

WINTER MISSION TRIP

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS IN PINE BLUFF, AR



With the start of a new decade, eleven Wesley students and staff headed to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to join other college students from throughout the state to serve. All the money raised through Wesley's Work Weekends in November went to sponsor our team to go and make a difference. We are incredibly thankful for those who hosted Work Weekends projects and enabled our students to experience this trip.

God enabled us to work for seven wonderful neighbors and a community center, with projects including building wheelchair ramps, raising a porch, painting walls, ceilings, and floors, assembling shelves, organizing a clothes closet, and even moving an industrial dishwasher. The neighborhoods where our students served might have been blighted, but our neighbors were radiant with their hospitality and appreciation, as students offered encouragement and very practical help. Miss Everlena, whose husband had served as a mechanic with the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II, was one such neighbor. We repaired her front steps, powerwashed her home and painted her

front entry, but she blessed us more richly by sharing the depth of her faith and commitment to Christ as she fed us at her kitchen table.

The week together was rooted in worship with the theme "Vision 20/20." Moving into a new decade, we focused on embracing God's vision for our lives. Inspirational stories from the Scripture included Abraham, who followed a vision bigger than himself; Moses, who heralded a vision that broke through barriers; and Esther, who embraced a vision that took courage. Sophomore and U of A Wesley student leader, Remy Wells, shared a message about Caleb and Joshua and God's vision that moves us forward.

While there is need far and wide, students found that there was much good to be done right here in Arkansas, and eyes were opened not only to the poverty in our own state, but also to the good-hearted people and fellow disciples to be found in all neighborhoods. It was a week of building the Kingdom. Thank you for sending us.