

THE HARTFORD PROJECT

2017 Program Evaluation



About Urban Alliance

Urban Alliance (UA) is a collective impact organization located in East Hartford, Connecticut. Our mission is to create opportunities for people to achieve lasting change in their lives through the collaborative work of churches and organizations in our local community.

The Hartford Project: 2017 Program Evaluation is the final report based on data collected from youth and adults who participated in weeks one and two of The Hartford Project over the summer of 2017.

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The Hartford Project: 2017 Program Evaluation

Abstract

The Hartford Project (THP) is a four day Christian youth service-learning urban immersion experience for middle and high school youth. A total of 277 youth and 52 adult leaders from 25 church youth groups participated in this program evaluation of THP. Findings from this study indicate that participation in THP increased youth's leadership confidence, improved their view of the city of Hartford, increased their comfort interacting with people from different cultures and ethnicities, and increased the importance they placed on unity and relationship among believers in the body of Christ. This report also provides information about youth and adult leaders' satisfaction with their experiences participating and suggestions to improve future programming.

What is Youth Service-Learning?

While there are a variety of definitions of service-learning, most agree that its essence involves a philosophy of service and learning that occurs through reflection, experience, and civic engagement. Service-learning occurs in the context of collaborative relationships involving community partners and involves a balance between service and learning. That is, service-learning both enhances the community and provides powerful learning opportunities for volunteers (Eyler & Giles, 1999). Through service-learning, volunteers positively impact the community while learning valuable skills and reflecting upon their experiences, their communities, and broader issues such as social justice and civic responsibility (Family Strengthening Policy Center, 2007; National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, 2009).

Youth service-learning is a particular type of service-learning usually involving middle and high school aged youth. Youth service-learning is used in a variety of settings including schools, after-school youth programs, and community faith-based organizations. Generally, school-based service-learning opportunities are part of a school program that integrates school-set academic goals and curriculum into service activities (Family Strengthening Policy Center, 2007). Community-based service-learning opportunities are often part of an after-school or extracurricular program and often are conducted by a community-based organization serving youth directly. School-based programs may be found in K-12 schools or in universities, while community-based and faith-based organizations may offer community-based service-learning.



What are the Benefits of Service-Learning?

Research has demonstrated that high-quality youth service-learning opportunities offer a number of benefits to participating youth. Through youth service-learning, young people gain access to developmental assets that provide a supportive context for growth and development. For example, youth are exposed to supportive relationships, settings that provide physical and psychological safety, positive social norms, structured activities, etc. As a result of these experiences, research has found that youth service-learning results in increased civic engagement and community

involvement, increased self-efficacy as youth learn they can impact real community needs and challenges, increased academic interest and motivation to further their education, enhanced problem solving skills, and increased ability to work cooperatively in a group and plan activities (Chung, 1997; Lewis-Charp et al., 2003; Tannenbaum, 2007; & YMCA of the USZ, 2004).



Further, service-learning offers a number of benefits to community organizations that engage youth in service-learning activities. By engaging youth in service-learning activities, organizations are able to expand their mission and reach without substantially increasing operating costs. Through this process, community organizations receive the time, gifts, talents, ideas, and enthusiasm that youth bring. Additionally, youth service-learning provides community agencies with increased public support, visibility, and community partnerships. Organizations are able to forge new relationships with schools, churches, and youth programs that

can offer volunteers and other resources (Naughton, 2000; Roehlkepartain, 1995; Urban Institute, 2004).

Finally, youth service-learning benefits community recipients. It meets real needs for people in the community and provides community residents the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with young people. It also helps to shift negative stereotypes of youth. Youth are often seen as a community problem. Through meaningful relationships with youth, community residents are able to see youth as resources to the community that can make meaningful and significant contributions. Through youth service-learning, a new generation of engaged and caring citizens is cultivated (Mohamed & Wheeler, 2001).

What Makes Service-Learning Successful?

The benefits described above do not come automatically; rather they vary depending on the quality of the youth service-learning experience. Research indicates that a number of factors make youth service-learning experiences more likely to have a positive influence on participating youth. In 2008, the National Youth Leadership Council released evidence-based standards and accompanying indicators that K-12 practitioners can use to ensure high-quality service-learning practice. These include the following evidence-based standards (National Youth Leadership Council, 2008):

- **Meaningful Service:** Service-learning actively engages participants in meaningful and personally relevant service activities.
- **Youth Voice:** Service-learning provides youth with a strong voice in planning, implementing, and evaluating service-learning experiences with guidance from adults.
- **Link to Curriculum:** Service-learning is intentionally used as an instructional strategy to meet learning goals and/or content standards.



- **Partnerships:** Service-learning partnerships are collaborative, mutually beneficial, and address community needs.
- **Reflection:** Service-learning incorporates multiple challenging, reflection activities that are ongoing and that prompt deep thinking and analysis about oneself and one’s relationship to society.
- **Progress Monitoring:** Service-learning engages participants in an ongoing process to assess the quality of implementation and progress toward meeting specified goals, and uses results for improvement and sustainability.
- **Diversity:** Service-learning promotes understanding of diversity and mutual respect among all participants.
- **Duration and Intensity:** Service-learning has sufficient duration and intensity to address community needs and meet specified outcomes.

Youth service-learning experiences that incorporate these best-practices are more likely to have a positive impact on participating youth, community organizations, and community residents. Youth programs are strongly encouraged to incorporate these practices into youth service-learning opportunities.

What is The Hartford Project?

The Hartford Project is a Christian urban immersion experience for middle- and high-school youth in the state of Connecticut. Church youth groups are invited to come and live in Hartford, CT for four days in the summer. During this week, they serve in and learn about the Hartford community while building relationships with the wider body of Christ. The Hartford Project began in 2004 when six churches, consisting of 70 youth and leaders, held their first urban immersion in the city of Hartford. Over the last thirteen years, THP has grown and has built a network of relationships including both community organizations and churches located in and around the city of Hartford. In 2017, 25 churches participated in The Hartford Project and served at more than 26 ministries and community organizations (see *Acknowledgements Section* for a detailed list of churches and community partners.)

The Hartford Project is broken down into three primary components: Service, Life in the City and Discipleship, which together foster a number of positive youth development outcomes.

Service: Using a service-learning approach (National Youth Leadership Council, 2008), THP teaches youth about Biblical concepts through service experiences. During THP, the youth work teams are comprised of youth from two different churches. Together, these youth serve at one to two different worksites each day. Youth are exposed to a number of different types of service activities such as manual labor, sorting items, children’s activities and promoting events. In addition, all youth work together to offer two large street carnivals (known as Love Wins) to families in the Hartford community.

Life in the City: The Life in the City track is designed to show youth some of the benefits of urban living and to address and ultimately break down negative stereotypes about urban communities and poverty. This track offers youth the opportunity to have meaningful interactions with Hartford residents and organizations. Home dinners offer youth groups the opportunity to have dinner in the home of a Hartford resident, learn more about why they choose to live in Hartford, and about their experiences living in the city.



Discipleship: THP’s discipleship track consists of four daily components: morning devotional, morning general meeting, evening worship and a youth group meeting. The morning devotionals are designed to connect with the message at the evening general meetings. The morning general meetings serve as a time of encouragement or as a training for the day ahead. At the end of the evening, each youth group is given some time to debrief and discuss the experiences of each day.

Previous program evaluations (Sanderson, Ambrose, & Perreault, 2012; Sanderson & Colantonio, 2013; Sanderson & Rodriguez, 2014) have demonstrated that youth who participate in THP evidenced improved relationships with youth leaders, increased civic engagement, greater leadership confidence, a more positive view of the city of Hartford, and increased comfort interacting with people from different cultures and ethnicities. This data empirically demonstrates the positive impact THP participation has on youth. Further, the numerous hours of community service offered by THP participants have a tremendous impact on local non-profits and Hartford residents. Taken together, THP has a positive impact on both participating youth and the community at-large.



Continuous Improvement through Evaluation

Collecting the right data can have a tremendous impact on a program’s ability to improve program performance and have a positive impact on youth. Continuous program improvement denotes a shift away from thinking about program evaluation as a one-time effort; rather program evaluation is viewed as a continuous learning process that provides programs with data describing whether and how they are adding value to the lives of youth and the community. More specifically, this type of evaluation answers questions about how the services are delivered, progress made towards achieving the organization’s goals, and the experiences of those participating in the program as well as how youth are impacted by program participation.

The Hartford Project embraces a continuous improvement approach to data collection which fosters ongoing improvements and program modifications to ensure that a high-quality program is offered to youth. This evaluation examines the degree to which youth experience the program features described previously (physical and psychological safety, supportive relationships, positive social norms, support for efficacy and mattering, and opportunities for skill building) which research has linked to positive youth development outcomes. By examining and improving the quality of youth experiences at THP, we hypothesize that youth will experience greater positive youth development outcomes in years to come.

METHODS

Evaluation Design

Youth and adult leaders completed pre-test and post-test evaluation surveys both before and after participating in THP. Questionnaires were administered and collected by adult youth leaders. Each leader was given directions specifying the purpose of the program evaluation, how to administer the survey, and the importance of confidentiality. Once surveys were completed they were sealed in a large envelope and returned to the principal investigator.

Youth and Adult Surveys

Youth pre-test and post-test surveys included “measures” of youth development outcomes (adult-youth connections, civic engagement, and leadership confidence) and attitudes about the city of Hartford (positive and negative attitudes towards the city), attitudes about social justice (felt responsibility to help those in need), youths’ comfort with individuals from a different culture/ethnicity (I am comfortable being with people who are of a different race or ethnicity), and the importance they place on unity and working together (It is important for people from different churches to work together). Additionally, youth and adult post-test surveys included closed- and open-ended questions about youths’ satisfaction with THP and experiences participating in THP. The adult leaders’ surveys measured adults satisfaction with various aspects of THP as well as perceived benefits for youth. Each of these measures is described in more detail in the following paragraphs and included in the appendixes of this report.

