

Youth Culture Lesson
Finding Teachable Moments in Culture
From *YouthWorker Journal* and YouthWorker.com

Helping Hand

Youth Volunteering at Inspiring Rates

By Paul Asay

Posted: August 19, 2009

What Happened:

For some teens, this summer's been all about sun, fun and friends. Others spent much of their summer working, saving for college or a car. Many used their summer as volunteers, helping others.

In Pittsburgh, siblings Emily and Matt Kocian worked several hours a week at a local hospital. Chelsea Dickson organized a concert to benefit a Pittsburgh non-profit agency. Hunter Berk is trying to make sure SAT study aids are available to high schoolers who can't afford them.

Berk, who collects used SAT prep books from students who don't need them anymore and passes them down to needy students, hopes other youth will hear about the project and start their own programs. "There are so many kids who can use this," he told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Many experts believe today's youth are more community-minded than their parents are. About 59 percent of teens volunteer, compared to 49 percent of adults.
Source: ianrpubs.unl.edu

Volunteering can make a huge difference, too, whether it's done through a local church, school or organization.

"Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You 't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve...You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love... "

-- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Talk About It

Do you volunteer? Where? When? Why?

What sorts of positive changes can volunteers make? What organizations do you think you could help right now?

What the Bible Says:

“Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours”
(Ps. 110:3).

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality”
(Rom. 12:13).

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world”
(James 1:27).