

Faith Hurvitz

*Charleston, SC MLK Weekend Reflection*

The MLK Charleston trip, was my first trip and affiliation with J-teen. Previous, to going on the trip I had doubts and reservations, however once I was on it i was able to enjoy and appreciate the wholeness of it. This trip not only taught me things about our past, but it also opened my eyes to my present and how southern culture is now. I was able to give back in more ways than one, and one that particularly stood out to me, was when we volunteered at the Jewish cemetery and restored tombstones. By cleaning a cemetery, I was able to give back in the greatest way, there is no way we could receive thanks for our good deeds. In school I learned that the kind of work we did was the highest kind of tzadakah that we could do. In all I'm very satisfied with the trip and glad that I participated on it. This trip made me realize how fortunate I am, and that I have the ability to help and give back to the community. We also were able to collect supplies and to then donate them to One 80 place. Then, actually visiting One 80 place, I learned how they really try to respect the people in it by giving them privacy in their individual living quarters. J-teen did a great job by combining physical work with mental work. Going to Charleston, instead of simply volunteering in the New York, Connecticut area gave me a greater appreciation and joy for volunteering. I am glad that I went on the J-teen Charleston trip and I want to continue to participate in the J-teen program.