Youth Development Outcomes

Supportive Relationships. The degree to which youth felt supported by youth pastors and youth leaders was assessed using the *Caring Relationships* subscale of the *Healthy Kids Survey* (Constantine & Benard, 2001). In its original form, this instrument assessed the degree to which youth felt emotionally supported by supportive adults such as teachers or mentors. Cronbach’s alpha for this scale are reported to range from .83 to .86 (Hanson & Kim, 2007). For the purpose of this study, the stem of each question was retained, but the subject was changed from *supportive adult* to either *youth pastor or youth leader* (e.g., “There is a staff/pastor or youth leader who really cares about me” and “There is a pastor or youth leader who notices when I’m not there.”) Responses were rated on a 4-point Likert scale, with response choices ranging from 1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 4 = *Strongly Agree*.

Civic Engagement. The perceived level of youth civic engagement was measured using an adapted version of the *Contribution Scale* of the *Positive Youth Development Inventory* (Arnold & Meinhold, 2008). This instrument assesses the degree to which youth believe they contribute to their community and consisted of seven items, each rated on a 5-point Likert scale with response choices ranging from 1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 5 = *Strongly Agree* (e.g., “I believe I can make a difference in my community”). In prior research the Contribution subscale scores exhibited acceptable internal consistency reliability, with a Cronbach alpha of .91 (Arnold, Nott, & Meinhold, 2012).

Leadership Confidence. Confidence of youth in their ability to lead was assessed with the *Leading Confidence Questionnaire – Youth (LCQ-Y)*. Two LCQ-Y subscales were used in this study: *Influencing Persuasion* and *Influencing Organization*. The first subscale, *Influencing Persuasion*, contained five statements about the ability to motivate others and facilitate interpersonal dynamics (e.g., “I can motivate others to do things,” and “I can help everyone work together as a team”). Also comprised of five items, the second subscale, *Influencing Organization*, inquired about perceived ability to organize activities and help everyone stay on task (e.g., “I am able to plan projects” and “I can give people tasks to complete”). Responses were rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale, with 1 = *Strongly Disagree* and 5 = *Strongly Agree*. In

prior research LCQ-Y subscale scores exhibited internal consistency reliability, with Cronbach's alphas of .82 for Influencing Persuasion and .87 for Influencing Organization (Košutić, 2010).

Attitude and Belief Questions

View of the City of Hartford. The *Perceptions of Hartford Scale* was developed for this study. This scale consisted of two subscales: one assessing positive views of Hartford (e.g., "There are a lot of good things about the Hartford community") and the other assessing negative views of Hartford (e.g., "Many negative things come to mind when I think about the Hartford community"). This subscale consisted of three items. Responses were rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale, with 1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 5 = *Strongly Agree*.

The *Social Justice Scale* was developed for this study to assess the views that youth have of their own personal responsibility to help those in need (e.g., "I believe it is my responsibility as a Christian to help those who are treated unfairly"). This subscale contained three items. Responses were rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale, with 1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 5 = *Strongly Agree*.

Comfort with Cultural Difference. The *Comfort with Cultural Difference Scale* was developed for this study to assess comfort youth had interacting with people who are culturally or ethnically different than themselves (e.g., "I am at ease when I interact with someone who is a different ethnicity than me"). This subscale contained three items. Responses were rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale, with 1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 5 = *Strongly Agree*.

Importance of Unity. The *Importance of Unity Scale* was developed for this study to assess youth's perceived importance of unity among Christians from different churches. Unity can be defined as the state of being joined or working together (e.g. "It is important for people from different churches to work together", "It is important for people from different churches to build relationships with each other"). This subscale contained three items. Responses were rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale, with 1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 5 = *Strongly Agree*.

Satisfaction and Experiences

Youth and adult leaders' perceptions of THP were assessed with both open- and closed-ended questions about satisfaction with THP and experiences participating in THP. Youth and adult leaders were asked 17 different questions about their satisfaction with different aspects of THP (e.g. registration, accommodations, general sessions, worship). These questions were rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale, with response choices ranging from 1 = *Not at all satisfied* to 5 = *Extremely satisfied*. Moreover, participants were asked questions about perceived benefits of participation. Response choices to these questions were dichotomous, with 1 = *Yes* and 2 = *No*. They were also asked questions about each worksite where they served at to learn about the site's level of organization, perceived impact as a result of serving, and the degree to which they enjoyed serving. Finally, youth and adult post-test surveys contained two open-ended questions about perceived THP impact for youth and suggestions for future programming.

YOUTH RESULTS

Youth Demographic Data

Two hundred and seventy-seven ($n = 277$) youth completed THP evaluation surveys. A total of 237 youth completed both pre- and post-test surveys.

Youth who participated in this evaluation ranged from grade 7 through recently completing high school with 23.0% indicating they are in middle school and 77.0% indicating they are either in high school or graduated this past June. Females were slightly overrepresented ($n = 141$, 54.5.2%). Most participants described themselves as White ($n = 162$, 63.5%) or Latino/a ($n = 39$, 15.3%). Most participants reported that they lived with mother and father ($n = 204$, 78.8%) or mother only ($n = 20$, 7.7%). A majority of participating youth indicated that they have been a part of their youth group for at least 2 years ($n=175$, 67.9%) and just over half of youth participating in this evaluation indicated ($n = 130$, 50.2%) reported that they participated in THP in the past. See *Table 1*.

Table 1. Youth Characteristics

Gender (n=259)		Family Composition (n=260)	
Female: 54.5%		Mother and Father: 78.8%	Mother and Step-father: 3.1%
Male: 45.6 %		Mother only: 7.7%	Relatives: 3.1%
		Father only: 1.5%	
Grade in School(n=260)		How long have you been a part of your youth group? (n=258)	
7 th : 8.8%	11 th : 20.4 %	Less than 6 months: 10.1%	2-4 years: 35.3%
8 th : 14.2 %	12 th : 14.6 %	6 months – 1 year: 8.5%	More than 4 years: 32.6%
9 th : 14.6 %	Comp. high school: 9.6 %	1-2 years: 13.6%	
10 th : 17.7 %			
Ethnicity(n=255)		Past participation in THP (n=259)	
Latino/a or Hispanic: 15.3%	Multiracial: 8.2%	Yes: 50.2%	No: 49.8%
White: 63.5%	Asian: 8.2%	Avg. # of times participating in THP: 2.34	
Black or African American: 4.7%			

Youth Outcomes

The primary purpose of this evaluation was to examine whether youth participation in THP resulted in increased positive youth development outcomes. The positive youth development outcomes explored in this study included supportive relationships with youth leaders (pastors and adult leaders), increased civic engagement, and greater leadership confidence. Findings presented in Table 2 indicate that participation in THP resulted in leadership confidence-Influencing Organizing ($t(236) = -3.50, p < .001$]. Namely, after participating in THP, youth felt more confident in their ability to organize others around activities and tasks. Youth did not evidence statistically-significant change in their relationships with adult leaders or other youth over the course of THP or their belief in their ability to contribute to their community. It is important to note that youth scores indicated that they felt very cared for by leaders and youth both

before and after participating in THP. Similarly, youth evidenced high scores on the civic engagement scale before and after participating in THP. This may contribute to the lack of statistically significant finds in these areas.

Table 2. Changes in Youth Development Outcomes Associated with THP Participation

	Range	Pre-Test Mean	Post-Test Mean	df	t value
Supportive Relationship with Adult Leaders	1-4	3.55	3.53	236	.556
Supportive Relationship with Youth		3.51	3.51	235	-.09
Civic Engagement	1-4	3.40	3.41	236	.68
Leadership Confidence –Influencing Persuasion	1-5	4.00	3.93	236	.27
Leadership Confidence–Influencing Organization	1-5	3.54	3.69	236	-3.50**

Note: $p < .05^*$; $p < .01^{**}$; $p < .001^{***}$

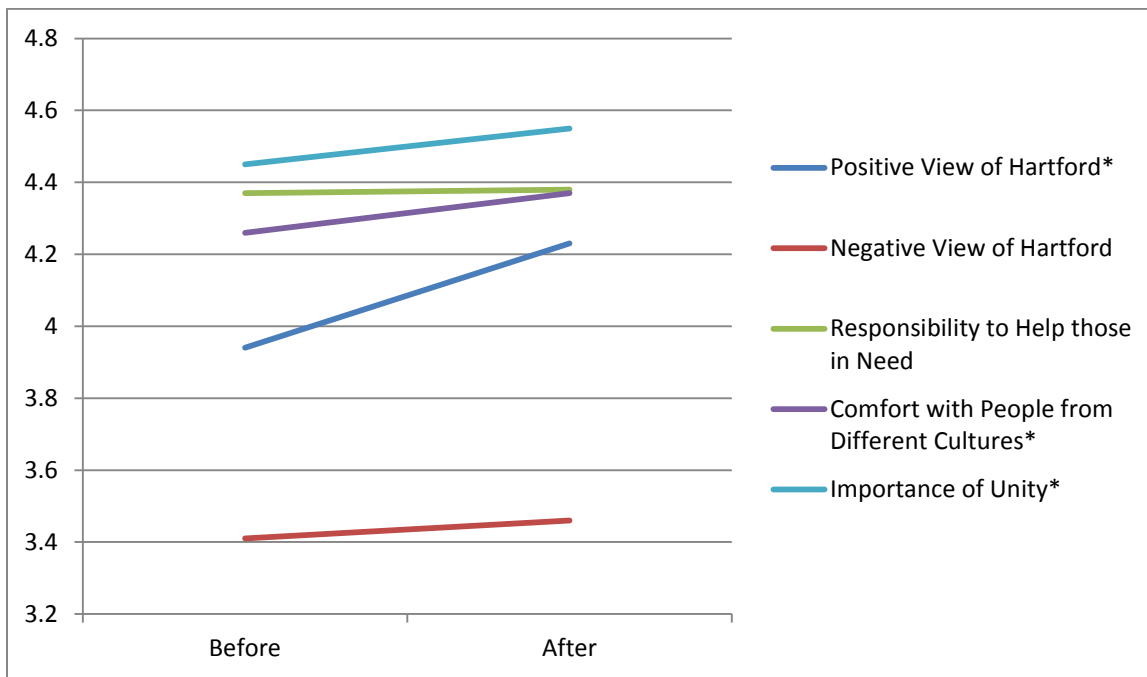
The results presented in Table 3 and Figure 1 demonstrate that THP participation positively-influenced youths’ views of the city of Hartford ($t(233) = -3.76, p < .001$), increased their comfort interacting with people from different cultures and ethnicities ($t(232) = -2.40, p < .05$), and increased the importance they placed on unity and relationship among believers in the body of Christ. It is interesting that while youth saw the city of Hartford more positively after participating in THP, they did not see it any less negatively.

