

# The Eunice News

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## Youth mission works on homes of Eunice area families in need

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Several Eunice-area families in need are receiving some much-needed home renovations this week, thanks to a group of 41 high-school age volunteers and their chaperones from the Central Texas Conference Youth in Mission.

Coordinator Jodi Marfell said the youth group, consisting of teens from the First United Methodist Church of Killeen, Texas and the Brock United Methodist Church, visit areas in need each summer, providing labor and minor renovations on the homes of elderly and low-income families, referred to as clients.

The group expected to complete six to eight projects this week before heading to Shreveport for closing worship services with other 1,600 other

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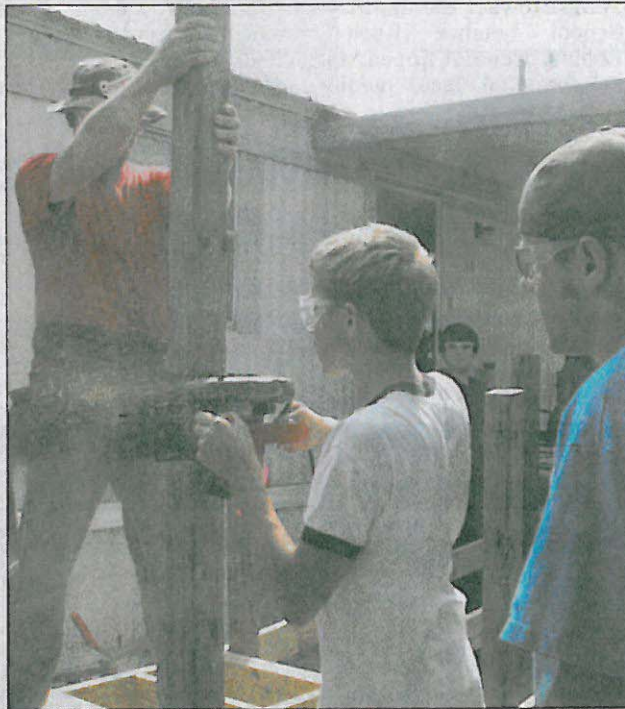


Photo by Jamie Anfenson-Comeau

Youth mission participant Taylor Bean, center, cuts through a wooden beam while chaperone Alan McGrath holds the beam steady and Dylan Hayes, right, watches. The team worked on building a wheelchair ramp for a family in the Eunice area Tuesday.

## MISSION

CTCYM youths working in communities across Louisiana.

"The amazing thing is you come here to serve other people, but what you find is that, through serving others, you actually gain the most out of it. They will walk away with more than any of these clients will receive this week," Marfell said.

"So it's really two-fold; it's helping out communities, but it's also teaching these young people, who have all the luxuries of life and don't necessarily know what it means to deal with disabilities or financial difficulties," she added.

One group worked to build a wheelchair ramp for a home outside Eunice. A five-year-old girl, wheelchair bound, lives at the home, and her mother has had to carry her up the steps to get her into the house.

Dylan Hayes, 17, was one of the teens working on the wheelchair ramp. A student of Brock High School, Hayes is currently on his fourth mission trip.

"The end of my eighth-grade year, going to the Brock United Methodist Church, they had mentioned to me going on the CTCYM trip, and said it

would help a lot of people out, so I hopped right on it and I've loved it ever since," Hayes said.

Hayes has been on mission trips to Tyler, Texas, Shreveport and Ardmore, Okla.

"It makes you fulfill a higher purpose. I think it helps you connect more with God and get out into the community and help people who desperately need it," Hayes said, adding, "These are the real people who really need this kind of help and benefit from it."

Teens who participate pay \$250 to be a part of the mission, money many of their peers would likely spend vacationing during the summer.

"It's hard to explain to people, who are like, 'Why would you want to go do that?' I tell them, 'It's amazing, and you just have to experience it by yourself,' said Abbey Drillette, 16, another teen working on building the wheelchair ramp.

"You just have to get out there, and see the reaction of the client, the reaction of your teammates. It's a complete and total God moment," Drillette said.

Drillette, also a student at Brock High School, said,

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"I love going out and doing things that'll help anyone else. I love going out and spreading the word of God; it's just really amazing for me."

Taylor Bean, 17, of Harker Heights, Texas, is on his third mission trip.

"I think it's great seeing the smiles on people's faces when the projects are completed. It's an amazing feeling inside, to be able to help someone who is in need of something," Bean said.

In return, the family the team built the wheelchair ramp for treated the young men and women to from Texas to homemade Cajun cooking.

While in town, the youths are being hosted at the First United Methodist Church in Eunice.