

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPAND THEIR HORIZONS THROUGH SERVICE

Over the summer a group of middle school students from St. Francis parish participated in the *Expanding Horizons* program through the YMCA. This summer program is offered through the Youth Volunteer Corp which sets up community service learning projects for middle and high school students. Our students formed one of the HELP Teams and participated in a variety of service projects during the week-long camp. Some of the ways they helped the community included:

- ☺ Preparing lunch for the homeless shelter,
- ☺ Playing games with the children at Bryant Community Center,
- ☺ Assembling information packets for the Ann Arbor Art Fair,
- ☺ Collecting and returning bottles & cans,
- ☺ Working in the community garden at Leslie Science Center,
- ☺ Ushering for a play at WCC, and
- ☺ Assisting younger children in the YMCA pool.

When asked to sum up her experience with the *Expanding Horizons* program Charlotte Spencer stated enthusiastically and without hesitation, "FUN!"

The Y.E.S. Middle School Youth Ministry here at St. Francis plans to continue the fun and the service this fall as we kick off the Youth Enjoying the Spirit through Service or YES² group. Working in conjunction with Kelly Whitney of the YMCA Youth Volunteer Corp, the YES² group will meet monthly to plan and implement service projects. One of the exciting aspects of this program will be the opportunity for the middle school students to be part of the planning process.

*The first YES² planning meeting will be
Wednesday, September 18
from 3 to 4 p.m. in the library.*

*Please join us and find out
just how much fun service can be.*

