

“Do nothing out of selfishness or out
of vainglory; rather, humbly regard
others as more important
than yourself.”

~Philippians 2:3

Mission Trip 2013—Cass Lake, MN

Deacon Ed

19 April 1964

Tom Mittler

The mission trip to Cass Lake, MN was such an awesome experience and was a great first mission trip to be on. I really learned a lot from this trip while making new friendships that will last a lifetime.

On this trip, I learned a lot about other people but I learned a lot mostly about myself. While in Cass Lake I saw how much poverty there really was. Even though it was sometimes hard to see, at the end of the day I looked back and noticed that everything that I have I really take for granted. While moving food from the downstairs of the Boys and Girls Club to the upstairs, I realized that this was the only food that the kids that come there might get in a day. That really shocked me because when I am home I have food available to me whenever I want it, but most of the kids there only rely on the donations that receive in order for the club to buy food and from whatever food is provided for them at school. While walking the kids outside to their cars or to our vans that will drop them back at home I saw one kid that was walking by himself. A group of us walked over there and started talking to him. Then I found out that this six year old boy was going to be walking home to his house that was five blocks away. That really shocked me to see how those kids are really independent at such an early age, where when I was six my mom was walking me to my friends house that was five houses down on my block just to make sure I got there safe. The real eye opener that I had was when we made a craft with a little girl; she wanted to make a dream catcher. So two of us went over to her to help her make it, but she said she didn't want help. When she was all done with the craft she picked it up and handed it to one of the girls in my group and told her to keep it. The girl then asked if wanted to bring it home to her mom or hang it on her fridge. I thought that was a logical question, but then the little girl got a sad look on her face and said she didn't have a mom. That really shocked me and made me feel really grateful for what I have.

Tom Mittler

While working on the worksite, I really felt that I was helping the community. I helped a woman that needed her house scraped, painted, and cleaned. When we got there it looked like a lot of work, but when we got working it went by really fast. While I was working, I really got a chance to bond with a lot of my peers on the trip. We talked about everything. Even though I only knew a lot of these people for a week, it feels like I've known them for a lifetime.

This trip has changed my understanding of God because I see how God works and how He places people in our lives for a reason. For example, after arriving to the worksite my group was assigned to, we unloaded our vans and started working. Then my adult leaders were spending some time talking to the lady, Roxanne. That night, our leaders told us Roxanne's story and why we are working there and that really changed my view on why I was working on this house. I initially thought, "Ok, I'm on a mission trip. Of course I'm going to have to work outside and scrape some houses. It's going to be hard, but I'll do it anyway." But after hearing Roxanne's story it changed me to thinking, "Wow, I am working for God. I am helping this family be brought back together after their hard times they have had." Then later thinking about it, it wasn't all about me anymore and what I am doing; it was about what others are doing for me. If I never was on this trip I wouldn't learned as much as I did about me.

The next day we were on the worksite, I saw God in everyone I came in contact with. While we were painting, several cars came by and honked their horns and gave us a thumbs up. Also my peers were at the park fixing it and painting it when a little girl came up her and gave her a hug and whispered in her ear, "Thank you for making our park beautiful again." These two experiences really showed me that God is working with us and leading us to help others.

Tom Mittler

This trip has made me realize that I should be really grateful for what I have because one day it can all be gone. This trip has taught me to be grateful for everyday you live and for what you have because there are people out there that have it worse than you do, and you don't have it bad if you have stuff to complain about.

2013 Mission Trip Cass Lake, MN

This Mission Trip to Cass Lake has changed my outlook on my view of the world.

What surprised me most about Cass Lake is how well they care for the older residents in the nursing homes. They have them walking around, helping clean to keep them moving, & having them do exercises. There was this one woman Elyse and she's 103 with her birthday in August, and she was walking around by herself, reading the paper, cleaning, & talking to everyone. She looked and acted way younger than she was because of how well they took care of her.

I think one of the local guys named Tuffy made the most impact on me because he told stories about who they believed our God was... a woman because women give life. They never abuse women because of how they believe women give life and they are like their creator.

I learned when we had our cook out at Dream Catcher Park that if a woman dances with a child in her arms it means

that it's up for adoption
if anyone could go up to take
the baby then and there because
someone was dancing with a child
but they didn't know about
it at the time.

