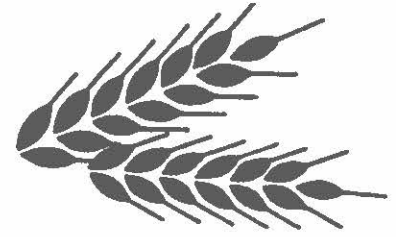


In Focus



SPECIAL EDITION

St. Patrick's CREW on Mission, 2001

This summer 25 teens and 10 adults headed to Winter Park, Grand County, Colorado, for the parish's second annual mission trip. Members of CREW (Christ Renews Everyone's World) strengthened their relationships with others and with God during this week-long outing.

Cindy Shaw, youth activities and youth mission coordinator for St. Patrick's Parish, recounts the group's time in the mountains:

“ During the week, we divided into several groups that did various projects during the day. Our jobs included exterior work at two Catholic churches, helping an environmental group build a pathway, fixing the playground area of a local preschool, painting doors and decks at a low-income housing development and working on the grounds at the lodge where we were staying. The teens showed terrific work ethic.

After work and a hearty dinner at the lodge, the group had nightly spiritual activities such as a trust walk, reconciliation service, a campfire and other group mixers. This was

followed by nightly Bible study, the theme of which was TREK to the Rock. This study, which was written by a few of our teens and adults specifically for the trip, incorporated the natural elements we had around us including

group sessions. After study, we gathered for group singing, which was always a time of high energy. And of course, the teens were allowed a little free time each night to just relax in the hot tub or play a game of pool.

We finished the week with an entertainment day including a choice of mountain biking or horseback raiding, then sent

everyone to face the rapids of a whitewater rafting trip.

What I found most rewarding about this trip was the bonding that occurred among the teens, which is significant because we had teens from five different high schools. As the week progressed, teens stepped out of their

familiar cliques, and new friendships were formed. These teens showed the utmost respect for one another and the adults on the trip — going out of their way to make sure everyone felt included.



Father Kane blesses the CREW as they leave for Winter Park, Grand County, Colorado, for the parish's second annual mission trip.

appreciation of God's creations, following the path of God, Jesus cleansing us of our sins with life-giving water and Jesus as our rock and stronghold. There were teen and adult co-leaders in each Bible study group. All the teens participated fully in these small

During the week, we set up a bag for each person and asked that the participants write down positive affirmations for everyone else and place them in each other's bags. We had a campfire on the last night, and I noticed that only about half the teens had come down to participate. So I walked back into the lodge and saw a large group of teens of various ages sitting around, listening to music and fervently writing out their affirmations to one another. How great it was to see that every participant had a full bag of truly nice notes to take home with them.

Only on a trip like this one can relationship building, both within the group and with God, be so significant.

I cannot express how valuable I think these mission trips have been. And I cannot thank all of you enough for your support of these trips. Whether you supported us financially, by donating time, through prayer or with words of encouragement, you have helped to make a difference in the lives of all of us who participated. "



Mary Long gets Day 1 off to a good start.



Clearing a trail with a local environmental group.

