



## St. Paul Youth Mission Trip

Denise Wilson and the St. Paul youth spoke to the Treynor Optimist Club on August 16 about their mission trip to New Orleans. They were gone June 15-22. Fifteen youth and three leaders made the trip.

The trip was arranged by Youth Works out of Minneapolis. About 70 people participate per site

and there are 70+ sites across the country.

The youth participated in Excite, 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest, Ark, and Boys and Girls Club of New Orleans. Excite is a sports camp that includes activities like canoeing. Most of the activities are at Joe Brown Memorial Park and about 150-160 youth participate every day.

2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest is working at a food pantry that serves over 250,000 people every year. The youth mainly sort and organize.

Ark is a project where Marti-Gras beads are recycled. Mentally handicapped people are employed. The youth also visited a nursing home and Boys and Girls Club. The New Orleans Saints support the Boys and Girls Club, for ages 6 to 13.

The focus of the trip this year was on building relationships. On the trip they stayed in a Lutheran Church. The church had a trauma dog to help people. While there they visited different churches, including Pentecostal church where the Duck Dynasty actors go.

Every day they had a morning devotional – Live Like Jesus. Club time was in the evening. Thursday was foot washing.

Next year they plan to go to a rural town that is within a one day drive. The cost of the trip was about \$600 per person and the youth had to raise \$250 personally.