

I have always found enjoyment in hands-on community activity. For a while I was part of The Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania and we would always find something we can do to help those around us. Over the course of one summer we arranged a large community wide toiletry drive for New Hope Ministries. New Hope Ministries is a place where people can go to get essentials when they are in need and to help them get towards stability. When taking a tour around their facility in Mechanicsburg, we found that they were in need of toiletry supplies. As a troupe we gathered anything from toothbrushes to women's feminine products. At the end of the summer we were able to help restock their toiletries section. I have also found community involvement through my youth group at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church. I have had the opportunity to serve others outside of Mechanicsburg in Mission, Texas. There we were able to help rebuild houses after the hurricanes came through. My youth group and I helped a lady where her house moved about two feet off of its foundation. We were able to help restable her house and put new siding on her home. We were able to also help her in the garden where she grew a majority of her fruits and vegetables for her daily meals. We made sure to water her garden every day when we arrived and before we left. Traveling with my youth group and helping with Girl Scouts has taught me to appreciate what I have and what I have access to. I have also learned that it is okay to ask for help. I plan on helping my youth group after I move away and go off to college. I will help over the summer when I am home in any way that I can. I will help them raise money for their trips and help them prepare to go off on their trips. If I were to move out of Mechanicsburg after college, I plan on finding another youth group to participate in as a youth leader. I do not want to stop my community involvement as I move away. I enjoy helping and want to continue to help.