

The Palm Beach Post

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IN YOUR COMMUNITY

WEST PALM BEACH Students lead volunteer efforts during Tenn. trip

Twenty-four Palm Beach County students kicked off their summer vacation with 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, held June 4-6, was the fourth annual community service opportunity for Project Tikvah (Hebrew for "hope").

During the experience, the teens participated in various outreach projects including a visit to Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, where they sorted nearly 7,000 pounds of food and packed 5,500 meals for 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. 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," said Max Lowry, a teen from Palm Beach Gardens who participated in Project Tikvah.

In addition to 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.

For more information about Jewish Federation, teen initiatives and volunteer opportunities, visit jewishpalmbeach.org

Staff report