Table 3. Changes in Youth Attitudes and Beliefs Associated with THP Participation

	Range	Pre-Test Mean	Post-Test Mean	df	t value
Positive View of Hartford	1-5	3.94	4.23	233	-3.76***
Negative View of Hartford	1-5	3.41	3.46	230	-.87
Responsibility to Help those in Need	1-5	4.37	4.38	232	-.38
Comfort with People from Different Cultures	1-5	4.26	4.37	232	-2.40*
Importance of Unity	1-5	4.45	4.55	232	-2.27*

Note: $p < .05^*$; $p < .01^{**}$; $p < .001^{***}$

Figure 1. Outcome and Attitude Changes Resulting from THP Participation



* Indicates a statistically significant difference between pre- and post- test scores

Youth Satisfaction with THP

A series of close- and open-ended questions were asked to collect data on how youth experienced their participation in THP. Fourteen single-item questions, each rated on a 5-point scale, were asked to assess perceptions of satisfaction with various aspects of THP. Areas where youth reported the highest levels of satisfaction included Home Dinner ($M=4.30$, $SD = .95$), Restaurant Dinner ($M = 4.30$, $SD = .95$), Church Meetings ($M = 3.95$, $SD = 1.04$), Bushnell Park-Thursday Afternoon ($M = 3.93$, $SD = 1.12$) and LIC Youth Talk 2 – Tuesday ($M = 3.93$, $SD = 1.15$). Areas where youth reported the lowest levels of satisfaction included the Devotionals ($M = 3.37$, $SD = 1.03$), Food ($M = 3.41$, $SD = 1.12$), Accommodations ($M = 3.43$, $SD = 1.13$) and Registration ($M = 3.52$, $SD = 1.09$). See Table 4 and Figure 2.

Table 4. Youth Satisfaction with THP

	<i>n</i>	<i>SD</i>	Mean	Not Satisfied %	A little Satisfied %	Satisfied %	Very Satisfied %	Extremely Satisfied %
1. Registration prior to THP	220	1.09	3.52	5.0	9.1	38.2	24.5	23.2
2. Food – breakfasts and lunches	250	1.12	3.41	5.2	14.8	34	25.6	20.4
3. General sessions – speaking/teaching	248	1.13	3.65	2.8	14.5	27.0	25.8	29.8
4. General sessions – worship/music	248	1.15	3.86	1.6	14.1	21.4	22.6	40.3
5. Devotionals	247	1.03	3.37	3.2	14.2	41.7	23.9	17.0
6. Participant’s/leader’s guides	235	.99	3.71	1.3	9.4	32.3	30.6	26.4
7. Schedule	250	1.02	3.66	2.8	9.6	29.2	35.2	23.2

	<i>n</i>	<i>SD</i>	Mean	Not Satisfied %	A little Satisfied %	Satisfied %	Very Satisfied %	Extremely Satisfied %
8. Accommodations	241	1.13	3.43	4.6	15.8	32.8	25.3	21.6
9. Team Meetings	247	1.04	3.73	1.6	10.5	30.0	28.7	29.1
10. Church meetings	248	1.04	3.95	1.6	8.1	22.6	28.2	39.5
11. Restaurant Dinner	248	.95	4.30	1.6	4.0	12.9	25.0	56.5
12. Home dinner	222	.95	4.30	3.2	4.1	14.0	22.1	56.8
13. LIC Youth Talk 1 – Cultural Sensitivity	239	1.12	3.58	3.8	12.4	29.7	27.2	25.9
14. LIC Youth Talk 2 - Rock-Paper	248	1.15	3.93	3.6	8.5	21.8	23.4	42.7
15. LIC Youth Talk 3 – LIC Workshops	248	1.10	3.87	2.8	9.3	23.0	27.4	37.5
16. LIC Youth Talk 4 – Bus Simulation	247	1.22	3.72	6.5	9.7	24.3	24.7	34.8
17. Bushnell Park - Thursday afternoon	245	1.12	3.93	2.9	9.4	20.4	26.1	41.2

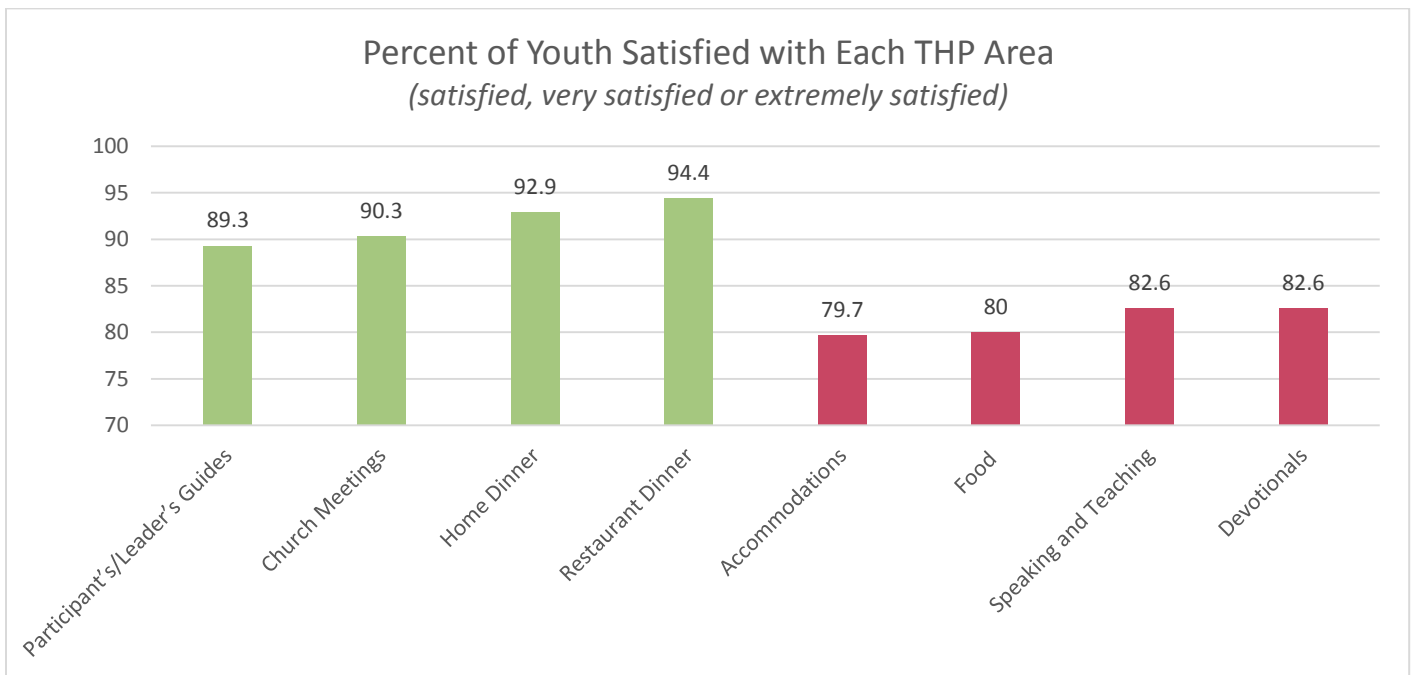
* LIC Youth Talk 1 – Monday, Cultural Sensitivity and Evangelism Training

* LIC Youth Talk 2 - Tuesday, Rock-Paper-Scissors / Monopoly Simulations

* LIC Youth Talk 3 – LIC Workshops

* LIC Youth Talk 4 – Bus Simulation

Figure 2. Percent of Youth Satisfied with each THP Area



Worksite Feedback

Youth answered four questions about their experiences at each worksite. Table 4 provides mean scores for each worksite for each question. Overall, youth indicated that they had positive experiences serving in the community. The sites with the overall highest scores included World Vision, Church Army, Goodwin Park and Hands on Hartford. Sites with the lowest scores included Catholic Charities, Clothing Closet, Gardner House, and St. Agnes Home. The vast majority of sites had average scores over 4.0 indicating an overall positive experience.

