

During the trip to Philadelphia with Jteen, I not only realized how good it feels to selflessly help communities and people in need, but I also discovered a new part of me that I never knew existed. While volunteering in Philly, I began to understand what it is like to live in poverty rather than just imagining it. It really is an unbearable thing to know that there are hundreds of millions of people who have very successful lives, but only very few of those people decide to share their wealth and success with the many people who are less fortunate than them. Even though there are countless amounts of people who are struggling to find food and shelter around the world, over the course of this trip we were able to impact a large number of people in need. Obviously we weren't able to help every person in need around the world, but like I said, we impacted many people considering we were a group of about 20 teenagers, and our work in Philly will inspire many other people to perform community service and make a difference not only in their community, but wherever they can help. Over the course of this trip I was able to discover a side of me that I had never found before. I'll be honest, I am not always the person who is so willing to do community service because sometimes either I can't find a project to take part in, or I am simply just reluctant to volunteer for a few reasons. When we arrived at Cradles to Crayons on the first day of our trip, I was awestruck by the fact that there were so many kids in Philadelphia who were living in extreme poverty, and when I realized that I would have the opportunity to help change the lives of many of those kids, I was beyond excited and grateful. It is not every day that I realize how lucky I am to live in such a great home with a caring family and food to eat, but while in Philly, I really started to cherish those little things which made me yearn to volunteer everywhere we went which is usually very unlike me. When I returned home from the trip the first thing I did was look for other local projects in my community because I wanted to give more people who might not have those things which we take for granted like food and shelter the opportunity to live a better life. Overall, this trip was a truly remarkable experience that I will carry with me forever, and it is only the start of many volunteering events that I hope to participate in, in the following years.