I'd really like to come back
to Cass Lake on another
mission trip because it was
really great to interact with
all the locals and children.

Mission Trip Reflection 2013
Mark Holan

The Mission Trip starts with a van ride. Van 2 Represent! So our ride was full of “Awkward” and included many helpings of “(American) Pie.” Around 6:00, I was “I’ll tell you what I want, what I really, really want” it’s to get to Minnesota. Through some sort of “Black Magic” our games of 20 questions ended after 4 questions. So riddle me this, “I have this rock, OKAY!’ Where did the rock end up? I think it’s with the vibrating pillow.

Enough inside jokes!

It had been many years since my last mission trip and I was very nervous. I might have been more nervous than my first time. I was no longer the experienced, kind of jaded chaperone. Everything and everyone changed so much, I was the new guy. I really didn’t know what to expect.

I started on work-site and I was in my “car wash” mode. “Everybody work faster, harder, more efficiently’. We have a fence to paint and nobody around us to disrupt the process. At a typical work-site, you have a family or families around to interact. At this site, we were pretty much alone. That didn’t help me.

I always thought I liked the working instead of Kids Club. I’ve always been wrong about that. It’s an eye-opening experience to sit down and talk to a 7 year old boy who is trying to be “hard” and prove himself when deep down inside, he’s just a little boy. A little boy who has the same needs as any 7 year old. He wants to be loved. He wants to connect with another person. He wants to feel important.

I met Kaden on day one of Kids Club. He had some sweet basketball moves. He dribbled like someone at least 5 years older and could hit legitimate 3’s. We talked a little and ending up eating lunch together. Day 2 is when I got to know him better. All he wanted to do was play basketball. He sat on the outside of the circle for a learning game. When I moved closer to the circle, he followed. When I sat in the circle, so did he. A friendship was formed. We spent the rest of our time together. We sat and talked while he did crafts. He told me about his sister and brother who died at early ages from disease. I didn’t ask and he didn’t say what type of disease. He

talked about his brother Trevan, who was there at Club. You could see the love he had for his brother.

I spent the first 2 days of the trip wondering if it mattered that we were there. Like I said, the work-site really didn't make me feel that we were accomplishing what we set out to do. That changed Wednesday night. Wednesday was the community cook-out and it was held at Dream Catchers Park. The same park we were painting. I looked at it with fresh eyes. We had gotten a lot of work done. It looked nice. Kids were actually playing there. Families were sitting at the tables we painted. The community had come together that evening. People were smiling and happy. We shared more than food, we shared conversation and laughter. Maybe a few coats of paint and some love can make a difference in a community.

So, I went into this trip not knowing what to expect. Scared. Nervous. I came out feeling closer to the teens, adults and God. I also came out feeling there was hope for Cass Lake and the many wonderful people in the community. On our way out of town, I ran into the mother of one of the kids from Club. She had a big smile on her face and tender words for our group. I think her daughter is going to be okay. I pray and hope that Kaden, Trevan, Miley, Alani, Brandon, Alex, Malique and all the rest will all be okay.

Jenny Summers

2013 Mission Trip Reflection

Coming on the mission trip was definitely one of the best decisions I made this summer. Going on it truly changed my life and it made me realize how blessed I am to have everything I do. I feel like a better person emotionally and spiritually because I feel as if I built my relationship with God more than ever the week that we were in Cass Lake. Everybody I met was so caring and loving and I feel so fortunate to have met them. Meeting and socializing with the kids at kids camp made me realize that you don't need much of anything to be happy. A few of the little girls I met such as Stephanie and Aubrey came from somewhat broken homes, but they were so happy and loving that you honestly wouldn't think they are from where they're from. The people that I met in the community doing the work projects and from the cookout were also so kind and welcoming. I had such an amazing time on the mission trip and I'm so thankful for everyone that made it so memorable. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity- I will never forget my mission trip to Cass Lake, Minnesota!

Reflection – Cass Lake 2013
Kay Kempke

It was wonderful to return to Cass Lake after six years. In some respects not a lot had changed, and in other ways, everything was changed. The poverty still exists, family problems persist, but there were also signs of joy and hope. Signs of people helping others, signs of friendship and camaraderie, signs of love for the children, signs of peace between people, signs of Christ all around.

