Rachel Mufson   My Baltimore Experience

        This Baltimore Trip really helped me hone my leadership skills and allowed

me to see poverty in a personal way. I am grateful that I was given the opportunity

to chair this service trip because I got to work closely with Guy and Harrison to

make the activities happen. My favorite part of the trip was Living Classroom.

Although each aspect of the trip was great, I felt the work at Living Classroom was

up-close and special. Seeing the kid's faces when we played sports with them was a

truly touching experience. It made me appreciative of my own life and inspired me

to continue similar projects, involving kids, closer to home. Baltimore was a trip like

no other because every place we worked at, we got to see the final result of our

service. For instance, at Paul's Place, we met Dolly who touched our hearts with her

inspiring story about overcoming her drug addiction. Afterwards, we were able to

meet others who were changed by Paul's Place as well and help sort toiletries and

clothes for the homeless. At the end, we were thanked and saw the work we

accomplished put into action. Another place we were able to see the service we had

done was during our time at Civic Works Farm. We learned about bees, helped clean

out a water systems and mulched different areas. When it was all completed, it was

nice to reflect and look back on what we accomplished. The two women working

with us were so grateful that so much work was lifted off their shoulders. Not only

did Baltimore contain community service aspects, it was a trip filled with fun

activities as well. J-Teen had a night on the town and attended a Matisayhu concert,

where a few J - Teeners got to go up on stage and sing with Matisyahu. Towards the

end of the trip, we went to Johns Hopkins and toured Downtown Baltimore; both were very interesting and were highlights for everyone. As a result, Baltimore was one of my favorite trips because this service trip fused together fun and hard work. Overall Baltimore really depicted what Jteen is all about.