Table 4. Worksite Experiences

Worksite	<i>The worksite was well organized</i>	<i>Our group made a positive contribution to the worksite</i>	<i>I had what I needed to accomplish the tasks given to me.</i>	<i>I enjoyed serving at this worksite.</i>
Bible Way Temple Nation	4.11	4.33	4.00	3.88
Camp Noah	4.28	4.27	4.41	4.31
Car Wash	4.06	4.67	4.17	4.56
Catholic Charities	3.52	3.97	3.66	4.00
Church Army	4.53	4.74	4.74	4.72
Citadel of Love	4.08	4.58	4.50	4.67
Clothes Closet	3.71	4.14	4.14	3.71
Gardner House	3.59	4.05	4.05	4.18
Goodwin Park	4.63	4.75	4.63	4.63
Hands on Hartford	4.78	4.89	4.78	4.67
Keney Park	3.94	4.67	4.42	4.36
Kinsella Magnet School	4.03	4.27	4.30	4.00
Know Thy Neighbor	4.50	4.60	4.70	4.50
Love Wins Promo	4.02	4.37	4.43	4.24
New Dimension	4.64	4.57	4.64	4.36
Salvation Army	4.00	4.63	4.65	4.53
Simpson Waverly	4.34	4.61	4.68	4.68
South Church Clothes Sorting	4.22	4.33	4.44	4.11
South Church Kitchen	3.90	4.30	4.30	4.00
South Church VBS	4.15	4.25	4.20	4.10
South Church VBS Prep	4.44	4.56	4.56	4.56
South Church Work Projects	4.45	4.55	4.60	4.70
Southside Family Center	4.00	4.67	4.50	4.33
St. Agnes Home	2.86	4.00	3.29	2.57
Wilson Gray YMCA	4.35	4.54	4.65	4.54
World Vision	4.56	4.64	4.64	4.61
Youth Challenge	3.89	4.42	4.47	4.47
(blank)	4.00	4.00	2.00	5.00
Grand Total	4.15	4.46	4.44	4.38

Love Wins Feedback

Youth responded to four statements about their experiences serving at Love Wins events. Table 5 summarizes youth responses to each statement. Overall, youth responses suggest they had extremely positive experiences serving at Love Wins. Means for all statements were above 4.0, which indicate on average, youth agreed with each statement.

Table 5. Love Wins Feedback

	<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Uncertain %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
1. The worksite was well organized.	250	4.32	.8	2.4	10.0	37.2	49.6
2. Our group made a positive contribution to the worksite.	249	4.44	1.2	1.6	7.2	31.3	58.6
3. I had what I needed to accomplish the tasks given to me.	249	4.45	.8	1.6	7.2	32.1	58.2
4. I enjoyed serving at this worksite.	247	4.48	1.2	.8	10.1	23.5	64.4

Youth Perceived Benefits of THP Participation

To gain information about perceived changes associated with THP participation, youth were asked another set of seven yes/no questions on the post-test. As Table 6 shows, most youth reported spiritual and personal growth as well as benefits to the community resulting from THP participation. Youth indicated that they had stronger relationships with adults ($n=246$, 87.8%) other youth from their church ($n=245$, 93.9%), and youth from other churches ($n=245$, 93.5%). They also felt they positively impacted the Hartford community ($n=244$, 98.8%), planned to serve in the future ($n=424$, 96.7%), personally felt they developed leadership skills ($n=244$, 76.2%), were able to use their gifts to serve and make a difference ($n=245$, 97.1%). Finally youth also reported spiritual impacts as a result of participating in THP. They reported they grew in their relationship with God ($n=244$, 93.4%), were used by God to reach people ($n=244$, 95.1%), and learned more about God ($n=242$, 93.4%) a result of participating in THP.

Table 6. Youth Perceived Benefits from THP Participation

	<i>n</i>	% Yes	% No
1. I have a better relationship with at least one adult leader or youth pastor from my church.	246	87.8	12.2
2. I have a better relationship with at least one youth from my church.	245	93.9	6.1
3. I got to know at least one youth from a different church.	245	93.5	6.5
4. I worked on a project that positively impacted the Hartford community.	244	98.8	1.2
5. I plan to be a part of a community service project in the future.	242	96.7	3.3
6. I feel my leadership skills have improved.	244	76.2	23.8
7. I believe I can make a difference by using my gifts to serve.	245	97.1	2.9
8. I have grown in my relationship with God a result of participating in THP.	244	93.4	6.6

	n	% Yes	% No
9. I saw God use The Hartford Project to reach people in the Hartford community.	244	95.1	4.9
10. I have learned more about who God is as a result of participating in THP.	242	93.4	6.6

ADULT RESULTS

Adult Leader Demographic Data

Fifty-two ($n = 52$) adult leaders completed THP leader evaluation surveys. Males were slightly overrepresented ($n = 26$, 51%). Most participants described themselves as White ($n = 40$, 80%) or Latino/Hispanic ($n = 9$, 18%). Youth leaders indicated that they had worked with youth for an average of 5 years and just under half of adult leaders ($n = 20$, 40.4%) reported that they participated in THP in the past. See Table 7.

Table 7. Adult Leader Demographic Data

Gender ($n=51$)

Female: 49%

Male: 51%

How many years have you worked with youth at your church? ($n=52$)

Avg. # of Years: 5 years

Ethnicity ($n=51$)

Black or African American: 2%

Multiracial: 0%

Latino/a or Hispanic: 18%

Asian: 0%

White: 80%

Other: 0%

Have you participated in The Hartford Project in the past? ($n=51$)

Yes: 40.4% No: 59.6%

Adult Leader Satisfaction with THP

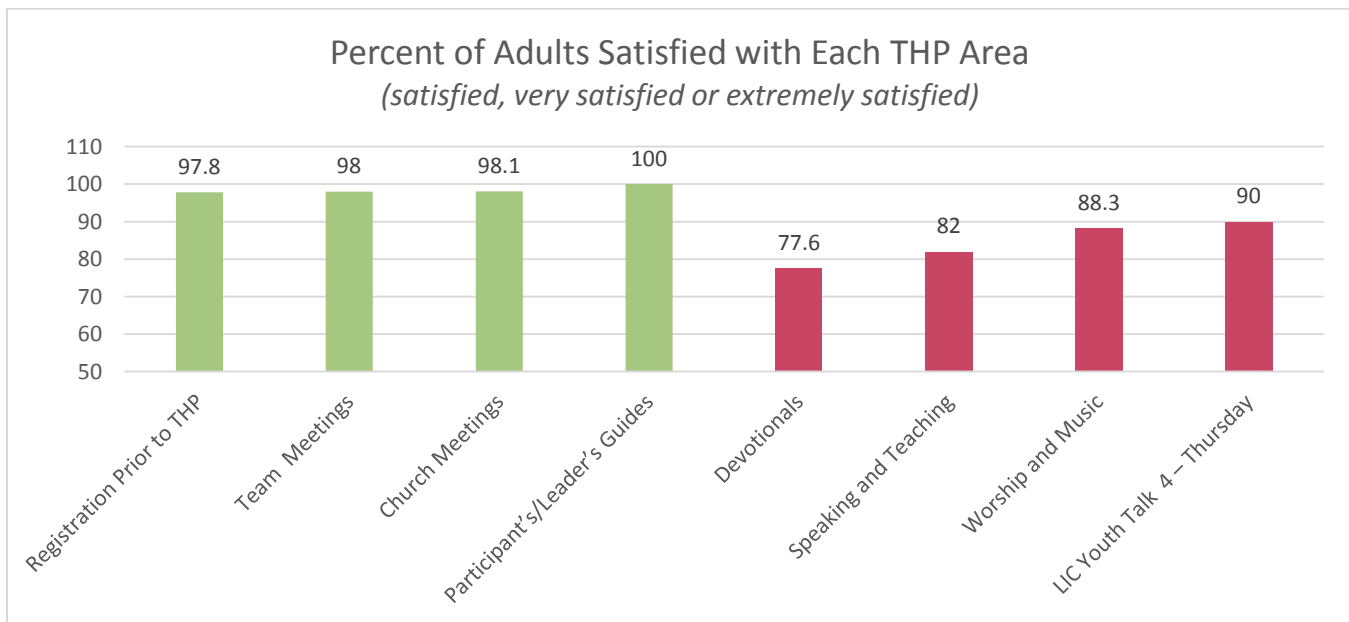
A series of questions was asked to collect data on how adult leaders experienced their participation in THP. Fourteen single-item questions, each rated on a 5-point scale, were asked to assess perceptions of satisfaction with various aspects of THP. Areas where leaders reported the highest levels of satisfaction included *Home Dinners* ($M = 4.53$, $SD = .93$), *Restaurant Dinner* ($M = 4.31$, $SD = .81$), and *Participant/ Leaders Guides* ($M = 4.14$, $SD = .72$). Areas where leaders reported the lowest levels of satisfaction included the *Devotionals* ($M = 3.39$, $SD = 1.03$), *General sessions – speaking/teaching* ($M = 3.60$, $SD = 1.01$), and *Accommodations* ($M = 3.66$, $SD = .90$). See Table 8 and Figure 3.