I can't say enough about the teens and how they demonstrated the love of Christ throughout the trip – whether it was learning to deal with an unruly child at camp, a friend's concern, 10 piggy back ride requests, a 6 hour delay, or a hot day with lots of work to be done – they committed to their tasks and each other, and worked together for the good of others. A wonderful sight to behold!

I also appreciate the adults and young adult leaders who were always ready to lend a hand, share their stories or songs and build their connections to our youth. St. Mary's and St. Julie teens and adults early on, figured out how to work together so all could focus on truly the most important thing – sharing God's love with others.

I hope this experience will remain in our hearts and minds throughout – so we all can focus on the most important thing – sharing God's love - and showing His love to ALL.

Cass Lake Reflection Tom O'Donnell

As it was with my first mission trip I had to ask myself "what did I get myself into?" I have managed over 100 employees in my career how could this be difficult? Being asked to lead the mission trip to Cass Lake was a surprise since I never expected Deacon Ed nor Mrs. P to not go on the trip. Did they know what they were doing?

Of course my first trip as leader there is an issue with the vans and our trip is delayed by 7+ hours but the teens were great. They were waiting since 6am but that didn't matter to them. They were all talking and hanging out. Maybe this is a sign of things to come? We finally did leave just after 1pm and everyone is relieved but we all know that we have 12-13 hours to go before we set foot in Cass Lake.

We arrived!! Ok it is 2:30am but we are here and all safe. The teens were great along the way. Everyone is tired but we get in and set up quickly and go to sleep. The next morning although we are all tired still the teens are ready for the day. Whether they go to kids club or a work site they are ready to work.

Cass Lake is part of an Indian Reservation and I know that many reservations have high unemployment, high occurrences of drug and alcohol abuse, crime is high and in many homes there other family members help in raising of the kids rather than parents. I am concerned about everyone's safety but I am also concerned for the people of the town. Will we make a difference?

My first days were spent working on a Charlie and Grace's house. We had several things to work on from staining the deck to cleaning windows and screens. Charlie is 11/16 Cherokee and the rest is European and French Canadian. Grace is not Native American but is very knowledgeable on the local culture. Grace spent most of the time on the porch talking to the teens as they worked. She has had YouthWorks paint her house in prior years and you can see she enjoys the teens being there.

Charlie is a musician. He plays the guitar in a band and has led an interesting life. Charlie sat with us and told us about the days in the 1970's and playing in a band in Las Vegas. He really lit up when he talked about those days. But family called and it was time to come home to Cass Lake. Charlie still played but just in clubs and bars in the area. Family was important to Charlie and although he liked living in Vegas it was time to come home.

Grace was born in southern Minnesota and moved north with her family. She and Charlie have been together for over 15 years and both have kids from a previous marriage. Grace is Charlie's biggest fan and understands his culture. She is proud to talk about it and what it means to Charlie. She was great with the kids and really enjoyed talking to them. The kids also had a chance to understand with the Native American culture meant to her and Charlie.

Kids club was an interesting 2 days. Picking up and dropping off the kids was an adventure but it was amazing as these kids all knew where each other lived but also looked out for each other. These kids traveled several miles just to go to the activities. This was the central part of their day. They ran out of the house to be picked up and had to be talked out of the van when we dropped them off.

The other part of the kids club was Miley. For a 5 year old girl, she had spunk!! She was the queen of the camp. Miley was attached at my hip for the day and she was in charge. I think this was the only way she was going to get attention. I did meet her parents and she does have older siblings so she may not get all the attention while at home.

I have been trying to think of ways I was moved or grew in my faith while on this mission trip. Was there a deep meaning that I am missing?

As many of us do, we look in the wrong places. We are not seeing the signs of God's work. We traveled to and from Cass Lake safely in the middle of the night and thru a driving rain storm on the way home? Who was watching over us?

In Charlie and Grace talking about their lives in Cass Lake and their families. To Charlie talking about his life and coming home to help family. How do these people open up and talk to total strangers?

In Miley, having complete trust in me and others. To all the kids who we pick up and drop off without knowing who we are at all. Who gives them this trust in others?

