjoyed being a companion to our resident; she looked forward to having us at her home and sharing stories with us. I also really enjoyed helping others whose homes needed our work, faith and care. SOC was a great experience. I hope to participate again next summer." **Emily Ott**

"I had a great time at SOC. You met new people, not just from your crew, but from the activities, games, and breaks we had throughout the day. By the end of the three days we had gotten to know everyone in our crew very well, through working, resting, and our devotions which helped us to remember why we need to help people, like our residents, who need us to fix, clean, or clear things for them. Their gratitude at the end also made us feel like we were doing some great things, and that this is what Catholics need to do." **Evan Wetzel**

"I have gained a lot during my time at the summer outreach camp. I have made new friends, I found out things about myself I never knew before, gained new experiences, and many new memories. The first day we arrived at our resident's house, she was standing at the door waiting and ready to greet us. She was very nice; she was talking to us, telling us stories, and letting us use her bathroom. During our time at her house we were able to scrape and paint the house, cut down a tree, pull out weeds and clean her garage. I was able to meet lots of new people and I realized that I should be very appreciative and grateful for what I have that others may never even see in their entire lifetime. It felt really good leaving her house on our last day with a big smile on our resident's face." **Molly Jordan**

"While at camp we talked a lot about building to last. We all need to build on a solid foundation and that should be God. We need to build on God so all of our choices and actions are through him. When we were helping our homeowner we were not just simply painting her house we were giving her people to talk to. We were showing her how we were building on our foundation by helping others. We are called as Catholics to build on God and live out his word. We were living out the service he called us all to do. So we all should build to last and chose the solid foundation, rock, not sand which washes away." **Teegan Jessup**

I had a wonderful experience at Summer Outreach Camp. Our crew worked at La Casa Village, an apartment complex for people with low income. We painted many things including a garage shed. We also helped to spruce up the area. Some of the older residents there loved us. On the first day, an older lady bought us sodas. The second day, we got root beer floats and got to sit and talk with some of the residents while we ate them. Besides working at La Casa, we also spent time talking about our faith, singing, and praying. It helped me to focus more on my faith. I met and learned more about lots of people and had a fun time playing in the pool and hanging out with my friends. I am glad I took this opportunity and am excited for next year. **Molly Wetzel**



**Thank You**  
*for the many ways you supported our efforts to attend this year's camps*



**If you would like information on Workcamp or SOC 2011**

- As a sponsor
- A teen attendee
- An adult chaperone (must be 21 years of age or older)

**Then call the Youth Ministry Office at 262-781-3480 ext 252**