



# **REACH**

## **WORKCAMP**

**Madi Eisenbeis-**

**This was my first REACH experience. Leading up to the trip I didn't know what to expect and I was incredibly nervous. Everyone reassured me that I would have fun and meet tons of new friends. On the trip up I was so tired and sick of being in a car for 16 hours. When we stopped at the church everyone just did their business and were knocked out. When we finally got to North Carolina I was so happy!! HOT but happy! I was very nervous to meet my crew. We got settled into our room and I absolutely loved our roommates! Everybody got along great! I met my crew and found that I was on a double crew, but there were some other first timers too. They all made me feel welcome and at ease. We met our neighbors and the other two houses next to mine were all family. They were all so welcoming and happy that we were there to help. Our house needed a lot of work but we got it all done. I really bonded with a girl on my crew named Natalie. We shared our stories and really helped each other. I know that I made a great friend in Natalie and for that I am incredibly grateful.. I can't wait for next summer so I can go to my next REACH camp! Thank you!**

**Dakota Timm-**

**This was my fourth year at REACH. This year was unique, because I was in a different environment. Most of the population in Monroe, North Carolina is African American. This made me nervous to meet my neighbor because I wasn't sure how they would react to us taking over their home for the week. When I met my neighbor on Monday morning she was very shy and didn't really say anything. This made me even more nervous because I thought that I was right and they didn't want us there. Then later that day we asked our neighbor, Hallie to eat lunch with us she said no but thank you for asking. We asked her everyday, but she always said no. On Tuesday, I decided to take the time to go talk to her. When it was just the two of us in the room she really opened up and didn't stop talking! We learned so much about each other that day and I think we were both excited about our growing relationship. After that I made it a priority to sit down and talk to Hallie every single day. She lived at the end of a dead end road. The two trailers 50 feet in front of her house were occupied by her grand kids and great grand kids, so there were always people in and out of Hallie's house. I tried to talk to all of them and to get to know them. What I found was an amazing family that all love each other and were willing to do anything to help their family. I was talking to Hallie's grandson toward the end of the week and he told me how he had a job that he loved and was going into his second year of college to be an accountant or business owner. He also said that he willingly quit the job that he loved to take care of his grandma. He was so sweet and it made me happy that Hallie is surrounded by people who love her so much. I cried on Friday when we left Hallie. She almost cried telling me how much she appreciated everything and how much she was going to miss us. I already miss her so much!**