



Local Students Lead Volunteer Efforts During Service Trip

Twenty-four Palm Beach County students kicked off their summer vacation — not by relaxing poolside or indulging in leisurely travel, but by giving back during a community service trip to Tennessee, led by Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. The students participated in several volunteer projects during the service learning initiative called Project Tikvah, which is organized by Federation’s Jewish Teen Initiative (JTI) and Jewish Volunteer Center.

The trip was the fourth annual community service opportunity for Project Tikvah (Hebrew for “hope”), Federation’s hands-on volunteer travel experience for Palm Beach County teens, aimed at serving those in need and connecting to the Jewish value of *tikun olam* (“repair the world”).



Martin Blanca and Joshua Berkowitz set up new rooms at the Hospitality House of Nashville.

The teens participated in various outreach projects, including a visit to Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle



The students packed more than 60 bags of toiletries and wrote messages of encouragement for families seeking medical treatment in Nashville-area hospitals.

Tennessee, where they sorted nearly 7,000 pounds of food and packed 5,500 meals for underserved and food-insecure families. The group also visited Hospitality House of Nashville, a nonprofit that provides lodging, meals, and other supportive services for patients and their caregivers seeking medical treatment in Nashville-area hospitals, where they set up new rooms, packed more than 60 bags of toiletries, and wrote messages of encouragement for the families.

“Volunteering at the different sites was a great experience. Working together as a group from Palm Beach made us appreciate our own community and seeing the direct impact we were able to make in such a short amount of time was meaningful,” shared Maxx Lowry, who participated in Project Tikvah.

In addition to meaningful service projects, the teens toured cultural venues, spent time learning about the national Civil Rights Movement, and concluded the experience with a visit to the local Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Center, where they learned about Nashville’s Jewish community.

“In less than one week, this annual mission taught a powerful lesson of the importance of leading with compassion and serving others,” added Jennifer Shapiro, chair of Federation’s Jewish Teen Initiative. “Together with Federation and the Jewish Volunteer Center, these young leaders created a better place for hundreds of families.”



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