



# **REACH**

## **WORKCAMP**

**Pastor Roy Backus-**

**In the middle of a busy summer, REACH Work Camp was right there. Working with Ray, Rose, John and Caroline was a great blessing. Our youth stayed engaged and active in every dimension of the work, worship and liesure. We all grew from our shared purpose in the Lord, and the upbeat attitude of everyone fueled the spirit and attitude of the group. At the end of this tiring week is a satisfied heart knowing we helped our neighbors and came closer to God and to one another.**

**Brandon Grossi-**

**Since I went to Newfane last year, I figured I had this REACH thing pretty much figured out You go, get put into a crew, serve, have fun, and then go home. What I failed to realize is that each time you go to REACH you get a brand new unique experience that is similar to previous years, but also definitely not the same. Like last year, we got up early and loaded up the vans, and like last year we all piled in and had a loooooong car ride. But about then things started to change. For one thing the place we were going is North Carolina, not New York. I don't know if you have ever been down there in summer time, but if you haven't allow me to fill you in: It's hot. And humid. And they have huge bugs. But it wasn't just the climate that was different. The crew I had was twice as large as the one I had last year, and I feel like I bonded with them a lot more. There was Ben, who fought a fierce battle with a hornet with me, and Abbey, who talked to me for hours as we painted room after room, and Jack who taught me how to work on the roof. Our neighbor's name was Galatia. She was 95 years old. Her daughter Fae took care of her and was by her side throughout our time there. Both of them were kind, welcoming and genuinely grateful for the work we were doing. Speaking of which, last year the work was easy, but this year the work seemed impossible. We had to scrape the entire outside of the house, paint the entire outside of the house, paint the entire interior, take out the cupboards and paint them and put them back in, put in a new floor, fix the ramp on the shed, and fix all the windows. I have no idea how we managed to do it, but everything was finished just in time on Friday. This year had some differences back at the school, as well. The guys from our church got a huge auditorium to themselves to sleep in every night. The wake-up calls were live this year (I wasn't too excited about that) and I made twice as many friends as I did last year. What I learned the most from this trip is that when you're serving God, it's never the same as the time before.**

**Zac Mitchell-**

**REACH every year has shown me various lessons that I have learned and I have grown stronger in my faith. The people I met, the stories they shared, it has shown me that everything happens for a reason and you are put in this life because you are strong enough to live it. No matter what others say, you are made perfectly, flaws included. Just be the person He made you to be and live for His glory.**