These youth chose to plan a youth conference that would make a difference for others.

We want to serve!

When it came time to plan youth conference, leaders of a stake in northern Utah, USA, asked the youth what they thought would make it memorable. After some discussion, their answer was simple: “We want to serve!” They decided they wanted to make a difference where they live. They wanted to help the hungry and the homeless, the lonely and the elderly. They also wanted to hold workshops in which professionals could help people struggling with serious issues like suicide and depression.

They adopted the theme, “You Love, You Serve.” And during the three-day youth conference, they did just that.

By Eric B. Murdock and Richard M. Romney
Church Magazines
The youth served in a food bank and sorted canned food donations.

“Knowing that Jesus Christ served those around Him makes me feel like I’m emulating the Savior,” said Stephen J., 13. “Taking His name upon me, that’s what’s great about being able to serve others—we’re being like Jesus, and that’s who I want to be like the most.”
Some of the youth spent the afternoon cleaning up trash and weeding gardens in a community park.

“WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL IN THE SCHOOL NEXT DOOR, THIS PARK WAS TOTALLY TRASHED. IT’S BEEN THAT WAY FOR A LONG TIME,” SAID KARLOS S., 12. “AND NOW WE’RE THE ONES WHO ACTUALLY CLEARED IT UP. I’LL ALWAYS HAVE THAT FEELING THAT IT WAS AMAZING TO CLEAN SOMETHING UP AS WE DID THE WORK OF THE LORD.”

“It would have been hard to weed this whole place all by yourself,” said Glenn B., 13. “But when we worked at it together, we got it all done in a couple of hours. Look what we did together. That’s pretty cool.”
Along with sorting food, youth also built benches for a homeless shelter.

Youth also made hygiene kits for a homeless shelter for youth.

YOUTH ALSO MADE HYGIENE KITS FOR A HOMELESS SHELTER FOR YOUTH.
SERVING BLESSES YOU

As you devote yourself to serving others, you will draw closer to Heavenly Father. Your heart will be filled with love. You will learn that service and sacrifice are ways to overcome selfishness. You will enjoy happiness that comes only from giving service to God and others. Your capacities will increase, and you will be an instrument in God’s hands to bless the lives of His children.

For the Strength of Youth (2011), 33.

The youth wanted to put on a talent show where seniors were the guests of honor.

Youth also asked seniors what their wishes were. On the night of the talent show, several seniors had their wishes granted. One man simply wanted a pizza. Another wanted Mexican food.

“Serving together got us into different types of groups, and that helped us to get to know new people,” said Rosemary A., 13. “And that’s part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to get to know other people. It’s nice to work side-by-side to help others, to give instead of just always receiving.”
On the last day of the youth conference, a Superhero 5K run was held to raise money to help the homeless.

Throughout their conference, the youth learned something marvelous about their theme. “You Love, You Serve” works like a cycle—your love for the Lord causes you to serve others as He would. Then as you serve, your love for Him and for others grows, and so does your desire to serve.

Service Opportunities Near You
Looking for ideas on how you can serve? Check out JustServe.org for volunteer service needs in your area.