Table 8. Adult Leader Satisfaction with THP

	n	SD	Mean	Not Satisfied %	A little Satisfied %	Satisfied %	Very Satisfied %	Extremely Satisfied %
1. Registration prior to THP	45	.94	3.87	2.2	0	37.8	28.9	31.1

	<i>n</i>	<i>SD</i>	Mean	Not Satisfied %	A little Satisfied %	Satisfied %	Very Satisfied %	Extremely Satisfied %
2. Food – breakfasts and lunches	51	.90	3.84	0	9.8	19.6	47.1	23.5
3. General sessions – speaking/teaching	50	1.01	3.60	0	18.0	24.0	38.0	20.0
4. General sessions – worship/music	51	1.01	3.75	2.0	9.8	25.5	37.3	25.5
5. Devotionals	49	1.03	3.39	2.0	20.4	28.6	34.7	14.3
6. Participant’s/leader’s guides	51	.72	4.14	0	0	19.6	47.1	33.3
7. The schedule	52	.94	3.79	3.8	3.8	21.2	51.9	19.2
8. Accommodations	50	.90	3.66	0	8.0	38.0	34.0	20.0
9. Team Meetings	50	.74	3.90	0	2.0	26.0	52.0	20.0
10. Church meetings	51	.77	4.04	0	2.0	21.6	47.1	29.4
11. Restaurant Dinner	51	.81	4.31	0	3.9	9.8	37.3	49.0
12. Home dinner	47	.93	4.53	4.3	0	4.3	21.3	70.2
13. LIC Youth Talk 1 – Monday	46	.99	3.76	2.2	6.5	30.4	34.8	26.1
14. LIC Youth Talk 2 - Tuesday	43	.98	3.95	0	7.0	27.9	27.9	37.2
15. LIC Youth Talk 3 – Wednesday	48	1.06	3.94	2.1	6.3	27.1	25.0	39.6
16. LIC Youth Talk 4 – Thursday activity	50	1.09	4.06	4.0	6.0	14.0	32.0	44.0
17. Bushnell Park - Thursday afternoon	50	.87	3.84	0	4.0	34.0	36.0	26.0

Figure 3. Percent of Adult Leaders Satisfied with each THP Area



Adult Leader Perceived Benefits from THP Participation

Adult leaders were asked yes/no questions on the post-test about their experiences participating in THP. Data included in Table 9 indicate that most leaders reported that THP participation resulted in an increased appreciation for serving in the community, deeper relationships with youth and spiritual growth.

Table 9. Adult Leader Perceived Outcomes

	n	% Yes	% No
Youth grew to appreciate the importance of serving others.	48	97.9	2.1
Youth and adult leaders from my church have deepened their relationships with each other.	50	96.0	4.0
Youth from my church are more excited about serving in the community.	48	95.8	4.2
Youth from my church have grown in their relationship with God.	46	95.7	4.3
Youth were empowered to use their gifts to serve.	48	93.8	6.3
Youth from my church benefitted from participating in THP.	48	100	0
Youth learned more about the city of Hartford.	50	100	0
Youth learned about teamwork and unity while serving on THP.	48	91.7	8.3
God spoke to youth from my church through the speaking/teaching time in the general meetings	47	91.5	8.5

Adult Qualitative Responses

Adult leaders' responses to qualitative questions were analyzed to identify themes and consistently communicated feedback. Researcher categorized each response and identified the following themes based on the frequency each theme arose in the comments. The themes are listed from 1-5, with 1 being the themes listed most frequently. See Tables 9 and 10 for a summary of themes and the Appendixes for a complete listing of all adult and youth qualitative responses.

Table 10. Is there an experience you would like to share with us where you were impacted or where you saw God move?

1. Youth experienced a move of God during the worship services
"God moved in the lives of the youth, they learned to love others"
"Powerful worship, students opening up during the services and prayer"
"Worship experience helped youth open up"
2. Positive and inspiring moments were experienced while engaging with the community
"Moved by experience at YMCA, blessed by Officer Barrett's ministry to the homeless"
"Kids engaging others during Love Wins"
"Praying for people in the community"
3. Home dinners were a positive experience
"Family dinner was great, and interaction with men at Youth Challenge"
"Awesome interaction at host family dinner site, nightly sessions, LIC was great"
4. Youth were able to come out of their comfort zones
"Youth stepped out of their comfort zone"
"Seeing students speak and pray for others different from them"

Table 11. Do you have any suggestions for improving THP?

1. Concerns about speaking, teaching and worship during general sessions
"Shorter teachings to give more time to respond in worship, prayer, and fill papers for prayer wall"
"Morning and evening services lacked substance, want more biblically based teachings"
"Speakers did not engage with students, need more engagement"
"Prefer teachings to be bible based and not tradition heavy, i.e. Pentecostal"

<p>“Stronger sermons, deeper teachings”</p> <p>“Some songs un-godly”</p> <p>“Less speakers, more time to process content”</p>
<p>2. Expressed need for improved communication and organization so things run more smoothly</p>
<p>“Give teams a chance to set up and break down tables and chairs before and after meals”</p> <p>“Easier registration process”</p> <p>“Mandatory training to go over expectations, ahead of time, clarity on clothing rules”</p> <p>“Disorganized during LIC, perhaps use cars, more security”</p> <p>“Pre-THP orientation for all leaders”</p> <p>“Getting some background on sites and expectations”</p> <p>“Not first-time user friendly culture, chaotic, bad communication and organization”</p> <p>“Better prepared work sites, have churches bring supplies that may be needed at site”</p>
<p>3. Expressed need for improved logistics around sleeping quarters</p>
<p>“Adjust AC, wake up 45 mins before breakfast, teams to set up and break down, more time for team meetings</p> <p>“Sleeping in a large room was difficult and cold”</p> <p>“Allow kids to unwind before bed”</p>
<p>4. Concern that the dress code was not consistently enforced</p>
<p>“THP staff had inappropriate shorts”</p> <p>“THP need to follow dress code”</p> <p>“Dress code policy needed to be enforced”</p>
<p>Additional Important Comments:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow black and brown folks to co-lead LIC activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orient the teams on street culture and safety issues, eliminate the word "slave" from game

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

This program evaluation examined the influence of THP participation on participating youth and adult leaders. During the summer of 2017, 277 youth and 52 adult leaders participated in The Hartford Project, which can be characterized as a youth-serving learning experience. Participating youth and adult leaders spent four days living in the city, participating in service projects, learning about the Hartford community, and building meaningful relationships with Hartford residents, Hartford organizations, and other participating churches. This program evaluation provides information about the impact of THP on youth and adult participants, their satisfaction with various aspects of programming, and suggestions for improvement.

Important Findings

THP increased youth's leadership skills and provided opportunities for youth to grow through serving others. Findings from this evaluation show that participating in THP increased youth leadership confidence. These findings were reflected in the quantitative data where youth evidenced statistically significant increases in leadership confidence scores. Additionally, youth indicated on their post-test that they plan to be part of a community service project in the future ($n=242$, 96.7%) and that they worked on a project that positively impacted the Hartford community ($n=244$, 98.8%). These statistics suggest that after participating in THP, most youth felt they made a positive contribution to the community and plan to serve in the future suggesting a possible increase in civic engagement. Adult leaders also saw youths' civic engagement and leadership skills impacted by THP participation. 97.9% of leaders indicated that youth grew to appreciate the importance of serving others and 95.8% felt youth from their church were more excited about serving in the community after THP. Qualitative data from adult leaders also suggests that youth grew through serving others and leaving their comfort zones to interact with others.

THP participation impacted youth's attitudes and beliefs. THP participation positively-influenced youths' views of the city, increased their comfort interacting with people from different cultures and ethnicities, and increased the importance they placed on unity and relationship among believers in the body of Christ. Youth evidenced statistically significant increases in their scores in each of these areas on the survey. Adult leaders' post-test scores echoed these findings. A high percentage of adult leaders reported youth learned more about the city of Hartford and learned more about teamwork and unity while serving at THP.

THP provided an opportunity for youth to grow in their faith. Findings from this evaluation indicate that youth were impacted spiritually as a result of THP participation. More specifically, 93.4% of youth indicated that they grew in their relationship with God and 95.7% of adult leaders indicated that they saw youth from their church grow in their relationship with God. Adult leaders also indicated in the answers to qualitative questions that they saw youth from their church experience a move of God during the worship services and while praying with others in the community. For example, one leader wrote, "God moved in the lives of the youth, they learned to love others" and another wrote that they saw youth positively impacted while, "Praying for people in the community" and "Sharing Christ with the community."

Suggestions for Improvement

Program evaluation provides an opportunity for continuous learning. This allows programs to learn from past experience and improve future efforts. The majority of youth and adults were satisfied with their experiences participating in THP and 100% of adult leaders reported youth from their church benefited from THP participation. Areas that consistently received lower post- test satisfaction scores from both adults and youth included devotionals and speaking and teaching times during the general sessions. A number of qualitative responses provide more detailed information about adult leaders concerns in these areas. See below for qualitative responses specific to devotional and speaking and teaching:

Speaking and Teaching

- “Fewer speakers, shorter services, serve more, pace and activities overwhelming for youth”
- “Shorter teachings to give more time to respond in worship, prayer, and fill papers for prayer wall”
- “Morning and evening services lacked substance, want more biblically based teachings”
- “Speakers did not engage with students, need more engagement”
- “Prefer teachings to be bible based and not tradition heavy, i.e. Pentecostal”
- “Stronger sermons, deeper teachings”

Devotionals

- “Deeper devotionals”
- “More direction during devotions, talks dumbed down”
- “More time to process experiences, morning devotions disconnected, loud band”

Further, adult qualitative data provided valuable information about programming strengths and challenges. Themes that emerged from an analysis of adult leaders responses to open ended questions included concerns about speaking, teaching and worship during general sessions, a need for improved communication and organization so things run more smoothly, a need for improved logistics around sleeping quarters, and more consistent enforcement of the dress code. These are areas the THP planning team may want to allot time and attention to in the upcoming year.

This information can be used to improve future programming and increase the impact of THP on participating youth.

