



# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL HIGH SCHOOL

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## **A Mission Team Reflection**

*by Sheridan Duncan '11*

**"If not us, who? If not now, when?" – Robert F. Kennedy**

These are the words that were on the back of the t-shirt that 20 students of Saints Peter and Paul High school wore to Mingo County, West Virginia to do mission work for a week this summer. My name is Sheridan Duncan and I am a rising senior at Saints Peter and Paul and I went on that trip to help others in need. The team completed many projects including painting houses, cleaning public areas, and working at a kids camp for children in the community. We're we alone? No we worked with 45 other people our age from other states.

To prepare for this trip my team spent one night each month throughout the school year planning fundraisers and getting to know each other. Some of the fundraisers we did were bake sales, car washes, yard sales, pit beef sales and much more. We also made backpacks for the children of Mingo County. We filled the backpacks with school supplies so the children would have simple things like pencils and paper for school. We also visited our local Benedictine Monastery monthly to help with whatever was needed.



*Senior Alex Schmitt*

For the week, my group, which included students my age from Massachusetts, worked on a house that needed everything from painting to yard work. When the groups were given their projects for the week, I was hoping that the "green house down the street" would not be my project. It was, and my friend Amanda and I were not excited because that was the house that needed the most work. Then I thought back to the shirts that we had made, "If not us, who? If not now, when?" appeared in my head. I knew that I must work on the house because the person inside needed it. All week my group and I worked so hard to finish the job that seemed impossible. At the end of the week, we actually finished. I don't know how, but we did. The excitement that my group shared was indescribable. We originally did not want the "green house down the street", but now we were so proud of the "pretty gray house down the street". The woman who lived inside the house was a single mother of five children. The last day when she thanked us it made all of the hard work worth it. The happiness and thankfulness in her voice made me realize that the project I had wanted all along was this house. I would not have wanted to do a project any different than the one that I did. My whole group felt so accomplished and we left our worksite with the biggest smiles on our faces.



*Class of 2010 Graduate  
Erica Stafford*

Looking back on my trip to West Virginia I can't believe how much I enjoyed it there. I was first disappointed in where the mission team was going this year because I felt West Virginia was so close. But once I was there I felt as if I was in a whole different world. Seeing the poverty and the way people lived was so overwhelming but once I got to know the people of Mingo County I was so amazed. The joy and the spirit these people had was inspiring. Even though these people had nothing they still had faith. I learned that material possessions meant nothing as long as family was near and you could enjoy life for what it was.

When it comes to helping others in this world, I believe we must ask ourselves, "If not us, who? If not now, when?" It is true, the work that has to be done may be meant for you. The "green house down the street" was meant for me and my team and I am glad that I asked myself that question. I am hoping to see more "green houses" in the future.



*Senior Dylan Peter*