

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think about teenagers and a day off of school?

Sleeping in? Shopping? Visiting friends?

Bethel United Church of Christ – “*a place to worship, learn, grow, and serve*” - is a rural church located outside of Spring Grove, PA (Gettysburg Association), near Codorus State Park. The teenagers at Bethel hail from three different school districts and, this year, they've been engaged in a lot of hands-on projects, learning how to work cohesively and how to share their faith with others. On January 16th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, they arose early to volunteer at the Hanover Area Council of Churches. The night before, they were serving meals and greeting guests at a church fellowship event.

The Council of Churches event was an inter-generational experience. Together, 26 hours of volunteer services were provided by 13 volunteers. Volunteers answered the phone at the front desk, scheduling tax appointments for senior citizens. They cleaned out a large storage closet, sorted clothing, re-organized children's clothing displays, and added a woman's organized touch to the dish and glassware sale area. In the process, they made friends with folks who volunteer each week and met students who arrived from a local school district to fulfill community volunteer requirements.

Afterwards, the group headed to the local hot weiner shop to talk about their experience, enjoy fellowship, and share a meal together.

Together, we learned that “many hands make light work.” By sharing our time with the Hanover Area Council of Churches, many needy folks will be able to continue receiving the benefits of the services offered by the Council. We are truly thankful for our youth!