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2017 THP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Participating Community Organizations

Bible Way Temple Nation | 3035 Main Street, Hartford, CT
Catholic Charities – Milner School | 104 Vine Street, Hartford, CT
Catholic Charities – Southside | 35 Groton Street, Hartford, CT
Classical Magnet School | 85 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT
The Citadel of Love | 167 Barbour Street, Hartford, CT
Church Army | 164 South Street, West Hartford
Gardner's House | 1205 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT
Glory Chapel/Youth Challenge | 15-17 May Street, Hartford, CT
Goodwin Park | 1130 Maple Avenue, Hartford, CT
Hartford City Church | 15 Vernon Street, Hartford, CT
Hartford City Mission | 280 Vine Street, Hartford, CT
HOH- Community Meal | 45 Church Street, Hartford, CT
Faith-Based Initiative, Know Thy Neighbor | 217 Washington Street, Hartford, CT
Keney Park Sustainability Project | 183 Windsor Street, Windsor, CT
Kinsella Magnet School | 65 Van Block Avenue, Hartford, CT
Learning Corridor Pool Showers | 43 Vernon Street, Hartford, CT
New Dimensions Christian Center | 141 Washington Street, Hartford, CT
North End Salvation Army | 100 Nelson Street, Hartford, CT
South End Salvation Army | 217 Washington Street, Hartford, CT
Simpson-Waverly School | 55 Waverly Street, Hartford, CT
South Church | 277 Main Street, Hartford, CT
South Park Inn | 75 Main Street, Hartford, CT
St. Agnes Home | 104 Mayflower Street, West Hartford, CT
Urban Alliance | 62 Village Street, East Hartford, CT
Wilson-Gray YMCA Service | 444 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT
World Vision | 62 Village Street, East Hartford, CT

Participating Church Youth Groups

Calvary Church | West Hartford, CT
Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Hartford | West Hartford, CT
City Church | Hartford, CT
Cornerstone Bible Church | East Hampton, CT
Crossroads Community Cathedral | East Hartford, CT
Faith Christian Assembly | Middletown, CT
Glory Chapel International Cathedral | Hartford, CT
House of Praise and Worship | Hartford, CT
House of Restoration Church | Hartford, CT
Immanuel Church | Chelmsford, MA
New River Community Church | Manchester, CT
New Dimension Christian Center | Hartford, CT
River of Life Christian Fellowship | Tolland, CT
South Church | Hartford, CT
Storrs Community Church | Coventry, CT
St. Andrew the Apostle | Rocky Hill, CT
Trinity Covenant Church | Manchester, CT
Triumphant Church of God | Hartford, CT
Valley Brook Community Church | North Granby, CT
Valley Community Baptist Church | Avon, CT
Wellspring Church | Kensington, CT
Westfield Evangelical Free Church | Westfield, MA
Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church | Wethersfield, CT
Windsor Locks Congregational Church | Windsor Locks, CT
Wintonbury Church | Bloomfield, CT

APPENDIXES

Appendix A: THP Youth Post Test Survey

Appendix B: THP Adult Leader Post Test Survey

Appendix C: Qualitative Youth and Adult Responses

THP Youth Survey: POST

The purpose of this survey is to get feedback from youth who participated in The Hartford Project. Your responses will be kept PRIVATE and CONFIDENTIAL. We appreciate your contribution to this survey!

The first thing we ask for you to complete is an ID number. This number includes the first two letters of your first name, the first two letters of your last name, the month, the day, and the year of your birth.

For example, if your name is **Mark Smith** and you were born on **October 14, 1994**, your ID number would be **MASM101494**.

<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
First Two Letters of First Name	First Two Letters of Last Name	Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year)

Today's date: _____ Church you attend: _____

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU

1. What is your gender? (Mark one)

- Female
 Male

2. What grade will you be in during Fall 2017?

(Mark one)

- 5th 10th
 6th 11th
 7th 12th
 8th Completed high school
 9th

3. How do you describe yourself? (Mark one)

- Black or African-American Multi-racial
 Latino/a or Hispanic Asian
 White/Caucasian Other: _____

4. Which best describes the adults living in your house right now? (Mark one)

- Mother and father Relatives
 Mother only Foster parents
 Father only Mother and stepfather
 Other: _____ Father and stepmother

5. How long have you been a part of your youth group?

(Mark one)

- Less than 6 months 2-4 years
 6 months – 1 year More than 4 years
 1-2 years

6. What town do you live in? _____

7. Have you participated in The Hartford Project before?

- Yes No

If yes, how many times (not including this year): _____

QUESTIONS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

We would like to know about your relationships with adults and youth from your church. **Circle** the response that best represents how much you **agree or disagree** with each of the statements below.

	Not at All true	A Little True	Pretty Much True	Very Much True
1. There is an adult leader or pastor who really cares about me.	1	2	3	4
2. There is an adult leader or pastor who notices when I'm not there.	1	2	3	4
3. There is an adult leader or pastor who listens when I have something to say.	1	2	3	4
4. There is a youth who really cares about me.	1	2	3	4
5. There is a youth who notices when I'm not there.	1	2	3	4
6. There is a youth who listens when I have something to say.	1	2	3	4

QUESTIONS ABOUT WORKING WITH OTHER YOUTH

Think of a time when you've worked with other youth on a project or event.

Circle the answer that best describes how much you **agree or disagree** with each statement about your experiences working with other youth.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain (Not Sure)	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I can help everyone work together as a team.	1	2	3	4	5
2. I can help resolve arguments among team members.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I can inspire others to achieve team goals.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I can motivate others to do things.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I can get others to care about team goals.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I am able to organize activities.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I can give people tasks to complete.	1	2	3	4	5
8. I can plan activities for our team.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I am able to plan projects.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I can run team meetings.	1	2	3	4	5

QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Circle the response that best represents how much you **agree or disagree** with each of the statements below. When you think about 'community' consider both your home community and the Hartford community.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I take an active role in the community.	1	2	3	4
2. I am someone who gives to benefit others.	1	2	3	4
3. I like to work with others to solve problems.	1	2	3	4
4. I have things I can offer to others.	1	2	3	4
5. I believe I can make a difference in the community.	1	2	3	4
6. I care about contributing to make the community a better place.	1	2	3	4
7. It is important to make a difference in the community.	1	2	3	4

ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS

Circle the response that best describes how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain (Not Sure)	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. There are a lot of good things about the Hartford community.	1	2	3	4	5
2. I believe it is my responsibility as a Christian to help those who are treated unfairly.	1	2	3	4	5
3. There are a lot of bad things about the Hartford community.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I am comfortable spending time with people from a different culture.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I can think of many positive things about the city of Hartford.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I believe it is my responsibility as a Christian to help people whose basic needs (food, shelter, etc.) are not met.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I can think of many negative things about the city of Hartford.	1	2	3	4	5
8. Jesus calls me to help people who have less than I do.	1	2	3	4	5
9. Many negative things come to mind when I think about the Hartford community.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I am comfortable being with people who are of a different race or ethnicity.	1	2	3	4	5
11. Many positive things come to mind when I think about the Hartford community.	1	2	3	4	5
12. I am at ease when I interact with someone who is a different ethnicity than I am.	1	2	3	4	5
13. It is important for people from different churches to work together.	1	2	3	4	5
14. It is important for people from different churches to build relationships with each other.	1	2	3	4	5
15. It is important for people from different churches to learn from one another.	1	2	3	4	5

GENERAL SATISFACTION

Circle the response that best describes your satisfaction with each part of The Hartford Project.

	Not Satisfied	A Little Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied	Did Not Participate (n/a)
1. Registration prior to THP	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
2. Food – <i>breakfasts and lunches</i>	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
3. General sessions – <i>speaking/teaching</i>	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
4. General sessions – <i>worship/music</i>	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
5. Devotionals	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
6. Participant's/leader's guides – <i>information other than devotionals</i>	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
7. The schedule	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
8. Accommodations	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
9. Team meetings	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
10. Church meetings	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
11. Restaurant dinner	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

12. Home dinner	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
13. LIC Youth Talk 1 – Monday, Cultural Sensitivity and Evangelism Training	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
14. LIC Youth Talk 2 - Tuesday Rock-Paper-Scissors / Monopoly Simulations	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
15. LIC Youth Talk 3 – Wednesday, Wednesday Workshop: _____	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
16. LIC Youth Talk 4 – Thursday activity	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
17. Bushnell Park - Thursday afternoon	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

WORKSITE FEEDBACK

Please indicate which worksite you served at each day and answer the following questions about each worksite and Love Wins.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain (Not Sure)	Agree	Strongly Agree
DAY ONE: _____					
1. The worksite was well organized.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Our group made a positive contribution to the worksite.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I had what I needed to accomplish the tasks given to me.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I enjoyed serving at this worksite.	1	2	3	4	5
DAY TWO: _____					
1. The worksite was well organized.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Our group made a positive contribution to the worksite.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I had what I needed to accomplish the tasks given to me.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I enjoyed serving at this worksite.	1	2	3	4	5
DAY THREE: _____					
1. The worksite was well organized.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Our group made a positive contribution to the worksite.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I had what I needed to accomplish the tasks given to me.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I enjoyed serving at this worksite.	1	2	3	4	5
LOVE WINS					
1. The event was well organized.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Our group made a positive contribution to the event.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I had what I needed to accomplish the tasks given to me.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I enjoyed serving at this event.	1	2	3	4	5
5. How did you serve at Love Wins?	<input type="checkbox"/> Collecting trash		<input type="checkbox"/> Children's activities		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Distributing food/items		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		

Please answer the following questions about your experiences participating in THP.

As a result of participating in THP...

	Yes	No
1. I have a better relationship with at least one adult leader or youth pastor from my church.	Yes	No
2. I have a better relationship with at least one youth from my church.	Yes	No
3. I got to know at least one youth from a different church.	Yes	No
4. I worked on a project that positively impacted the Hartford community.	Yes	No
5. I plan to be a part of a community service project in the future.	Yes	No
6. I feel my leadership skills have improved.	Yes	No
7. I believe I can make a difference by using my gifts to serve.	Yes	No
8. I have grown in my relationship with God a result of participating in THP.	Yes	No
9. I saw God use The Hartford Project to reach people in the Hartford community.	Yes	No
10. I have learned more about who God is as a result of participating in THP.	Yes	No

1. How has this week impacted you (how have you grown/what did you learn)?

2. Do you have any suggestions for improving THP?

Thank You!

