

ReNew Brings Excitement to Students Serving

Spring Break means fun at the beach, a trip to the mountains, or just relaxation. But for 25 youth from Marietta, Georgia, it meant a mission trip to The CARE Center. Cove United Methodist Church and The CARE Center sponsored Heritage Presbyterian Church's youth group to come to do service work, a project called ReNew, during their Spring Break.

And did they ever do service work. During the week, they experienced an understanding of what it means to WORK. They brought gallons of laundry detergent for the Food Pantry and then subdivided it for the food pantry, painted trailers at New Hope School, built a ramp for an elderly person, dug a ditch at Project Abundant Life, experienced a prayer walk through the streets of New Hope, packed weekend food for Bags of Blessings, organized & cleaned at the Thrift Store, worked in an apple orchard for an older couple, and organized flyers for a food drive.

And who benefited from the experience? The CARE Center neighbors certainly saw benefits. The CARE Center staff and volunteers were blessed by their enthusiasm, tireless efforts, and examples of giving. But, the kids themselves went home to Georgia with more of an understanding about poverty, need, helplessness, and love. Everyone involved with the ReNew was blessed by the wonderful giving and the Christ-like receiving.

ReNew organizer, Linda McWilliams, shared that "the students went away with a new understanding of what it means to give back". She shared that "many of the students are still talking about it". In fact, one of the students referenced this experience during graduation commencements and included that it "changed her life".