



Mission of Love



*"You are not here to save the world, but to touch the hands that are within your reach."
~ Kathleen Price*

Youth Work Day at Mission of Love

Ravenna – It is summer and you’re a teen. On your list of priorities, volunteer work may fall way below sleeping in and playing video games. But on June 16, 2010, two dozen teens volunteered their time in the normally unoccupied Mission of Love warehouse in Ravenna, Ohio. The youth and adult leaders from Lordstown Lutheran Church, in addition to First Federated Church and Girl Scout Troop 640, both located in North Jackson, were busy sorting, packing and staging items for shipment to less fortunate children in Haiti, Ghana, Guatemala, Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota and other far-flung parts of the world.

Fourteen-year-old Tommy Gallison was among the teens from Lordstown Lutheran Church. Following an episode of dizziness and headaches on Easter morning 2009, Tommy was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Despite his ailment and five surgeries since he last volunteered at the Mission of Love warehouse, he was enthusiastic about the founder to come here because of the help he received. "I love it here because I like helping kids in need and I've gotten a lot of help from others, so it's the right thing to do to give back."



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Appreciation and giving were common themes among the volunteers. Two of the volunteers had recently received help from Family Promise, a program that helps homeless families by providing temporary lodging in houses of worship and engaging faith communities to help. Volunteers were unanimous in voicing plans to return to Mission of Love’s warehouse to help again in the future.

The job got done with lots of boisterous laughter and fun for all. Kathy Price was pleased with the amount of work that was completed. "I'm so glad to see these young people learning that there's a big world out there and so many children who need their help." She stressed with the teens her mantra, "You are not here to save the world, but to touch the hands that are within your reach."

First Federated Church pastor Jeff Davis gave this advice to others who are considering bringing their youth organization; "Make the time to volunteer with Mission of Love - you won't regret it. Kathy Price is a force of nature when it comes to making things happen for those in the world who most need our help."