THP Adult Survey: POST

The purpose of this survey is to get feedback from adult youth leaders and pastors who are participating in The Hartford Project (THP). Your responses will be kept PRIVATE and CONFIDENTIAL. We appreciate your contribution to this survey!

Today's date: _____ Church you attend: _____

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU

1. What is your gender? (Mark one)

- Female
 Male

2. How many years have you worked with youth at your church?

of Years: _____

3. How do you describe yourself? (Mark one)

- Black or African-American Multi-racial
 Latino/a or Hispanic Asian
 White/Caucasian Other (please describe)
- _____

4. Have you participated in The Hartford Project in the past?

- Yes No

! If yes, how many times (not including this year)? _____

GENERAL SATISFACTION

Circle the response that best describes your satisfaction with each part of The Hartford Project.

	Not Satisfied	A Little Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied	Did Not Participate (n/a)
1. Registration prior to THP	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
2. Food – <i>breakfasts and lunches</i>	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
3. General sessions – <i>speaking/teaching</i>	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
4. General sessions – <i>worship/music</i>	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
5. Devotionals	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
6. Participant's/leader's guides – <i>information other than devotionals</i>	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
7. The schedule	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
8. Accommodations	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
9. Team meetings	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
10. Church meetings	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
11. Restaurant dinner	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
12. Home dinner	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
13. LIC Youth Talk 1 – Monday, Cultural Sensitivity and Evangelism Training	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
14. LIC Youth Talk 2 - Tuesday Rock-Paper-Scissors / Monopoly Simulations	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
15. LIC Youth Talk 3 – Wednesday, Wednesday Workshop: _____	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
16. LIC Youth Talk 4 – Thursday activity	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
17. Bushnell Park - Thursday afternoon	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

WORKSITE FEEDBACK

Please indicate which worksite you served at each day and answer the following questions about each worksite and Love Wins.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain (Not Sure)	Agree	Strongly Agree
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DAY ONE: _____

1. The worksite was well organized.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Our group made a positive contribution to the worksite.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I had what I needed to accomplish the tasks given to me.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I enjoyed serving at this worksite.	1	2	3	4	5

DAY TWO: _____

1. The worksite was well organized.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Our group made a positive contribution to the worksite.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I had what I needed to accomplish the tasks given to me.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I enjoyed serving at this worksite.	1	2	3	4	5

DAY THREE: _____

1. The worksite was well organized.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Our group made a positive contribution to the worksite.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I had what I needed to accomplish the tasks given to me.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I enjoyed serving at this worksite.	1	2	3	4	5

LOVE WINS

1. The event was well organized.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Our group made a positive contribution to the event.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I had what I needed to accomplish the tasks given to me.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I enjoyed serving at this event.	1	2	3	4	5

5. How did you serve at Love Wins?	<input type="checkbox"/> Collecting trash	<input type="checkbox"/> Children's activities
	<input type="checkbox"/> Distributing food/items	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

EXPERIENCES

Please answer the following questions about youth from your church.

As a result of participating in THP...

	Yes	No
1. Youth grew to appreciate the importance of serving others.	Yes	No
2. Youth and adult leaders from my church have deepened their relationships with each other.	Yes	No
3. Youth from my church are more excited about serving in the community.	Yes	No
4. Youth from my church have grown in their relationship with God.	Yes	No
5. Youth were empowered to use their gifts to serve.	Yes	No
6. Youth from my church benefitted from participating in THP.	Yes	No
7. Youth learned more about the city of Hartford.	Yes	No
8. Youth learned about teamwork and unity while serving on THP.	Yes	No
9. God spoke to youth from my church through the speaking/teaching time in the general meetings.	Yes	No

1. Is there an experience you would like to share with us where you were impacted or where you saw God move?

2. Do you have any suggestions for improving THP?

Thank You!

Appendix C: Youth and Adult Leader Open-ended Responses

YOUTH: Is there an experience you would like to share with us where you were impacted or where you saw God move?
I have grown closer to God and learned that he brings joy to even those who are less fortunate
I have a better understanding of the power of God and prayer. I've learned to focus better on him and to trust him more. I've learned to focus on him to find his messages.
I learned to forgive
Learned how to see and hear God, learned to see all the injustices in Hartford
I learned that God is always with you even if He feels far away. He is faithful and wants to show his love to everyone
God really put a burden on my heart for the people of Hartford. I was able to feel how (?) and (?) they were (how much they had ?), and God really broke my heart with it. Also, this week has helped me back into my faith stronger than ever before.
I learned how to reach out to God and that its ok if you don't feel his presence yet.
Learning to focus on God, being open to hear Him, see him work. Developing courage to go up to strangers, talk, pray w/ them. Getting to know teammates better
I was able to help the community in need which counts for serving skills
This week has helped me to better see God's love work in different ways and build stronger relationships with youths in my church and other churches
I figured out I really needed to get my priorities in life sorted out
Everything in the Bible has a purpose, not a small significant detail
I learned to pray more and I learned the impact of our service on the Hartford community.
Before coming here I had lost touch with God and after this He made me believe in Him again
I learned to allow God to help me through my hardships and to lay my sin at his feet, for he will forgive me and give me guidance
Made me want to bring God to my family and helped me work on my attitude.
I grew in God this week. I learned that people have nothing and they can be so happy I love that so much!
I've grown closer to God and related that certain things weren't coincidences. I've realized he has a plan for me and I need to accept it and go along with what He wants for me and my future
I learned more about our homeless community and I want to help more.
I actually like the people from my church
Learned how to better answer people's questions about Christianity (evangelism training)
I learned that it only takes one person to impact someone's life and I can be that person
Before doing THP, I was spiritually drained and had trouble connecting to God. I think seeing God in action and getting closer to him and his word has given me a boost
As I continuously work with THP I always become more and more connected and learn more about partners and to continuously remember it is NOT ABOUT ME
I learned to be more open minded
Brought me closer to friends and leaders, and let me help there in the city
I had a problem with one of my fellow team mates and so, when we worked it out I feel I had an attitude change.
Learned about hearing God
I got a better perspective of Hartford and the life
I came closer with my team and grew in faith
I learned how powerful prayer is, and that we aren't alone, God is with us through it all.

I have learned more things about God!
Improved social skills and positively affected my relationship with God
At the beginning of the week I was scared to get out of my comfort spot and talk to people of Hartford, but at Love Wins I started talking and getting to know more people.
The importance of knowing and understanding someone's story; for some, it's inherently harder to improve state of living, won't judge-not always their fault. (+ God works (as i saw) for the results and the process)
I learn how to love people and give them love
I've learned to pray better
I have grown closer to my youth along with God. I have also learned many skills including patience and humbleness
Made me closer to God
I got to know kids from my youth group that I never talked to
Yes, I feel closer to God and more comfortable to lift my hands and worship and pray.
I learned that a lot of people take volunteers
I feel this week has given me the opportunity to realize that i have to work more on myself that my relationship isn't as strong as I want to, I plan to begin to try harder try make it stronger
My relationship grew with God
I learned no matter what I mean something and I will always have a calling
I don't need to be afraid of Hartford
I used to not necessarily believe in Christ or God but this week I've grown a lot in my relationship with God and so much that he actually spoke to me when I first realized this.
I feel more comfortable going up to people and praying for them and giving them things
Many ways. I love coming to THP
This week helped me to realize I can have joy in the middle of hard times
I heard God's voice. I learned that we serve a God of process. I made some Awesome new friends and I grew more respectful and mature.
This week has impacted me by meeting new Christians and learn about them
I have been able to grow spiritually and be able to share with other, making a light and completing God's will.
I have grown closer to God and realized (even more) how important my relationship is with Him
I learned about the city of Hartford and its background
I have broken foot
I've learned to be patient and compromise. I've also learned that God has blessed me with a bed and shower and I can't wait to go to them...
I finally found God while helping the lives and Hartford itself
New friends, better relationships
I learned how much of a difference we can make
I've grown to be patient with God and wait. I learned how God does and shows us great things if we wait.
I have grown in knowledge of God and the Bible.
I feel like I have really grown in my faith of God.
I learned one small difference can change a life.
During this week, I made a lot of new friends and I got to meet a lot of new people from different churches. I'm also glad that I was able to walk around my city and get to know the people of Hartford better than I did before. It opened my eyes about how much help Hartford needs, and it showed me

how united people can become under the grace of God.
I learned about the homeless and they don't have a lot and not even a roof over their heads and I learned how to give.
It has shown me that Jesus doesn't need to be all my life, he needs to be a part that I cannot live without.
I learned more about Hartford/cities, the good and the bad. People in the city were very friendly. I heard some great speakers and learned about God and prayer and how to hear from God. I felt connected to other churches and I want to learn from them in future. However, I felt disconnected from my team members as they constantly left me behind/ignored me.
I learned to power of worship. Also, most of the stereotypes and assumptions about the citizens of Hartford.
I am antisocial, but this week I have talked to lots of people and have made new friends
I feel closer to God
I have grown much in working with people and communication skills
I learn to social.
THP always helps me grow closer to God. I feel that God called me to help and though i struggled with panic attacks God was always there. I learned how to handle friendships.
Not much
I got in check with God
I've become more of a leader.
I have learned new things about me and the others around me.
I learned more about the people of Hartford.
A lot
I've learned that no matter where we are in life we can trust God has a plan for all of us
I had fun connecting with the other kids on my team from the other church
I feel more connected to God and I am more comfortable connecting with others
I learned a lot about myself, others, and God. I have grown closer to many people and have grown a lot closer to God. This week has helped me to get out of my comfort zone.
It helped me grow in my relationship with God. And build new friendships.
Grown closer to God
That people in the church don't reject me when I tell them about myself
This week has helped strengthen my resolve as far as interacting with strangers and serving goes. I am now far more comfortable with doing God's work for the community.
I enjoy being in the city and experiencing the city.
To have more respect for the homeless.
This week was ok. The people tried. They did! I didn't get impacted in anyways. I liked the monopoly experience thing a little. You guys are cheep
I learned to see everyone as a person created and loved by God. I need to not just think of what I want/need.
I have learned that I need to go out of my comfort zone more, and be more bold with sharing Jesus.
It was a good reminder of how much I have in Simsbury.
I learned that God loves us no mater our race, living situation, or past.
I was challenged to reach out and serve my community more, and I saw God work through our willingness to help.
I learned that the people are with influences what you do. I realize how well off my life is and how much bad things are a part of people's everyday life.

