

Tar Heel State Youth Unpack

Designing and Managing Cause-Driven Opportunities for Groups to Serve



A message from Anne-Tillery, SPARK's Intern from Wake Divinity School

I cannot believe it has been almost two months interning with SPARK this summer. I live in Winston-Salem and am going into my second year at Wake Divinity School. My hope for this summer was that I would get to witness and partner with people who are doing meaningful work that is changing lives here in Winston. The work SPARK does has surpassed my dreams and expectations of what service learning can be.

Through SPARK's summer program in partnership with The Dwelling, I have witnessed youth and adults have their hearts burst open as they engage in a week of service learning. Together, we learn to be better followers of Jesus and advocates for change in the world. In our current world of division and messiness, having young people on fire for Jesus and justice is critical for our communities to thrive in the future.

As each group this summer has shown our team how to further unpack and grow, I hope you find experiences and people that encourage you to do the same.

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Spark'Dwell Summer Continues

Our Spark'Dwell summer is in full swing. This month was all about groups from North Carolina serving in new and different ways. Sometimes it is most difficult to “unpack” when you are close to home, but our groups this month showed us just how life-giving it can be! We feel confident that the groups will look at their hometown and state with new eyes after their week of spirit and service learning.

Session 2

Two North Carolinian youth groups joined us for our second session of Spark'Dwell. Groups participated in a number of different projects – including repairing bicycles, packaging meals, and providing a ministry of presence with senior folks. We also helped throw the first Block Party of the summer at The Dwelling, which was a special Juneteenth celebration. The youth, staff, and counselors danced until they dropped!



Session 3

Session 3 was a unique, first-time experience for Spark'Dwell. We welcomed a small group of foster teen girls from Crossnore Communities for Children here in Winston-Salem. The week was full of meaningful moments, including a community baby shower with Catholic Charities. The group also helped us kick off Cozy Bundle donations as we embrace “Christmas in July.” It was a meaningful week our staff will not soon forget.



SPARK is joining Burkhead UMC in their excitement and energy as they merge with Wesley Memorial to become one church: Sherwood Forest UMC. Burkhead plays an integral role in SPARK year-round and particularly in the summers. We are so grateful for their support, and ask that you pray for the church merge.



Did you know we design, organize and coordinate service opportunities for high school classrooms, clubs, teams, neighborhoods, churches, corporations, small businesses and any group? We handle all the logistics and guarantee it's rooted in and with kind partnership! There is always service-learning involved.



We share space at Sherwood Forest UMC
www.spark-community.org @SPARKcommunityws