

HOLF - A Day of Voluntarism and Fun

by Michael Landes

On Easter Friday, over thirty volunteers from Union Church went to “Home of Loving Faithfulness” (HOLF) to help with chores and to paint a mural for the residents who live there. HOLF had several murals painted by schools and organizations but they were not to HOLF’s satisfaction. When my mother and I visited HOLF for the first time last November, Penny Mountain and Tracy Patrick, Superintendents of HOLF, explained to me about their residents’ disabilities and most of them are low functioning and have special needs that required round the clock care. Many are in wheel chairs and their eyesights

are not good. HOLF wanted murals on their walls at low eye level, and to have bold and realistic images so that their residents can appreciate fully. I have then decided to make this my school project for my Humanities Class.

When we arrived at HOLF the morning of Easter Friday, we gathered and listened to Tracy and

Penny about the history of HOLF. We were introduced to all the residents there too. Every visit at HOLF is always very heartwarming and inspirational. Then it is time to work, we split into four teams. First and second groups are assigned to paint a bedroom each. Third group made Hot Cross Buns and took the residents out to a nearby park for a stroll. The last group worked on the mural. Thanks to Gavin Coates, who outlined the mural for us in advance. We can simply fill in the colors that day. There are a few mothers



Michael Landes at work on the mural at HOLF



Some of the residents at HOLF

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The Union Church team



who stayed in the kitchen to cook too. After our lunch break, practically everyone joined in to complete the mural. By late afternoon, the mural was completed. Tracy and Penny are very pleased with the final product. Tracy actually wanted us back in the future. It was hard work but all the volunteers are very happy at the end of the day.



Gavin Coates signing the mural from Union Church



Youth volunteers spending time with residents

As for me, I am so pleased I have volunteered. I am able to fulfill a course requirement and at the same time brought many to build a solid relationship with HOLF, which really is a place of hope and joy.

- Michael Landes



The completed mural, with love from Union Church