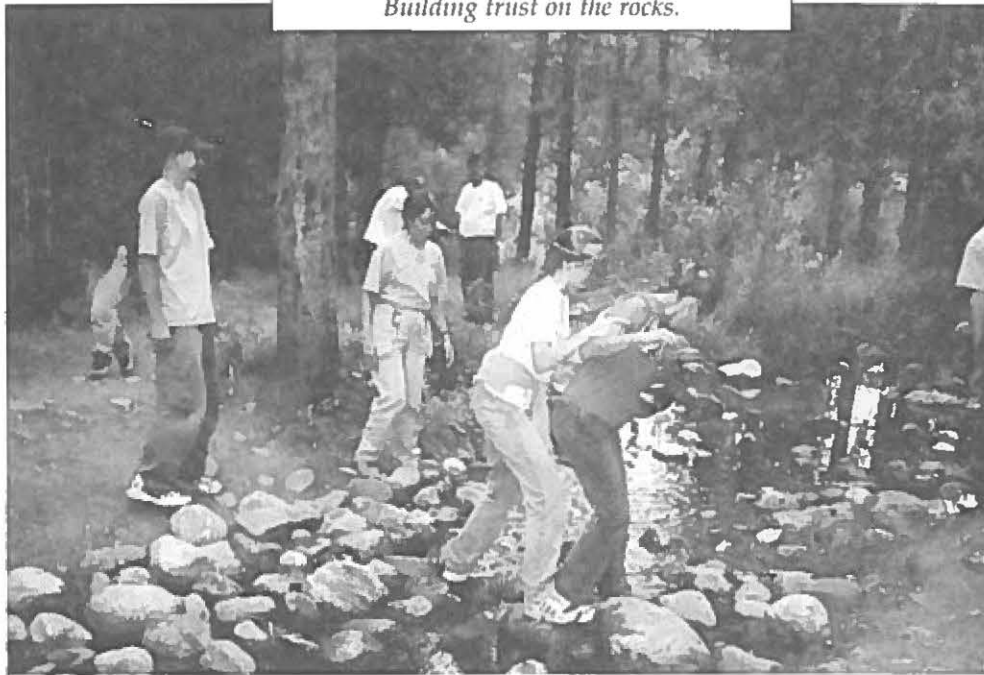


*"I am being called to be a new person in Christ and to treat others correctly and to be the happiest person I can be."
-- Angelina Davito*

*"I found out more about myself and my friends from CREW. I will be more helpful and selfless."
-- John Danner*

Is it break time already?

Building trust on the rocks.



**MISSION PARTICIPANTS
2001—COLORADO**

TEENS

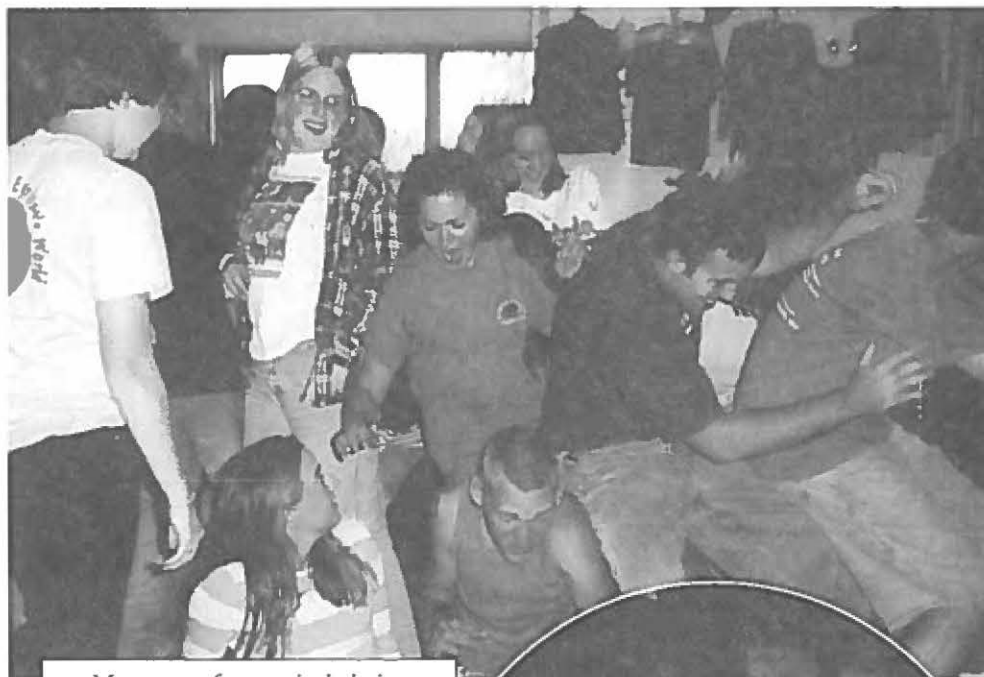
Jessica Andrejasich
Mija Hubler
Yen Nguyen
Regena Pauketat
Janiene Cler
Caitlin Vitosky
Stephanie Coverstone
Lori Edwards
Haley Eifert
Karen Czys
Carrie Conner
Katie Thompson
Teresa Davito
Angelina Davito
Bridget Kimmey
Nicole Betenia
Flannery Ellis
Nicole Weisiger
Emily Kacich