God was with us every day in all that we did. From driving and working at the sites to helping the kids in the club. It was in meeting people in town, witnessing God's creation from all who we met and from a small stream that becomes the Mississippi River. God was all around us in everything we did and do.

The challenge for all of us is to keep God in all we do.....

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. Rom 12:4-5

This verse greatly reflects St. Julie's mission trip to Cass Lake, Minnesota. The members of our church and a church from Wisconsin worked together to help the broken, but hopeful Indian community of Cass Lake, Minnesota. We not only repaired and built homes and parks, but we also repaired and built relationships with the Native American townspeople and members of our own church. God brought his members together on this mission trip to help this community as well as our two churches. Whether it be making a child laugh at Kids Club, or making an owner of a house smile at a worksite, together, we made an impact on Cass Lake, Minnesota.

This Mission Trip was my third one and I was blessed to spend it with my own family as well as my TNT family. Every year when the week of mission trip approaches, I always get so excited. There's something I love about the long van rides and lack of sleep during the whole week that can't be explained. Several things happened this week that put a smile on my face. This mission trip I connected with many people. The Youth Works leaders were the best ones yet. Jes was the leader I got the closest with. We shared so many similarities and I felt as if she was someone I could look up to in my faith. As it says in the above

verse, we all have different “functions”, or skills. These leaders were all skilled at different things. They used these skills to their benefit, making as big of an impact on all of us as possible. I also built a relationship with Grace, the owner of the house I worked on. I chose to take time and sit with her for a while. We sat and drank lemonade and just had a lovely conversation. I realized that just taking some time to talk with her made her day a little brighter. Kids Club was another place where relationships were built. We each had our own “buddy” that we spent most of our time with. My buddy’s name was Alex. Alex and his brother Malek refused to talk to anyone the first hour or so of the day. Eventually they warmed up to me and by the end of the week we were best friends. One thing I will always remember about this Kids Club is teaching the two boys how to tie their shoes. They were so happy and proud of themselves when they got the hang of it. Alex and Malek may have lived in a difficult place, but that did not stop them from smiling. Finally, I made relationships with the members of the two churches. Each and every one of us has a certain “function” that God has given us. These “functions” were used this week to help benefit this town. The relationships I’ve built over the past couple of years will be ones that I will always hold dear to my heart. It truly is an amazing thing that a common belief can create such strong friendships. Belonging to St. Julie has been one of the greatest blessings I could ask for.

We all came on this mission trip because of the common belief in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the reason why this trip was so successful. He brought us together, and together as members of Christ, we accomplished a goal, and changed the lives of many.

- Eric Kempke

Eric Kempke

I would have never asked for a better group of people to be around than TNT. They are my family and I don't know what I can do without them. Almost everyone one of my best friends has come from TNT one way or another. This mission trip was really special to me this year because it was my last one. I have done four mission trips and this year was my second favorite next to Cairo, IL. The main reason why this year was so special is because the youth workers leaders. They really reached out to the participants and they seem to be in the same situation as everyone else. They were right by your side if you weren't in the best mood. I never had any leader connect with me this much at all, until this year. The second reason is that I haven't connected to this many people in a mission trip before. I have literally met at least four possible best friends on this mission trip. Even people from the other church were really cool to be around and talk to, and that means a lot because over the past couple of years the other groups haven't really meshed. The only downside to this mission trip was leaving, I met so many great and tremendous people and I don't want them out of my life. I am proud to say that TNT has been a part of my life and will always be a part of my life. I will visit TNT much as I possibly can. Love you all!

Josh O'Donnell

Mission Reflection

Hands down my favorite mission trip so far. I learned so much from the community as well as everyone from our group. It was life changing to hear all of the stories told by the people in the community, and learning about their culture from Tuffy. It really helped me to learn to better respect other cultures and religions and see the similarities behind them. Hearing some of the stories from their culture helped build my faith as well. I heard a story about a great flood around the same time that Noah's ark takes place. Without God how could we have stories passed down from the same time, halfway across the earth. Through this trip I've also made old friendships stronger, and made new ones that will last a lifetime. After learning so much, and meeting so many great people, I can't wait to go back, and I really hope that we do return to Cass Lake!

