

2009 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - The Vacation Bible School Mission Ambassadors were on the go again this year. An energetic group of rising 6th and 7th graders ventured off on three mission trips and attended an on-site exercise at “situation centers” set up at Sydenstricker.

The first morning found this spirited group at a storage unit in Vienna where they unpacked and organized food on the shelves for “Our Daily Bread”, a local organization which provides food for low-income and homeless individuals. Approximately 60 families receive food from this food bank. Through the collection efforts of our ambassadors, the food bank received over 350 pounds of food.

The second morning was spent at Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church. Rising Hope is a mission church located in the heart of the Route 1 corridor where many low-income and homeless families are located. Rising Hope is a church which serves as a one-night shelter for those who are in need and is a participant in the hypothermia program. This is a winter program to assist those who need food and a warm place to sleep. They also have church services on Sundays and prayer meetings during the week.

The third morning was spent at the church in “situation stations.” These stations were constructed to show the youth what it would be like to live in a shelter or a car. They also learned about budgeting money and what it would be like to lack the funds needed for food and hygiene items. After taking a bag of groceries and trying to make a one-week menu from it, they realized the difficulties of the low-income and homeless families. They found that even though they can go to a food bank and get a bag of groceries, it generally is not enough to feed a family for an entire week.

The last mission day was spent at the Mondloch House which is a shelter for the homeless. It houses both families and individuals. The youth worked for three hours clearing out the grounds and cleaning the equipment on the play ground.

The final VBS day was spent at the church wrapping up what they had learned for the week and enjoying some craft time and eating snacks.

The youth commented in their Mission Ambassador Journals about how sad it was to see how some other people lived and they gained a new appreciation for what they had in their own lives. They felt the reward of making a difference in the lives of others.

