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LOCAL TEENS FINISH "CRAZY LOVE TOUR" PROVIDING MEALS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR THE POOR

SAN JOSE, Calif. – An enthusiastic group of students made a difference in countless lives during the "Crazy Love Tour," a seven-day "serve-a-thon" where they conducted large-scale service projects throughout California to help those in need. Now, they are getting ready to return for an encore service project!

The tour began in Salinas where 23 "Crazy Love Tour" members joined *Ag Against Hunger*, harvesting more than 3.5 tons of celery to be distributed to California food banks.

Moving south the enterprising team of young leaders worked with *Giving Children Hope* in Los Angeles. There, they served in various ways from sorting clothing for the less fortunate to helping renovate the organization's facilities and preparing a mobile medical clinic for its debut in Los Angeles' RAM event at the Forum.

Oh, but the "Crazy Love Tour" was just getting started. Joining with *Children's Hunger Fund* the following day, they bagged 3 tons of beans and wrapped 615 individual boxes to be shipped to developing countries.

Heading back north, the 23 dedicated tour members stopped in Fresno County, the area with the highest concentration of poverty in the United States. There, they worked with Fresno's *Community Food Bank*, distributing drought relief emergency food in Huron to 461 households, serving 2,363 people that day.

The trek continued to Mendota, a small town in Fresno County where the unemployment rate has recently reached 44 percent. Barbecuing a special meal of seasoned carne asada, along with rice, beans, and tortillas, they served 625 people before then heading back to San Jose to prepare for their city-wide food drive.

Returning to San Jose, they conducted the "Food 4others Drive" canvassing 4,000 homes and soliciting donations in front of multiple grocery stores throughout the city. Partnering with other young people, they spent the day collecting food to benefit *Second Harvest Food Bank*. By the end of the day, Second Harvest reported that they had collected 13,342 pounds of food.

The Tour ended with a visit to *MedShare* in San Leandro, where they spent their time sorting and boxing medical supplies for free clinics in California, as well as hospitals in developing nations.

After wrapping up the "Crazy Love Tour," the group of teenagers came home remarking how the experience had been the best week of their lives. "I had no idea serving others would be so much fun!" said Mercediez Anderson, an incoming senior. "This Tour taught me how to love, care, and respect," said Zahir Simmons, a middle school student. "This Tour made me realize how much more we can do to help others. Just look at what 23 of us could do in just a week.

Because of God, the results were tremendous! That's what the heart of this Tour is about, showing love to others," said Matt Dona, a high school student. But it isn't over yet! Fresno's *Community Food Bank* has asked them to return to help with another food distribution in Huron. Excited, the youth are returning to Huron this Thursday, August 20 for an encore Crazy Love service project!

About 4others

The *Crazy Love Tour* was the latest initiative of 4others.org, a student-run ministry of the Church of God of San Jose dedicated to inspiring young people to live their lives for others. "We want to be a catalyst--inspiring, encouraging, and equipping other young people like us to live their lives for others," April Hunt, spokesperson for 4others and one of the Tour's leaders said. The Tour took place Aug. 3-9, 2009.