



Denise Wilson, Katie Weis, Austin Toms

## St. Paul Youth (SPY)

The SPY traveled to Cortez, Colorado for their service project this year. Youth Works sets up projects in over 75 communities throughout the country each year. The projects run for 9 weeks in the summer, with a different group of youth working on the projects each week. There were 50-75 students in the project at Cortez.

Denise Wilson, Katie Weis, and Austin Toms talked about this year's project. Katie talked about Kids Club. Each day they had 50-60 children that came for vacation bible school and other activities. Some of the children do not know where their next meal will come from. The SPY youth help with reading,

crafts, bible stories, and games. The children attending are ages 4 through 10, but 3 year olds can come with older siblings. Thursday is water day, where they play with water guns and balloons.

Denise drove a van each day to pick up children. She picked them up from 10:30 until 11:30.

Activities start at 1:00 with singing and stations organized by the youth. The children are grouped by ages. They take the children home at 3:00 p.m.

Denise said that they have gone at the end of the 9 week summer period in the past, because of Treynor sports. Many of the service projects have been completed by then. This year they went earlier.

The church where they operated from is a food pantry. It serves meals every Wednesday night during school for about 100 children.

Austin talked about the work project at the Pine Street House. It is a place for the disabled. They scraped and painted the house. About 15 people helped.

Youth Works has been in Cortez for about 10 years. It is in the poorest county in Colorado. Katie said that the children on this trip were more loving than the previous trips she went on.

The youth worked on Kids Club for two days and on a work project for two days. They also visited a nursing home.

Twelve youth and three adults went on the trip this year. It cost \$240-\$275 per person for the trip, plus gas. They hold fundraisers and take donations for the trip.