Franciscan Youth

"TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS"
NATIONAL FRANCISCAN YOUTH YOUNG/ADULT COUNCIL

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During the last week of July, the FYYA Council ministered to the clients at the Canticle Café in Detroit, Michigan. The Canticle Café is an outreach service of St. Aloysius Parish, staffed by the OFM Friars, assisted by many SFOs. This is where the H2O Project monies were donated for 2009. Here are their stories…

When you picture a homeless person, a thousand images can come to your mind. That's all an outside image though; try picturing the personality of a homeless person. That's a little harder, isn't it? We get so caught up in the image and never think about the person. Having the opportunity to serve in Detroit showed me not what the homeless look like, but who they are. They were kind, fun, empathetic, and very thankful. Never once, while serving coffee was I not thanked or smiled at. If someone was rude, someone else would apologize on behalf of that person. The kindness and company of many of these people was a humbling feeling. I went to Detroit to serve coffee and serve in the center. I went to see where the water from the H2O project was going. Never would I have thought I would have met such great people, who, even throughout all their hardship, still keep faith, hope and thanksgiving in their hearts. I couldn't imagine a better place for us to choose to benefit from the H20 project proceeds. **By Ashley Hautman, SFO**

When I arrived in Detroit, I expected this volunteering would be similar to 'Catholic Worker' that I used to do in California. Tiring from jet lag, continuously pouring coffee, giving donuts, and talking to the guests for three days were harder than what I expected, however, they pleased me. Being an SFO made me to see all things as pleasure. I was surprised that many guests were poor because they were recently unemployed because of economic crisis. The H2O Project really helped them a lot. Bottles of water that we donated to the cafe were very convenient for the people who did not have places to stay. I will always remember the workers in the Canticle Café. Even though they had tough life in the past, now they all help others who need help.

맨처음 Detroit에 왔을때, 이번 봉사가 '전에 해 보았던 Catholic Worker와 비슷하겠다'라고 생각했었습니다. 시간차 극복과 끊임없이 나누어 줘야하는 커피와 도넛, 또 카페에 찾아 온 손님들과 예기를 나누는것은 생각보다 어렵고 힘든 일이었습니다. 하지만 제가 제속 프란치스칸이였기에 힘듬 조차도 진심으로 기쁘게 받아들였던것 같습니다. 놀라웠던 점은 많은 카페 손님들이 실직을 해서 생활 유지비가 없어서 거리로 나온 이들이였습니다. 다행히 Youfra에서 진행하는 H2O Project가 이들에게 많은 도움이 되었습니다. 길거리에 나와있는 이들에게는 물병이 편리하게 쓰였습니다. Canticle Cafe에서 일하는 이들이 제일 오래 기억에 남을것 같습니다. 삶을 유독 더 힘들게 살아온 그들이지만 지금은 도움이 필요한 이들을 위해서 살아가고 있습니다. **By Cathy Kwon, SFO**

On Saturday morning, I went with Kathy Taormina and four members to bring water, socks and lunches to some of the homeless in Detroit. We all had backpacks that we used to carry everything. We found them in entries to elevators, along buildings by the river, benches and staircases. Everyone took the water, lunches and socks. We also told them about what the Canticle Café is about and invited them to come. Some had heard of the Café before and were very thankful for its existence. The smiles and thanks were all the blessings that I needed.

Going back to the Café, I helped a little with serving the coffee but mostly talked, really listened, to those who came in. They all had some good stories! I left very thankful for the experience and for the many blessings that God has given me. **By Dale Anesi, SFO**

When I arrived at Detroit for the H2O water mission trip, I knew there was going to be hot water for shower. I was not going to have to dig the ground like I did during the Honduras mission trip, but I never thought there were so many individuals suffering from hunger and thirst in the USA. I poured coffee and served donuts to the homeless and people who have jobs, but their income is so low they do not have enough money to purchase their breakfast. Being an SFO is a blessing to serve the poor and not to think about only me but other people who do not have the same life style or opportunities. I think about those people who do not have a place to sleep or something to eat. Now I make sure not to waste food and purchase just the things I need to live. I would like to thank every individual who supports the Franciscan Youth and the H2O Project, and ask you to continue donating water to those who are in need. God bless you all.

Cuando llegue a Detroit de la misión del agua (H2O), yo sabia que iba a ver agua caliente para bañarme. Yo no tenía que escarbar en la tierra para el agua, como lo hice en Honduras durante el viaje de misión. Yo nunca pensé que hubieran muchas personas sufriendo de hambre y sed in Los Estados Unidos. Yo he servido café, donas a los desamparados y personas que tienen trabajo, pero que sus ingresos son bajos, por lo tanto no tienen suficiente dinero para comprar sus desayunos.

Ser un terciario Franciscano es una bendición para servir a los pobres y no pensar solamente en mi, pero también en otras personas, que no tienes el mismo nivel de vida o oportunidades. Yo pienso acerca de esas personas, quienes no tienen un lugar para dormir o algo para comer. Ahora me aseguro de no malgastar la comida, sino comprar únicamente las cosas que necesito, para vivir. Me gustaría agradecerles a cada uno individualmente, a aquellos que ayudaron a los jóvenes Franciscanos y el proyecto de agua (H_20) y pedirles que continúen donando agua a los que tienen necesidad. Dios les bendiga. **By Manuel Hernandez, SFO**