



THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF SAINT HELEN

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Summer Service Trip 2024



To: The Youth of St. Helen (9th-12th Grade)
From: Patti Gardner/Youth Minister
Re: **2024 Summer Service Trip to WILMINGTON, DE !**
with *Chwc -Catholic HEART Workcamp-love, serve, connect ☺*
Date: **July 14 – July 19, 2024**

Hello!

I'd like to invite you to apply to take part in an exciting adventure. This trip will give you the opportunity to make new friends, learn a bit more about yourself, and take a closer look at what we believe and how we put it into action. Although this experience will entail a lot of "giving of yourself", what you will receive in return will be so much greater than what you give. This trip will for sure be an "eye opener". Our youth group started going to Chwc in 2012 and spent every summer at a different location up until the pandemic. Our last trip was to Richmond, VA. The youth that attended came back with a better understanding and appreciation of God's given gifts and opportunities that are here for us in our community. They learned to love and care for one another more, "echo" God's love and their whole thinking about poverty was changed.

This trip is for you if...

- You enjoy working as a member of a "team"
- You will be able to keep your commitment strong when the excitement levels off, there is **tons of work** to be done and it is very hot!
- You are flexible and open to growth and willing to try out new ideas
- You can put up with the discomfort of the heat, among other things
- You can go along with the rules and guidelines that will be established in the best interest of the group.
- You are open to growing in your relationship with God and all his people

Travel:

We will be driving rented SUV's. This trip is approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Accommodations:

We will be staying at **St. Mark's High School**. Boys, girls and adult chaperones will be sleeping in separate classrooms. There is AC throughout the building. Bring your own sleeping bag and air mattress.

Meals:

Catholic HEART WorkCamp will be providing a well-balanced diet: breakfast, lunch and dinner. There will be plenty of options for vegetarians but if a camper requires a special diet they are required to bring their own food or supplements.

Work Sites:

Each day will be spent doing such things as painting, housecleaning, yard work, home repair, helping to build new homes for low-income families, volunteering at a daycare center assisting the needs of underprivileged children or working at homeless shelters that distribute food to those in need.

What will team members do when they're not involved in their service work?

Back at "home base" participants will have the opportunity to take part in a mix of recreational, cultural, and prayerful activities. In the evenings we will have prayer and reflections on what our day was like, very much a "team experience," providing participants with the opportunity to learn, serve, relax, and grow together. Daily Mass and rosary and Adoration will also be offered.

What will this service trip cost?

This trip will cost us a total of approximately \$12,000.00. Each participant will pay a **\$325.00 deposit** to secure our space and worksites in Wilmington, DE. **All team members will be required to participate in fundraising activities to cover the balance of the trip.**

Who will be selected?

It is hard to say. We need a balance of girls/boys in different grade levels, and with different talents. We need kids who have had experience working at the shelter, local food banks, soup kitchens, etc. We are looking for those who live our Parish Mission Statement by "*Worshipping God, Serving Others and Making Disciples* all year long."

All participants will be required to participate in 1 "Random Acts of Kindness" with others on the team.

Applications/Information Meeting:

Applications will be given out at the information meeting on **Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 7:30 PM in the gym**. You must be present at this meeting with a parent if you wish to apply! Applications will be put on our website after 1/31. However, those in attendance at the meeting and who return the application **by Wednesday, February 14** will be considered first.

If you are accepted to be part of the team, the first meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 26th at 7:30 PM**. (A parent is required to attend the first meeting with you)
Your attendance at all meetings is required.

