



When Keith Johnson offered my daughter Emily and I the opportunity to volunteer with him and his son at the Lexington Research Mission, I did what I usually do—immediately said yes having no idea what I was agreeing to. Little did I know what a great opportunity he was providing us.

We met at the school at 11:15 and traveled in caravan to the mission. A brief tour by one of the directors made us aware of what services the small building had to offer—a meal kitchen, health clinic, food bank, counseling center and computer education center to name a few. After our tour, we helped prepare drinks and desserts, and by 12:00 we were ready to serve the 30 clients that came to the center for lunch. Emily and Brennan did most of the serving while the adults supervised and kept them stocked with food trays. Keeping drinks filled and serving “seconds” gave us a little chance for interaction with the clientele and other volunteers. Everyone pitched in for clean-up and by 1:00 we were ready to go back to school.

The ride back in the car gave me the opportunity to reflect on the experience with my daughter. She had questions about the clientele and where they came from, and shared that at first it made her a little uncomfortable being with people whose lives are so different than ours. But before we made it back to school, she said what I wanted to hear—“Mom, could we do this more often? It made me feel good to help those people.”

For me, the experience was a great way to take my daughter out of her “life of plenty” and show her how rewarding it can be to help those less fortunate than we. It also made me count my blessings—one of which is a school with a spiritual life director that takes the time to plan such a wonderful service experience for our children. I hope you can find two hours to make a difference in the life of others and in the life of your child.

FACTS

- We serve every other Tuesday. Our first trip is scheduled for September 21st.
- We gather in the office at 11:30 and return to school by 1:00.
- Depending on the grade, students miss lunch, recess, and a little instructional time. (They are responsible for any work they miss)
- It is required that a parent go with the child on the day they serve. (What a great way to spend your lunch hour!)

If you are interested in serving some Tuesday with us at the Lexington Rescue Mission, fill out the information below, send it back to school and we will be in contact with you to schedule an opportunity for you and your child.

Student's Name: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parent's Name that will be attending with their child: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____