



REACH WORKCAMP S

Caroline Cummings-

There are multiple reasons why sending youth to a REACH mission camp is worth our congregational effort. Not only do the attendees get to help those in need, they learn new mechanical skills, compassion, understanding, a chance to reflect on how to live with Christian values, and of course, be exposed to outstanding Christian based music. BUT it is not just about the tangibles but also the intangibles that participants receive, such as the relationship building that goes on. Through the design of the camp, our mission trip participants develop new relationships with people from other churches, neighbors, adults from other churches, and also deeper relationships among themselves and with the adults they travel with. Nowhere else in my experience have I ever been where 450 people are singing praise songs together, praying together, and building together. For me it is a wholly unique and growth oriented experience. I have had the opportunity 'to hear God calling in the night.' It has allowed me to 'go where I am needed' and allowed me the chance to put my passion where there is a need. I greatly appreciate the opportunity that our wonderful congregation has provided, and I wholeheartedly believe that this mission trip design changes the lives of the young people of our church who go.

Jolene Allen-

This was my first ever REACH experience. When I first thought about going to REACH I was only nervous about how far away it was and the amount of time I would be away from my family, but as the youth group began preparing for the trip more worries kicked in, such as meeting my crew and neighbor, making friends, packing everythig I needed , and what we would do in the van for 15 hours. Now that it is all said and done I realize that my anxiety was for nothing. My first experience went smoothly and I had an amazing time. The rides there and back brought my youth group so much closer together, emotionally and physically. The vans were very packed. That week I really saw some amazing things. I met my work crew and neighbor and I made an incredible bond that I didn't expect in such a short time period. This experience will stick with me for the rest of my life. I have so many people to thank for making this trip possible. I'd like to thank the church, our youth leaders, Pastor Roy, our families and the REACH staff.

Matt Moore-

I had a lot of fun at REACH this year. I enjoyed getting to know my neighbor and helping work on her house. Christine, my neighbor was very welcoming when my crew came to her house, and was eager to help and support us in anyway she could. She is a God fearing lady and loves God with all her heart. At the end of the week she was very happy about the work we had done and sad that we were leaving.