Jason Retz
Patrick Hatch
Robbie Grove
Alex Long
Steven Kimball
John Danner

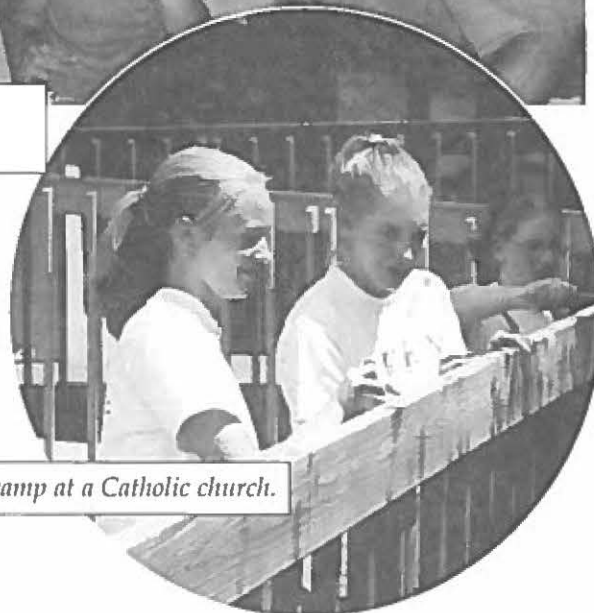
ADULT CHAPERONES

Cindy Shaw
Mary Long
Patti Grove
Laura Andrejasich

Mike Andrejasich
Greg Hatch
Chuck Shaw
Tom Kacich
Jared Wouters
Bob Kimmey



Move over for musical chairs.



Putting the finishing touches on a ramp at a Catholic church.

It's a dirty job, but someone had to do it.

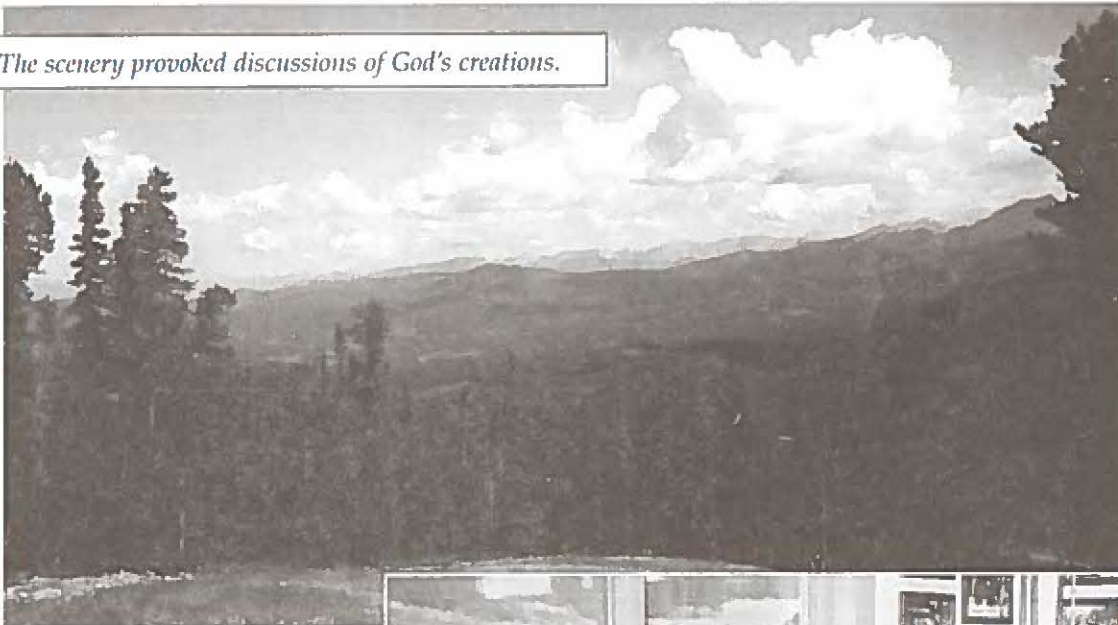


*"The best part of the mission trip was the opportunity to do service work in God's name. Even though I was sore and tired after each day, I felt wonderful for having helped others."
-- Jared Wouters (chaperone)*