When I decided to go on the mission trip, I didn't know what to expect. I imagined myself painting houses or helping with some other community project. Instead, I worked with the outrageous sports camp, and as cliché as it sounds, the trip really was an eye-opening experience. Although the kids were difficult at times, they seemed to truly enjoy the opportunity to play basketball after kid's club. They loved to play lightning, or as we call it in Chicago, knockout. I think I played more knockout in those four days than I had ever played in my whole life!

At the start of the week, I thought that I could make a big impact on the kids' lives and teach them a lesson. As the days went by, I realized that I couldn't create monumental change. Yet by participating and playing with the kids, I could make small connections with them. Just the opportunity to play basketball with older kids brightened their day. In the end, I learned more from the kids than they did from me. Their town is partially broken by poverty, yet the kids still come with smiles on their faces to sports camp, ready to play basketball. I have learned from their positive attitude and take their optimism with me to college. No matter the circumstances, I will now make the most of any situation.

Julianne Kennedy

Pluchar, Edward S:(ComEd)

From: smcp6@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 4:36 PM
To: Pluchar, Edward S:(ComEd)
Subject: Fwd: Add Johnny's reflection to your packet

-----Original Message-----

From: smcp6 <smcp6@aol.com>
To: tom.odonnell9 <tom.odonnell9@att.net>; sweetmo85 <sweetmo85@att.net>; abemca <abemca@sbcglobal.net>; mkjamr <mkjamr@comcast.net>; MarkHolan <MarkHolan@aol.com>; shity2 <shity2@yahoo.com>; eliselillian <eliselillian@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue, Jul 30, 2013 4:35 pm
Subject: Fwd: Add Johnny's reflection to your packet

Dear Mrs. Pluchar,

This mission trip was by far my most emotional and spiritual trip I have taken with TNT. This trip was extra special because I had the chance to be an adult leader. This role definitely shaped the entire trip for me.

One of the perks to being an adult leader is coffee. This helped me get through those 6 45 wake up calls. As we gathered for breakfast I couldnt help but notice how each church group (there were two that went) were sitting at the same tables, having great conversations, and acting like they had known each other for years. The adult leaders had their own table, usually, but i preferred to mingle with the kids. I tried to sit with different groups during all the meal times.

It was clear that the Youth Works leaders knew what they were doing. After breakfast we were separated into work site and kids club. My first half of the week was work site, where we got to help paint and Indian couples house. They were both very nice people. The lady offered us lemonade, and the gentlemen talked to me about how he was in a band and played guitar. That part was very cool for me.

