

Philadelphia
Naomi Einhorn

I traveled with J-Teen Leadership to the city of Philadelphia this past October. Upon arrival we went to services at the University of Pennsylvania and met some of the past J-Teen alumni. We had the opportunity to hear some of their experiences from their time with this organization and what they were able to take away from it to use in their lives today. On Saturday, we learned about the culture of Philly and the meaning behind some of the beautiful murals in the area. They unite the people and seem to send messages of the past and progress to come. Finally, on Sunday we helped work on a food line where we packed boxes to deliver to some of the local people. This amazing experience inspired me to write the following poem:

We pack our bags and approach the City of Brotherly love
See murals for the first time, many problems we must rise above
But first learn of the poverty, food, and social injustices that need our attention
They are all around in our surroundings, there must be a plan of prevention

We can talk to the children in school and help them understand
But even in old age some problems are just too difficult to comprehend
However we must give some credit
We have surely evolved, we just need to continue the progress and not prevent it

Packing boxes for delivery with supplies and food
Provide temporary relief but instill feeling of good
And allow the manifestation of hope
For the days to come won't be filled with hunger, that light at the end of the tunnel helps cope

There is no separation to the problems people face in Philly
Jewish and other roots are present and it is obvious throughout the city
But no matter the religious association
Everyone must come together in this compilation
Of justice