*"The best part was the work because I got to do something that was really appreciated by more than one person."
-- Lori Edwards*

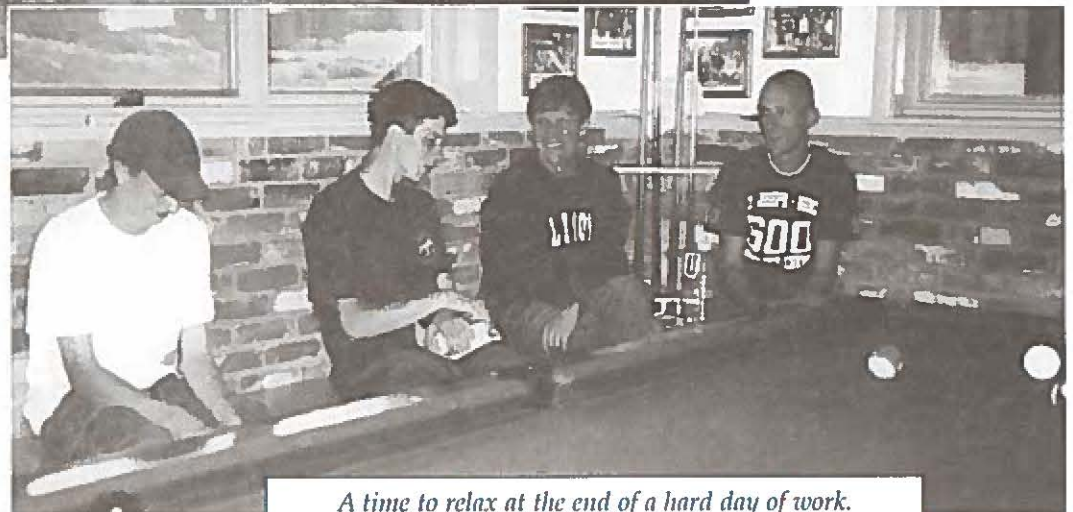
"It makes me want to keep doing things like this and makes me feel a lot more comfortable with my beliefs."

The scenery provoked discussions of God's creations.



*"It had never hit me before how everything we see, God created. But when we read Genesis 1:1 as our Bible verse, and then I actually saw the mountains, it hit me: God created all of this!"
-- Nicole Betenia*

*"The work teams ... helped students see that their faith is more than Bible studies and church. They realized that faith must also equal action."
-- Greg Hatch (chaperone)*



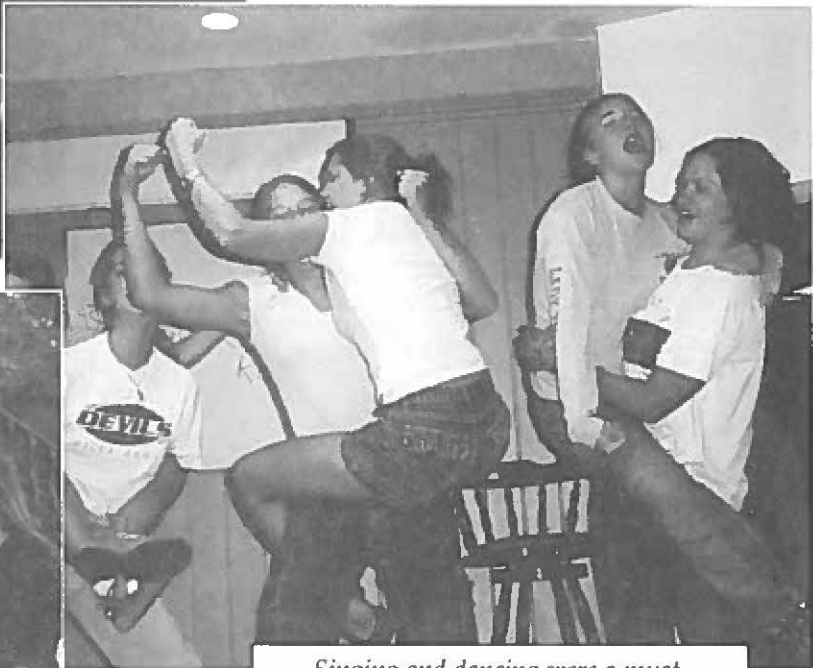
A time to relax at the end of a hard day of work.