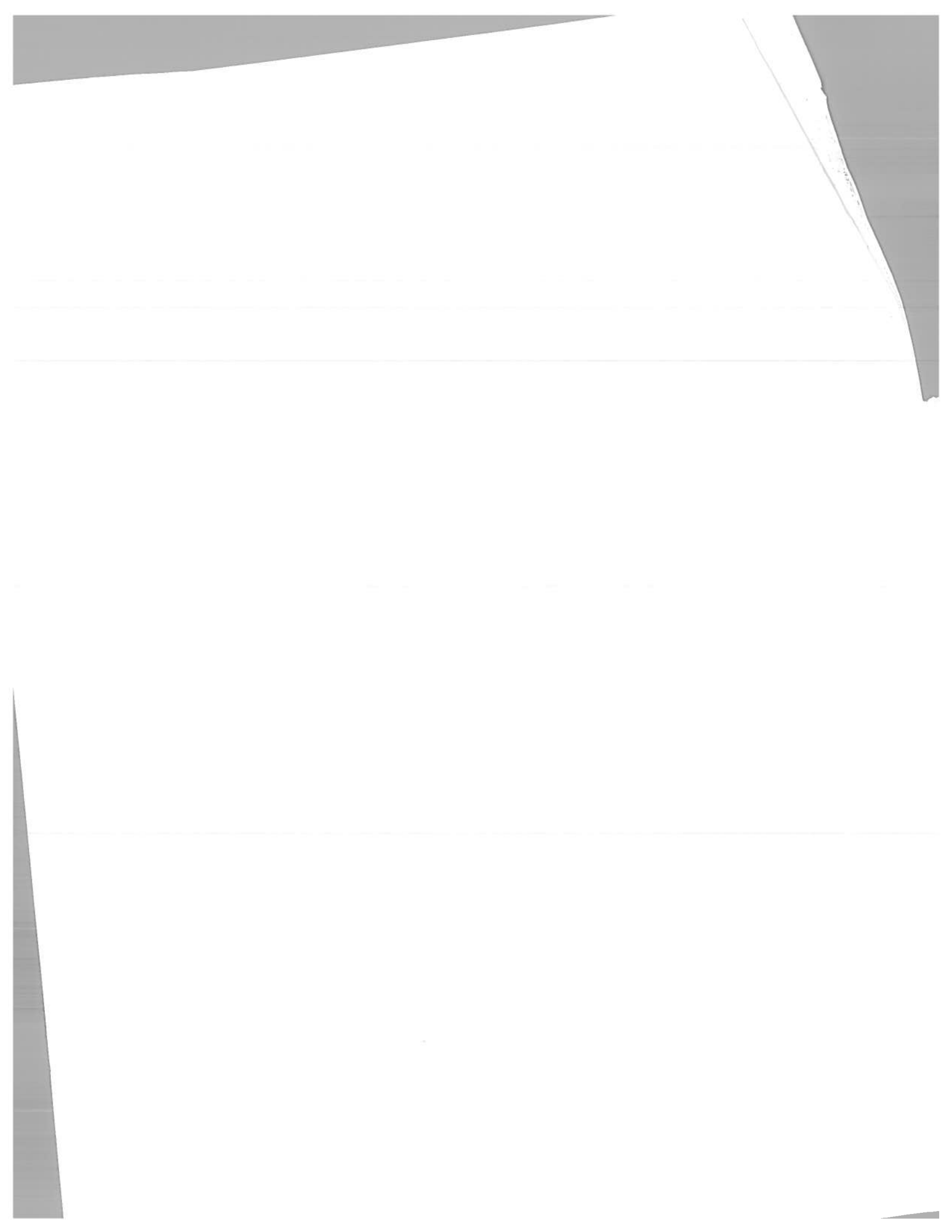
It was hard for me to not help out with all the painting and washing. I was told that it was best to let the kids do it and I just supervise. I still helped :) (and supervised). 4 hours seems like a long time when you are standing out there in the heat, but the kids were full of energy the whole time. You could really tell that they were proud of what they were doing.

Kids club was difficult for me. I got attached to one little girl named Sarah. Sarah was no joke better at basketball than I was. I did not feel very cool as she continued to beat me in "around the world". After a couple hours, lunch time came. At least 5 kids would ask my for shoulder back rides, and I would have to tell them that I already told Sarah I would give her one. Thankfully Sarah was on the lighter side of some of these kids. It was great to see the free lunch program given to the kids. You could tell some of them were pretty hungry.

After a long day we got to enjoy some free time. I like to call this time sleep time, considering that is what I wanted to to. (I only slept one day during free time)
I brought out the guitar about 4 days into the trip and people seemed to like it! I really enjoyed playing along with the youth groups guitar player at night when we sang some Jesus songs. Me and Elise also played a couple of songs for people.

Overall I loved this trip. I felt like I was at home, even though I was so far away. I ever expected the adult leaders to treat me like an adult. It's just not what im use to, and I am so gratefull for it. Thankyou so much Mrs. Pluchar for letting me go on this trip. I really, really, really liked it. Please invite me to go on the next TNT trip. It really spiced things up for me and I feel like a better person. I need that feeling sometimes. Thanks again, sorry this wasnt a super long reflection, perhaps the song will make up for it!

Johnny Benz



Carl Evans

Cass Lake Mission Trip Reflection

Everybody on the Mission trip definitely remembers my hardship of the week. I am a huge Blackhawks fan, and on the first night of the trip, the Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup. In my excitement and joy, I started running around and leaping in happiness. After one of my jumps, I came down on my ankle in a very wrong way and it twisted to one side, causing me to severely sprain it. Fortunately, there was an emergency room close by and my parents drove me there immediately. After the short trip, the doctor told me that it was not broken, just sprained. Thank God! That night when I went to go to sleep, I started thinking about how limited my actions would be and how I didn't think I would be able to do any of the work projects for the rest of the week. This made me very upset, so I tried to shake it off and go to sleep. When the morning came, I got ready for kids club and was a little sad because I love doing the work projects. However, once I got to kids club and met some of the kids, I had such an amazing time. One of my closest friends from kids club was TrayVaughn. TrayVaughn and I became inseparable. I had so much fun interacting and playing games with him. From him, I learned that no matter what ethnicity you are, what background you come from, or how rich or poor you are, you can become friends and find things in common with everybody and anybody you want to. What I learned from this mission trip is, even if you run into an obstacle that interferes with your plans, ruins your day, or upsets you, you must improvise and try to make the best out of it, no matter how

