

AREA YOUTH RETURN FROM MISSION MINISTRY TO NASHVILLE

The First American Lutheran Church Youth League recently completed a week-long mission trip to Nashville, Tennessee. Fifteen area youth and four adults participated in the trip which began on Friday, July 16, 2010. Youth participating in this year's trip were: Abbie Beekman, Lauren Caldie, Lindsey Carey, Nathan Cox, Miles Exworthy, Natalie Flint, Maggie Henning, Travis Melland, Casey Peterson, Camille Sowle, Laine Stary, Halie Viestenz, Morgan Welch, Justine Woodworth and Sarah Woodworth.

The adult chaperones for the trip were Brad and Jane Weber, Mandie Caldie and Frank Votava. Including this year's participants, a total of 78 youth and adults have participated in the mission program through First American Lutheran Church.

On this year's trip to Nashville the group worked at the Nashville Rescue Mission Carl Resener Center, the Family Life Women's Center and the Second Harvest Food Bank of mid Tennessee.

The Nashville Rescue Mission is a nationally recognized Christian shelter and recovery program that serves Nashville and the surrounding area of Tennessee. Since its founding in 1954, the mission has provided not only meals and beds, but also support and long-term treatment for men and women with addictions and other debilitating problems.

The Rescue Mission operates two campuses, the Carl Resener Men's Shelter and the Family Life Women's Center. The Carl Resener Center provides many programs such as a transitional living program for males over the age of 18, meals three times a day for anyone who is in need, showers, clothing. The center operates as a shelter for up to 1,000 males per night.

On any given day the Nashville Rescue Mission serves approximately 400 meals for breakfast, 500 meals for lunch, and 600 meals for supper. Last year the Mission was able to serve approximately 700,000 meals with a goal of 900,000 meals for 2010. All of the food prepared at the Mission is donated thru programs of the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Last year the Mission provided homeless men and women with more than 700,000 meals, 232,000 nights of shelter and 70,000 articles of clothing, as well as showers, haircuts, 760 professional doctor's appointments and 100 eye examinations.

Once we arrived in Nashville the group was divided into 4 work teams that operated at 3 different work sites. Each day the teams rotated work at the Carl Resener Shelter with one of the teams daily working in the kitchen starting at 4:30 am. They assisted in breakfast preparation, breakfast serving, lunch preparation and lunch serving.

The youth also worked at the Rescue Mission warehouse organizing the many donations that arrive daily. In addition to the work at the mission, one crew assisted at the Second Harvest Food Bank of mid Tennessee. Work at this site consisted of sorting, organizing and packing some of the 39 million meals that are processed at the center annually. The FALC mission crew also packaged

approximately 10,000 pounds of supplies for hurricane relief efforts. Four of the female participants worked at The Family Life Women's Shelter serving food, preparing beds, and landscaping.

During our stay at in Nashville the FALC Youth Group helped in the preparation and serving of approximately 8,000 meals.

While working at the Carl Resener Center the FALC Youth Group served a record number of meals for supper for the summer of 2010 with over 700 meals being prepared and served in one sitting.

Besides our work at the Nashville Rescue Mission, we were able to fit in site-seeing to Memphis, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Mammoth Cave and of course the sights and sounds of Nashville.

This year's trip was the ninth trip for the First American Youth mission program. Previous trips have been to McGraws, West Virginia, Custer, South Dakota, St. Louis, Missouri, Lynn, Massachusetts, Coahoma, Mississippi, Monessen, Pennsylvania, Lame Deer, Montana and New York City.

A special presentation about the Nashville mission trip will be given at First American Lutheran Church on Wednesday, September 22nd at 7:00 pm and Sunday, September 26th at 9:00 am during the regular church services. All community members are welcome to attend.

A planning meeting for next year's 2011 mission trip will be held on Sunday, September 12th at 11:00 am in the Youth Room at First American Lutheran Church, 511 Madison Street, Oconto.

Students in grades 8-12 for the 2010-11 school year are eligible to participate in the FALC Mission program. Spaces for the 2011 mission trip will be limited. For additional information about next year's mission trip, please call Brad Weber (Youth Director) at 920-834-2479.



2010 FALC Mission Participants

Left to Right:

Brad Weber, Mandy Caldie, Camille Sowle, Lindsey Carey, Natalie Flint, Nathan Cox, Maggie Henning, Justine Woodworth, Sarah Woodworth, Abbie Beekman, Casey Peterson, Travis Melland, Morgan Welch, Miles Exworthy, Lauren Caldie, Laine Stary, Jane Weber, Frank Votava, Halie Viestenz



Meal preparation at the Nashville Rescue Mission

Jane Weber, Halie Viestenz, Casey Peterson, Sarah Woodworth



Serving Breakfast at the Nashville Rescue Mission

Abbie Beekman, Lauren Caldie, Justine Woodworth, Morgan Welch



Getting ready to cook at the Nashville Rescue Mission

Laine Stary, Miles Exworthy, Travis Melland, Nathan Cox



Hurricane preparation at the Second Harvest Food Bank

Nathan Cox, Laine Stary, Travis Melland