Good food and good company.

-- Flannery Ellis

"The Bible studies meant a lot to me because I really felt like I got a lot of good information from them, but I was also able to share and make a difference in other's lives."

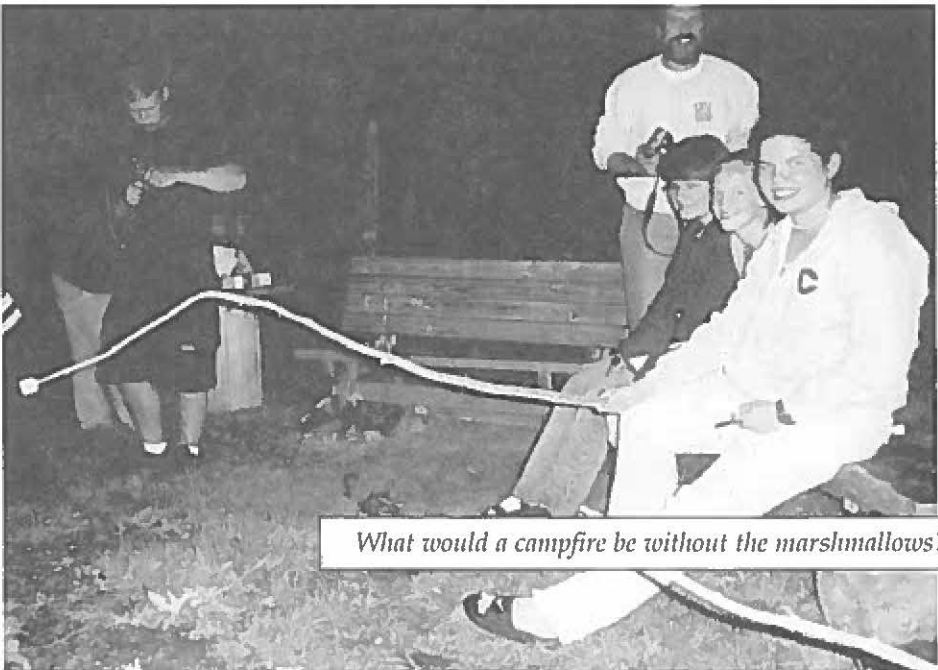


Singing and dancing were a must.



Thank-you from children at a community preschool where the teens had repaired a playground.

"it has shown me how much more rewarding work can be when you do it for someone without a paycheck in return. The heartfelt thank-yous I received will be treasured far more than money."
 -- Janiene Cler



What would a campfire be without the marshmallows?

After a week of hard work, teens and chaperones headed for the mountains on bikes ... or horses.



"The reconciliation service that we did ourselves was really meaningful to me because it felt as if I were praying to God and asking his forgiveness myself. All of us were doing this together."

-- Stephanie Coverstone

"This trip has brought me so much closer to God and so much closer to the people around me. ... Not only have I strengthened my relationship with Christ, but I've also met some wonderful people. ... This has honestly been one of the greatest weeks of my life, so thanks to all who made it happen."

-- Emily Kacich



Home at last.

"Bible study was great and it led to other relationships and great sharing."

-- Robbie Grove

"Bible study made me realize things about myself and God that I had never thought of before."

-- Carrie Conner

"Although the Bible studies and other activities were meaningful, a card with the verse Jeremiah 29:11 that I received from my secret servant meant the most spiritually to me."

-- Patrick Hatch