

Bright and early on the morning of January 12th our group of twelve - Vanessa Ceilley, Jackie Etchingham, Kelley Flinn, Dan Handrich, Alexa Hollnagel, Marla Jacob, Tara Marcell, Amanda Muehlbauer, Stephanie Pampel, Bryant Scherer, Annie Turner and Maria Van Hoorn - took off to New York City through the SNC TRIPS (Turning Responsibility Into Powerful Service) program. Each year, the NYC trip deals specifically with Poverty and AIDS. We lived on the floor of Trinity Lutheran Church on the Lower East Side of Manhattan for the week. Sunday was a free day that we spent seeing the sights of the city. We took the Staten Island Ferry to see the Statue of Liberty. Then we traveled to Chinatown and got a chance to see the 9/11 Tribute Museum. We wandered around Central Park and Times Square. We ate dinner at The Hard Rock Café in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the city. By then, we were all exhausted from our full day of sight-seeing and we were ready to get some rest so we could start our week of service.

God's Love We Deliver

We spent three and a half days working at God's Love We Deliver on Spring Street in Soho. God's Love We Deliver cooks and delivers meals to people who are homebound due to HIV/AIDS, Parkinson's Disease, cancer, and a number of other illnesses, free of charge. On Monday we were introduced to the wonderful staff at God's Love, including Derry, our leader. They treated us extremely well and made us feel at home in their kitchen. At God's Love, we chopped vegetables and prepared and packaged meals to be delivered the next day. We were all given the opportunity to go on deliveries with one of the drivers. We went on different delivery routes in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, or the Bronx. This was our favorite part because we got to interact with the people we were cooking for.

Project Achieve

On Thursday afternoon we spent the day going in and out of businesses to leave flyers for Project Achieve. Project Achieve conducts research for HIV/AIDS prevention. We broke off into groups of two and covered several blocks of Times Square. Many businesses welcomed and had great responses to the flyers.

Housing Works

On Friday afternoon we worked at Housing Works, a used bookstore that donates all of its profits to HIV/AIDS research.

Catholic Worker House

We also went to the Catholic Worker House, part of the Catholic Worker Movement founded by Dorothy Day in the 1930's. Dorothy Day opened her home to the homeless and poverty stricken in New York. We helped run the soup kitchen and sorted items at the houses for men and women.



TRIP Reflections

My favorite thing about the trip was delivering the food to the patients because it was neat to see the food we made actually go to the people and to see how appreciative they were.

-Amanda

When I was delivering meals to a center for mentally disabled kids, a girl came up to me and said with a big smile, "God's Love is here!" and gave me a high five. It was amazing to see how appreciative she was.

-Alexa

Being able to serve people, while becoming closer with new friends and growing in my relationship with God is what made the trip so amazing and memorable.

-Stephanie

I learned independence, a greater sense of self, teamwork, and a greater appreciation of what I have at home.

-Vanessa

This trip made me realize that even the littlest things you can do to help someone else may mean the world to that person.

- Marla

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our TRIPS donors. We could not have gone on this trip without you. We raised enough money to cover our expenses, with money left over to donate to the mission of God's Love We Deliver!