

J-Teen Philly Service Trip

Earlier this school year in October I was blessed with the opportunity along with peers of mine to go on a service trip to Philadelphia. After hearing about this trip in our monthly leadership circle meeting it caught my eye for many reasons. I had never been on a J-Teen trip out of this state and was interested in seeing how we could learn about and help the Philadelphia community. Another reason is that both my siblings attend the University of Pennsylvania so I had been to Philly a bunch of times. Even though I had been I had only seen the college campus side and not the areas that needed our help. I asked my parents if I could go and they thought it was a great idea. A few of my friends were going as well so I knew I would have people to room with and talk to. Our first event on the trip was dinner at the Hillel on the campus of Penn. It was nice to try out the different services they offered and have a nice Shabbat dinner. My brother and sister decided to come also so it was nice to see them also. We went back to the hotel and had some free time then went to bed. The next morning was Shabbat so I learned about the Torah portion and played a few other games. After that we had a presentation from an interesting guy who showed us all these murals painted on the sides of buildings throughout the whole city. After we heard his presentation we took a walk where we saw some of the murals and walked through Chinatown where we heard interesting stories from someone who lived there for a while. That night we sorted clothes at Our Closet. I was amazed at how much clothes they had for us to sort. They had garbage bags piled up full of clothes and it was nice to see that we made a dent in the pile and were able to sort many bags of clothes. Next I really enjoyed painting the walls and making it easier for the staff members of the next place we went. Overall it was a great experience and I look forward to doing many more service trips.