

## Vincentian Marian Youth - USA

In early 2015, I was contacted by the president of the Vincentian Marian Youth - USA , Curt Buerch. (VMY). Curt expressed interest in making Indianapolis the destination city for the 2015 VMY mission trip, a week of work and prayer that he was planning for the summer of 2015. Thus began the remarkable experience of having VMY visit our city last summer.

A small planning group of the VMY adult leaders came to Indianapolis in late spring and met with several priest serving inner city parishes, and representatives of several non-profits serving the poor in Indianapolis. Detailed plans were ironed out to ensure that the group's visit was enriching for the people whose houses they were to work on, AND for the youth volunteering a week of their summer vacation to do mission work. The goal was for everyone to benefit and be spiritually enriched from the experience!

The Vincentian Marian Youth group that came to Indianapolis consisted of some 60 teenagers and young adults accompanied by a dedicated group of 15 adult volunteers. The young volunteers were so enthusiastic and polite; they were a real pleasure to be around. I was struck by their willingness to dive into whatever the project was; tuck pointing, painting, constructing handrails, plumbing work ..... They were ready to do it all!

I was impressed with these young people who were so willing to give their time and talent in the service of others. Equally impressive, was that they so willing to openly explore and develop their spirituality with the other members of the group, and with those of us they encountered in Indianapolis. In a nutshell, for 1 week, they worked together, they played together, and they prayed together!

Indianapolis is fortunate that the Vincentian Marian Youth group picked Indianapolis for the 2015 mission trip, and we look forward to their return in future years. Everyone benefited from their being here for a week last summer.

Thank you Vincentian Marian Youth - USA!

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