July 23

Hey, Aaron here. Today my group and I went to go meet pastor Tomas for the second day. We started the day off with a deep story and prayer from him. Then we went off to pass out flyers for the garage sale to the community where I got to practice my Spanish to the Puerto rican peoples. While venturing the town we went to a Colombian cafe and ordered some coffee and pastries, which were pretty fantastic by the way and met people in the community. Then we went back to the church and finished setting up the garage sale so we can open up tomorrow. A God moment today was finding Visa cards for $150 in one of the donation bags, so the Garage sale for the ministries of the church made $150 before we even started. After we left the church we got back to the youth works site and got ready for worship. We talked about the Prodigal son story. We learned that no matter what Jesus accepts and loves you, even if you deny him and run away. Lastly, we had the blessing to go to navy pier. There I got to have the best ice cream I’ve ever had. Overall I had a pretty amazing day.

Hi, it’s Madison. Today my group and I went to a community garden and got to meet Hellen, the site director for over 20 community gardens. We weeded, watered plants, trimmed trees, weed whipped, and laid down wood chips. Hellen told us an inspiring story about how she came into her position as a site director. We watched her kindly invite people of the neighborhood to the garden and told us of the people that started the garden. We found out that it took a really long time and a lot of work to create a beautiful space for the community. Community gardens are a great way to bring people together and fix problems you wouldn’t expect. Overall, it was really inspiring and wonderful to see the change that beautiful nature and vegetables can do to a neighborhood.