Carl Evans

Cass Lake Mission Trip Reflection

hard it may be. My ankle was difficult to improvise with, but I still had an amazing week with everybody who accompanied me on this journey. I had such a fantastic time on my final mission trip, and I want to thank Mrs. P for providing my family, friends, and I with such an amazing opportunity. These mission trips change the lives of so many people for good, and I am so blessed that I have been able to go on them for the past four years.

Thank you again, and God Bless.

Carl Evans III

John Letz

Mission Trip 2013

First off, the car ride was extremely long, and I didn't get any sleep but that was my fault. My van was extremely awesome, with the people who were in it and the car ride was nice and safe. Everyone was very nice and sociable, ~~with~~ and I had no problems with anyone. The food was great, ~~break~~ breakfast was basically just cereal, but there's nothing wrong with that. Lunch you got to pack for your own self and the sandwich sandwich was always delicious. Dinner all ~~of~~ four days was a very great, my favorite meal ~~was~~ the tacos. The first two days I was assigned at kid's club. I loved kid's club, the kids were great with positive attitudes and they never seemed bored. Of course with all the piggy back rides and shoulder riders my back was dead by the end of day 2 but other than that it was great. The last two days I had to do work's site. Work's site was better than I thought. I personally don't mind painting and that's what we did, plus the fact that the person's house we were working on was very sweet and kind and she even brought us lemonade to drink. The place that we slept at was a middle school that was ~~so~~ really clean. Everyone slept on the

John Letz

Floor except for me, I had my own cot. The showers were freezing after the adult leaders ~~q~~ used them. Then there was club, Club I didn't really mind, ~~a~~ the stories were interesting but I hated the singing. The advice they gave us during club was very helpful and I will try to keep it in mind throughout my life. Overall this mission trip was enjoyable, worth it, and ~~quite~~ fun. I met a lot of people both in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. I hope to keep in touch with them later on in life.

This year's mission trip was my first mission trip, so I was in a different position than the rest of the teens my age. I had heard that mission trip is something you HAVE to experience at least once. After going on the trip, I would argue that it is something you should experience many times. I am extremely regretful that I waited until my last chance in high school to go, but I know I can look forward to years of chaperoning in a few years!

I struggle with mild anxiety so I was looking forward to going on the trip because being busy usually lessens my anxiety. But I did not realize just how much this trip would help. I was less anxious the entire week of mission trip than I have been in a very long time! Part of what made this possible was being around a group of people who do not make judgments, who accept everyone for who they are, who make the best out of every situation, and who just want to help others out. This is the kind of group of people that I need everyday in my life.

The other thing that really helped my anxiety was helping other people out. For some reason, thinking for about what other people need rather than what I myself was thinking distracted me from all the anxious thoughts. I was able to concentrate on making someone else happy and that in turn made me very happy.

One of the best moments that I experienced on this trip was during a van ride while two other girls, a chaperone, and I were dropping the kids from kids club off at their houses. The last kids left were two boys named Alex and Malik. We had been sharing candy I had all day, and they loved getting shoulder rides from all the teens. Their sweet little smiles warmed my heart, and when we arrived at their house to drop them off, we asked them for hugs. They gave all three of us girls hugs and then

they puckered their lips for kisses. We gave them our cheeks and they said, "No! Your lips!" So they gave us hugs and kisses as they were leaving and created a sweet moment I will never forget.

These types of memories and the fact that being in that setting relieved my anxiety even if just for five days makes me hopeful to go on many more mission trips! This is something that everyone should experience not once, but many times. I truly believe that helping people out can change not only the residents' lives but also ours. 😊

Manon Misheck