

RESURRECTION YOUTH MINISTRY WORK CAMP REPORT



During the week of July 19-25, a group of 51 youth and 12 adults traveled to **Valley City, North Dakota** for this year's work camp experience. This area was hit by floods during this past winter and early spring caused by heavy rains in the area and melting snowfall. The people of the city and lots of volunteers spent hours filling sand bags to place around homes to protect them from the rising rivers. As was noted while we were there, not many people come to remove the bags afterwards. Families are trying to adjust to having walls about 200 feet long and 6 feet high around their homes. Below is a recap of the work performed.

VFW HALL: The basement of the VFW Hall had several inches of mud. A crew shoveled the mud into buckets and then did a bucket brigade up the steps to dump it. They then made sure the basement was clean and ready for use again.

THE WINTER SHOW: This is an indoor rodeo very popular in the area. The National Guard had moved pallets of sand bags to the parking lot. At least one crew went out daily to cut the bags open and dump the sand in the lot.



SAND BAG HOUSE #1: At this house, 2 crews removed a 180 foot long sand bag wall (about 5 feet high). They first built a dam with them at the bottom of the hill. Extra bags were dumped along side a river or loaded into a dump truck to be taken to a beach.

SAND BAG HOUSE #2: (See picture at top of page) At the home of a Deputy Sheriff, crews removed a 200 foot sand bag wall (about 6 feet high). The bags were loaded into pickups or dump trunks. Some of the sand was moved to another area of the property where it was dumped to form a beach for the family along the river. The dump trunks took the other sand to a community beach.

SAND BAG FARM #1: Crews removed sand bags off of a clay hill into a front end loader driven by the homeowner. It was moved to an area by their barn where it was dumped.



SAND BAG FARM #2: About 200 bags were removed from the property. They were loaded onto a dump trunk and removed to a community beach.



PASTOR'S HOME: The pastor of the Methodist Church sustained damage to the basement of his home. A crew gutted the basement. There were only 2 small windows in the basement. The crew installed 2 larger windows and thus had to dig 4 foot window wells outside.

HOUSE PAINTING: Crews worked on the home of a man who has respiratory problems. The Knights of Columbus had started repairing and painting the exterior of the home. Our crews assisted by scraping, sanding, priming and starting on the first coat of paint.



NOT ALWAYS HARD WORK: The youth worked very hard during the day and enjoyed some fun times in the evening. These included a trip to the movies, a bowling outing, and a cook-out at a local dam. Valley City State University (where we stayed) opened their pool one night for us. The city pool also opened their doors free of charge for us on the last day. Several of the youth attended Eucharistic Adoration one night and the entire group went to morning mass on Thursday. The youth were divided into house patrols as well as their work crews. These groups rotated on a daily basis to take care of cooking, trash, making sure the areas we were staying in were clean and leading morning and evening prayer each day for the group.



During our stay in Valley City, North Dakota, several articles were written for the **Valley City Times** and the **Jamestown Sun**. Several of the youth were interviewed for a report on the local news. Below is from the article **Teen Volunteers Leave Mark on Community** from the **Valley City Times** on July 24:

“...and I’m impressed with the kids. Of course the help is welcome, but I’m also thinking of the benefit this effort is to these young volunteers. This is a character building activity of the highest order. In an age when life is, materially, pretty easy for teenagers, these volunteers are seeking ways to challenge themselves. In a time when the dominant problem-solving model is the massive government program, they are practicing and developing the model of voluntarism. And in a time when many people feel a soul-sickening inability to affect change as individuals, they are learning that individuals are all that truly matters in creating change for the better. Thanks from all of us in Valley City, kids. The help you bring is most welcome, but even more important may be the lift to our spirits you’ve brought with you. The example you’ve set will live on long after the flood and is a memory preserved in our historical museum.”

