

Catholic Neighbors of Mechanicsburg

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**12 DISCIPLES
TRAVEL ON FIRST
MISSION TRIP**

FEATURE PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHARLENE TALLMAN | PAGE 8



12 DISCIPLES TRAVEL ON FIRST MISSION TRIP

Article and photos submitted by Charlene Tallman

QUESTION: WHAT DO...

4 retired government employees (Gary Jugan, Vivian Jugan, Charlene Tallman, Dan Welte),
2 college sophomores (Suzanna and Andrea Magaro (twins)),
2 high school sophomores (Julia Salvador, Becca Alleman),
1 girls' basketball coach (Denny Bavaria),
1 electrical engineer (Ray DeMarchis),
1 army Chief Warrant Officer (Ron Magaro), and
1 event planner coordinator (Regina Salvador)

...have in common?

ANSWER:

A desire to grow closer to the Lord by serving the poor. We are 12 and call ourselves disciples.



It was by Denny Bavaria's initiative with OLOL's DRE, Jennifer Kent-Shank, that serious talks began in September 2022 with Sr. Kathleen Weigand, a long-time friend of Denny's and Director of St. Vincent's Mission in David, KY and her protégé, Erin Bottomlee, to go on a mission. In October 2022, Sr. Kathleen and Erin arrived at OLOL and spoke with parishioners/students. Many were excited, the fire was lit and we were going. Eight months of... zooming with Erin, applying for Youth Protection Badges with the Diocese, sharing local information regarding David, Denny running basketball tournaments (acquiring contributions from the community to fund the fees for each to attend), designing t-shirts to wear, designating... a transportation coordinator, a local culture coordinator, a cook and helpers, an admin person, and most of all—our work crews. IT DOES TAKE A

VILLAGE!!! We dined together on June 15th, 2023 and left for David, KY on the 25th. NOTE: Where and what we did would be determined by the disciples' skill level ... and our men had built homes from the basement to the roof... we were qualified and ready to Praise the Lord—only for His glory!

Upon arriving at the Volunteer Center—we disciples soon adjusted to the work week—rising at 6:00 and sitting down to magnificent breakfasts of pancakes, bacon, French toast, eggs, omelets, cereal, coffee and jc; lunch was a brown-bag prepared by each disciple for on-site eating, and dinner at the Volunteer Center was gourmet... pork barbeque, taco Tuesday, baked ziti, THANKSGIVING turkey, and... hot dogs and leftovers to end the week. We picked the right cook and kitchen team! THANK YOU, JESUS!



BETWEEN MEALS... WE WORKED! SPECIFICALLY:

- Those not traveling with the work crews met the local families and experienced the culture by home visits with St. Vincent's Garden Coordinator and were sent on adventures of delivering groceries (thank the Lord for GPS). They re-stocked the food pantry, sorted donated infant, girls, boys, men and women's clothes; and cleaned kitchens, appliances, and floors.
- Work Crew One re-secured trailer floor frames and insulation from UNDERNEATH the trailer and then re-installed vinyl siding sheets and trailer skirting (making the trailer livable so that "Paula" would not have to go into a nursing home). The property was cleared of trash, overgrowth, underbrush, and the deck was swept clean.
- Work Crew Two repaired a living room sub-floor, installed flooring and trim, and then on the outside of the trailer—repaired the gutter, fascia, and soffit of the home.

"These jobs were not cookie cutter—we had to be very creative in our repairs," agreed Dan and Ron, who shared their talents with four Kentucky families.

Stories of the Hatfield's and McCoy's, the birthplace of Charles

Manson, Kentucky's local hero—Ginny Wiley, and "the worst" school bus accident in US history—a school bus went over an 85' embankment with 58 students—36 lives were lost entertained us over dinner as well as each disciple's impressions/experiences of faith, hope, love and service... praising the Lord. Culminating points of the trip were our THANKSGIVING turkey dinner with Sr. Kathy and Erin, Front Porch Pickin'—listening and dancing to local string-instrument talent, and our home Mass Thursday evening with Fr. Bob from St. Luke's in Salyersville, KY sharing with us faith and the Eucharist—a thread that seem to be woven through each day of our visit.

A special THANK YOU to St. Vincent's Staff—Sr. Kathy, Erin, Trish, Jennifer, Dee, Kim, Gregory, John, Brenda, Emily, etc., etc., etc., and our sisters and brothers of Kentucky who shared with us the Lord's love.

Before leaving PA, we were told... "If we want to see Jesus, visit the poor!" THANK YOU, JESUS, FOR THE EXPERIENCE!

Do you know a fellow parish member who has a story to share? Nominate someone you'd like to see featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at cleaver@decidedexcellence.com.

