

Las Vegas Family Church Youth and Young Adults Project at Cheon Hwa Gung

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On February 20, 2021, our youth and young adults once again gathered for a service project at Cheon Hwa Gung! Continuing on the efforts from our first service project in January, we focused on painting the gate and fence surrounding the pool at the home of our True Parents. This service project was a collaboration between CARP Las Vegas, Shine City Project, Generation Peace Academy, our local second generation, and our Rev. Doo. K. Takahashi, a first-year GPA participant, helped to lead the efforts of the service project.



On a breezy Saturday morning, volunteers started to gather at the lawn at CHG. As we waited for volunteers to join, we did some stretches, as well as an ice breaker activity to help acquaint ourselves with one another. Afterwards, Rev. Doo shared some guidance for the tasks at hand, including removing and applying paint. With the knowledge we received, we proceeded with the service project.

In total, we had eighteen youth and young adults who came to help out. Though mostly everyone was focused on the pool area, a few volunteers also continued on the work of removing paint from the stairs and deck outside CHG. After doing our best for a couple hours, we had a pizza lunch, and shared our

gratitude with one another.

Our leader, K., shares her experience with leading the service project.

"Being new to the community, I had this yearning heart of wanting to meet and getting to know our community members. But what kept stopping me from taking initiative was my fear of judgement, anxiousness, and doubt. I didn't know where or how to build these relationships, until God gave me a perfect opportunity to lead a service project.



"The idea of leading was something I hesitated about. I never had experiences being in that position. As the youngest in my family, I've always been the follower of older members in my family. This was a whole new world that I never touched, and I was scared. But still, my longing heart of wanting to build this relationship with the community overpowered my fears. Planning, contacting, and coming up with activities was definitely stressful. There were days my head was so full of thought, I didn't know where to begin to ask for help. But I knew God knew how I felt which made it easier to talk to him in prayer. It felt comforting to know that God, True Parents and my ancestors, were all listening and guiding me.

"During the service day, I wasn't the perfect leader I envisioned to be. There were moments that were embarrassing and confusing. But what made that day so memorable was seeing the volunteers smiling and laughing, all the while enjoying each other's company. God listened to my wishes of wanting to fill in those gaps between myself and the community, and with the help of many people, I was given that chance. I'm so grateful for everyone who came that day, and those who wanted to join but couldn't. I'm also grateful for the people who supported me through the process of it all. I love this community, and I look forward to growing alongside with everyone." (K. Takahashi)

