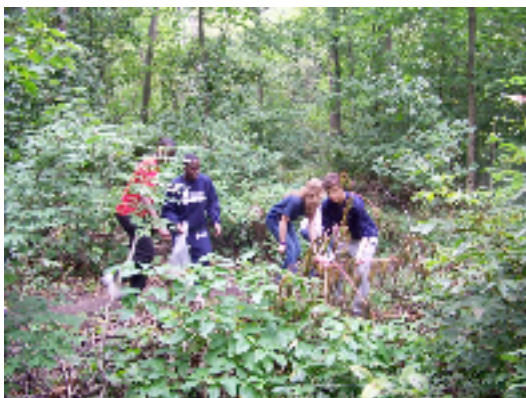

AA UPDATES

STORIES OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES – COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

You should be proud of what your child did today for community service. As part of Andrews Academy educational program we did community service today, Thursday Sept. 24, 2009. As a school we feel that it is important for students to learn to serve our community. We teach this concept in a very practical way. We devote an entire day practicing this concept with the students, as well as having various smaller projects throughout the year.

This year the 11:10 am class was responsible for developing an activity to serve our community. For example the government class went to the Berrien Springs Courthouse Museum to help clean the grounds. One class went to Warren Dunes another class to St Joseph Public Library to help there. Others helped in the community services building, and various other places around Berrien County.

I wasn't able to get pictures of other sights so I'll share what happened with my class so you could get a sample of what happened today. After devotions my class went to the woods behind Maplewood and Garland apartments and picked up garbage. Each student worked hard and we collected more than eight bags of garbage from the woods. This may seem like a lot of garbage but the first time my group did this fourteen years ago it took all morning and we picked up couches, beds, bikes, etc. from the woods. By maintaining the woods each year people are less prone to litter in the woods. Some might consider picking up garbage as a unpleasant task but as "stewards of God's Earth" it becomes an honor to do this task. By the students upbeat effort at this task they were treating it as an honor.



The second half of the morning my group went to the bridge in town. When the bridge was built a number of years ago Twixwood Nursery donated some shrubs and we planted them. Since then my classes have weeded, maintained the shrubs, and picked up garbage this side of the bridge just before you cross the river. It was impressive seeing so many teenagers working together to improve our town. There were some times to relax and have some fun as well.



In the afternoon we went to a retired couple's home to help them with yard work. This couple has served people for many years by being missionaries at various locations around the world for most of their life. I thought it would be good for the students as well as the retired couple for us to "serve" them for the afternoon.



Your children worked incredibly well and completed more than what we were planning for them. We cut up some firewood for their wood stove to heat their home, cleaned the siding of their home, cleaned the windows, and helped pick their apples. Your children worked so well we had a hard time keeping up with projects for them to do.



They also had some time to relax and have fun as well. In summary you all should be proud of what your children did today as they served the community.



It was a fun day and God blessed with a beautiful cool day.

-- Steven Atkins

I do have one other report from Mr. Vandenburg's Freshmen English class:

We went to the Lincoln Township Police Department and did some landscaping and general upkeep. Work included extensive weeding, mulching, window washing, and plenty of good times. The administrative assistants, Ruth Sparks and Iris Butts, as well as

Detective Soper and Officer Bansen, were very appreciative. Officer Bansen gave the group a tour of his patrol car, and Ruth Sparks showed the kids around the station soon after our arrival.

Our little bit of effort went a long way in demonstrating the philosophy of Andrews Academy and the diligence, maturity, and selflessness of its students . I'm blessed to be able to have a part in it.

David VanDenburgh

I also have a picture of Mr. Reichert's class who stayed at the school and prepared the backdrops and props for the week of prayer next week... some really got into the painting.