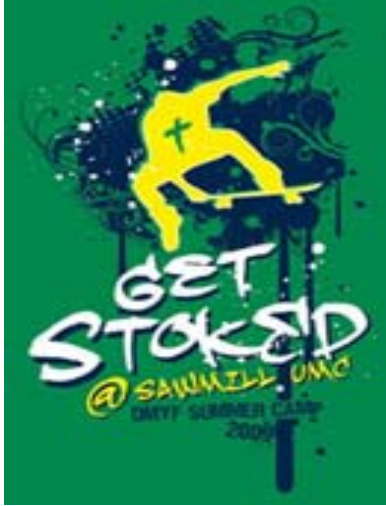


## Simple Gifts October 4

After being an active member of the Duke Memorial Youth Fellowship for many years, I have had so many touching experiences and met so many great people. But, the Arizona mission trips are the one experience I will never forget. I have been to Sawmill, Arizona three times for mission work and every single time it gets better and better.



It's great to meet new people and to actually feel like you are making a difference. The children that we work with are so adorable and full of so much energy. It is great to keep going back and seeing the kids because that makes me feel like I am really making a connection with them. After the first day with them you can't help but to fall in love with them. This year we also had a work team go up there with us to work on house repairs and it was amazing to see the changes they made. The families were so thankful for the work that was done. They even had a cook out for us to show how grateful they were.

The youth group has also been thankful that we have such a supportive congregation that helps make it possible for us to do this mission work. Every time I have gone there with the youth I always feel like we have made huge accomplishments. The stewardship theme is **"Simple Gifts"** and that's exactly what we give when we go to Sawmill, Arizona. Just going there to help is something so simple for us, but it is such a blessing to them and to us. We give the gift of shelter, food, and friendship to the Navajo people and the gratitude and friendship they give in return is just as great a gift. I am so thankful for the stewardship of the Duke Memorial family that makes mission possible and so thankful to be a part of that family.

by Jessica Ellis