

## **Brenna Woods**

I love mission trips. As Christians, it is our duty to be disciples to other nations and act as a hand of God. However, what if these nations in need are closer than we think? Two weeks ago, the youth of this church, myself included, spent a week serving God just down the street from here. Whispering Woods is a low-income housing apartment complex full of crime and violence. In short, a place full of trouble and danger for a child. We spent three days with these kids, playing games, making crafts, and learning the word of God. These kids amazed me. They were all so cheerful, many of them I never saw without a smile. I saw God in these children that week because despite their circumstances, they were so happy to see us and excited about learning the word of God. These kids were so happy just to have people to interact with and safe place to play. I was overwhelmed when a little girl came up and hugged me at the end of our last day and said that she would miss me. There is so much need right here in own town. We do not need to travel to Mexico or Africa to find poverty. As we played and worked with these kids, the enormity of the situation hit me. We were truly in a position to influence their lives. Whatever I said or did with any of the kids, they would take that away with the experience. God entrusted us that week with his precious creation and I hope that we were able to touch their lives in a way that was pleasing to him.