Julu 26

This has definitely been a week to remember. On Monday when we got to our work site Pastor Tomas challenged us in our faith from the beginning. He really made us think about how there is definitely room for our faith to grow and to grow closer to God. We walked the city with him and started to see the Latino culture where they all embrace each other and say hello to each other and easily see that this community loved each other. I really wasn’t used to serving in a way where I didn’t just have to pull weeds from a garden or package meals, but I got to serve in a way where we tried to get to know the community and it’s people and what life is like for them. Then we did after getting our pastries and coffee help the church set up for its garage sale where Aaron and I were in charge of bringing stuff up from the basement to the garage sale area. Let’s just say when I was told a was carrying stuff up I was not expecting that we would have to carry a full size dryer up the stairs. Then after it was all set up some of us got to run the sale while others of us helped paint the church’s fence, and with a lot of critiquing from Pastor Tomas you could say the fence looks like a professional did it. Lastly from Ray talking about the history of Chicago, to CW talking about what it’s like to live in the south side and what it’s like to help youth in his own neighborhood, and The Seed of Abraham church where we got to learn that church doesn’t always have to be formal and can be loud and energetic, it was easy to see that there is definitely a bright side to the South side.

Brady

If you haven’t noticed, our group was split into two. In the group I participated in, we spent two days at the MAC Warehouse, a day at Ellen’s Gardens and a day at a Salvation Army. At the MAC warehouse we helped a group called “Catholic Charities”. We leaned that they were an organization that helps give food to elderly who have difficulty getting the food on their own. They get 1 box a month. As a group of 7, we packed 1,165 boxes full of food. Another place we went to was Ellen’s Garden. Ellen, who runs multiple city gardens, has devoted her time after retiring to help the communities in Chicago that don’t have any safe, family friendly gathering areas near. Her gardens have brought these communities together, and getting to see that with our own eyes was so amazing. The final place we visited was a Salvation Army. Devon and Tim went a made a wonderful meal, and the rest of us went all helped in the children area. The parents could drop off their children in this center and go out to job training, parent training and anything else that could be done to further them on. A powerful moment I want to share with the permission of Corrina, is that there was this little girl who would not stop crying after her mom had left who was in Corrina’s arms. After 45 of this, Corrina said a simple prayer for this little girl and in the next 5 minutes she fell right asleep. The little things that God can do is amazing 🙂. That night we went to a church called The Seed of Abraham. The worship we experienced there was loud, and all the youth gathered into a small mosh pit infront of the stage. We were reminded there are SO many different ways to worship our Lord. We are all so thankful for the week we got to experience. We thank the YouthWorks staff, the FABULOUS adult leaders, and most importantly you guys, our church family. We would not have all of the opportunities to serve the Lord our God without all of you.   
Love, peace and blessings, Allyce ❤️