It made me appreciate the city of Hartford and gave me a heart for the city.
I have become much closer to God and my friends.
I learned that you should not judge.
I realized that talking to people about God isn't as scary as I thought.
It has impacted me more than I thought
Maybe God is actually real.
Need to be appreciative of what I have. Give back more and make people smile.
Helping is good
Grown in my faith and made new friends
I have grown a lot in Christ
I was very humbled by this experience I learned more about some struggles the people in the community face every day.
I liked doing the Love Wins it was awesome
I've grown closer to God; it was awesome!
I grew closer to God.
I feel like this year I really learned a lot about what it's really like to live in Hartford (partly thanks to LIC). Because of this I was able to better connect with the people I met.
I can pray more openly now
This week has been a great time for me to grow deeper in my walk with God. I learned to work together with someone who annoys me.
To be perfectly honest I didn't get much out of it this year since I wasn't able to participate in most of it
I learned that we can't not do nothing, we should actively seek God and his will
God really helped me this week
I met someone from another church who I feel comfortable talking to and grew my relationship with God
I learned that it's easy for us to not help others but we have no ideas what it feel like in their position
My leadership skills have improved.
Stronger relationship with God and other youth from same and different churches. Better leadership skills. Good and positive interactions with other youth.
Get closer to peers, leaders and God.
I learned about God...
No matter what you do, you can still make a difference. It doesn't matter how big or small the task is.
I've learned that God wants me to lead people to his throne room (evangelism)
Family is important
Barriers were broken down and I have experienced God's love and joy in a new way
In myself I learned to live life like Jesus resurrects every day to pray for anyone and the importance of unity
I grew in relationships
I became more free in worship. I gave 2 sandwiches to homeless men. I love God a lot more.
This week taught me to not take anything in my life for granted. It also taught me to forgive and love those that hurt me in the past.
This week helped me grow as a leader and become more comfortable during work
Broke down walls of fear
I feel like I was able to make a difference during worksites
I feel as though I am more vocal and not as afraid to speak out. Additionally, my evangelism skills have improved and I am hearing from God much more and more clearly.

I am more open and willing to put myself out there
I have seen myself jump out of my comfort zone. I love going out of my comfort zone.
How to be more social with the homeless
I have gotten closer to the Lord and I learned that Hartford maybe a little dangerous, but not as bad as we think.
It showed me some people may look scary on the outside but are really nice on the inside
I became more confident and faithful in the Lord and the abilities He entrusted me with. I have also made more Christian friends and as a result, I have matured in my relationship with God.
I learned more about the Bible and God
I was able to learn better social skills
Made new relationships
Homeless people are just like any other person and we need to appreciate the little things
The services taught me new things, and it changed my view of Hartford
I learned some new things inside the service. The one teaching on prayer was really good and the one Sunday night
Closer to God
THP impacted my obedience of God. I now understand to step out my comfort zone and say yes
Being a recent high school graduate, I have had to begin to make a shift from being a student to being a leader/teacher. I believe that this year helped me guide the younger students (all students from my team that don't attend my church were middle schoolers) and I was able to help my other teammates get just as much out of it as I have in the past and did this year as well.
Thankful for everything
I have learned more about God and I wasn't that shy as always
It has opened me up such as praying for people without hesitation
I learned how to pray
This week showed me to be more appreciative and it also made me humble myself. Although I live in the south end I always acted like I was better but I'm not. To see all the people who had nothing made me realize I was selfish.
I have grown in God a lot more
It impacted the way I look at things
God has spoken to me personally and in multiple visions and has revealed my calling upon me
I LOVED IT!!! {No Pre-Judge}
I learned to appreciate what you have because there is people who have it worse than you. DON'T JUDGE!
I grew in my relationship with God
Helped me understand more about God's wishes for us and how we should lead our self in worship
I've learned that people everywhere matter immensely. As the body of Christ we are called to serve. I love the city and I want to come back.
I grew closer the God and learned more about patience
that in some communities, getting food, or clean water, or clothes may not be as easy as it is for us.
That the education system is less fortunate than my local one
I met some great people who can help me grow as a Christian
Made more Christian friends
I have grown both physically and spiritually. I just felt God's presence each and every day surrounding me.
This week allowed me to open myself up to God and some of the youth at my church. I learned more

about the Hartford community. I've seen the struggle but I've never really said or done much to change/help it/
This whole week impacted me in a lot of ways. I think the worship was definitely impacting and I'm very grateful for that. I learned how to work in a space that I'm not used to and I learned that there's actually a lot of good in Hartford.
I learned how to praise God in a unity with other people (youth specifically) and how to better evangelize. I've gotten a lot of encouragement and love from so many people including my church, my group /team, and the staff, plus so many others.
I feel that my relationship with God has improved drastically and I learned how others relate to the community.
It has made me feel more connected to the community
This week helped me learn more about Hartford and gave me more confidence to speak up.
This week impacted me because I got closer to people.
I am more appreciative of what I have. I'm more close to God.
Over the years I have been going here, I've learned that the way the Holy Spirit moves is unlimited. I also see different outlook on Hartford. Instead of seeing all the bad, I now see what needs to improve and its hope. I also see all the good things secretly happening between the lines in Hartford
This week impacted me because I became a better leader in my church and I used this to complete tasks given to me. I also felt God push me to do something (pray for another person) which I've never done before.
This week I have grown by opening myself up more to people of my church. I also prayed for people which I struggled with before.
I have learned more about myself and what God can do in me. I also have learned what God can do in others if they let him in.
I have grown closer to God and I have learned more about Hartford. Also, I have learned and grown to be a better leader.
I learned how to work together with other churches better
I think I have learned to pray better and I got closer with my brother
I have been reminded of the joy that comes with serving and worshipping the Lord.
I have grown closer to God and have gotten more into worship and friends
Shown me that we can't wait for God to do his work but we have to be his hands and feet.
It has shown me to look through the eyes of God
Getting pushed out of my comfort zone and to build and grow in friendships with brothers and sisters in Christ and God.
I learned how to be more of a leader.
I have strengthened my relationship with God and friends
I learned how to really pray and connect with God
It was a really good experience and also helped me in my walk with Christ
Learned that the Hartford community isn't what it looks like. Homeless people are really nice.
I feel like I'm more outgoing and confident. I was more of the leader in the group. It was awesome to see our group become close.
I have become closer to God
Talking with God. Hartford Community.
I have made better friends that I can trust and confide in that have the same beliefs as I do. Also, I have learned to be more outgoing and able to get out of my comfort zones while praying with my friends as well and talking and meeting people on the street.
This week has helped me realize what my gifts are. I have realized that I am better at hands on serving

than praying/interacting with strangers.
I love meeting people. I've noticed my spiritual gifts. I have plans to continue serving in the Hartford community during the school year!
I learned Hartford needs more help than I thought. Love Wins was SO fun!
I have gotten closer to God
Before this week I thought that homeless people were living with only newspapers on their back and a box to keep of the elements that view totally changed
I learned a lot
This week impacted me in many ways. Through the worship and testimonies I learned new things and grew closer to God. I learned about what focusing on God and really putting him before me feels like. I learned that Christianity has so many future steps and optional activities that can make a difference even with a little thing. I LOVED IT!
Yes I have become closer to God
I learned that hope and God can be found in anyplace, even the worst.
I loved the music. I really felt a connection with Christ. I have never physically raised my hands while singing but it was awesome.
I have learned so much about ways to serve God and to pour my heart out. I enjoyed this trip so much and can't wait until next year.
I learned new things about the people of Hartford, such as characteristics
It has shown me I can be independent
It made me feel amazed at God
I learned that Hartford isn't as bad as everyone says it is
It showed me there is stuff we can work on in our backyard.
Got me closer to friend and made friend. Most of all I got closer with God.
I have learned that there is a great need for Jesus/God in Hartford
I believe I have learned to trust God more, be more confidence about my faith, and have a stronger urge to make a difference in the community.
I learned a lot more about the city and I look at people in the city differently. I also have grown a lot in my faith while I have been here.
Homeless people are not their stereotypes. Everyone deserves happiness. We made a difference.
I learned a lot about making judgments before knowing the truth about someone or a situation. I went from approaching strangers with fear to approaching them with a smile. I also learned to appreciate the things I have more and that I want to get more involved in ways to serve my community for God.
I've learned one of things I really should have known by now... don't judge a book by it's cover.
I feel a lot more comfortable in Hartford
I have really grown in my faith. I have learned to put others priorities before my own. I learned that there is no "my time" and we should listen to what God has called us to do

YOUTH: Do you have any suggestions for improving THP?
Better sleeping
No bus activities. Clearer instructions.
More fellowship
fix ac
Make it longer than 5 days
Make the shower on Wednesday, or at least not BEFORE Love Wins happens. Make sure sleeping accommodations have been well thought out so that people don't get relocated too much. Try to make

the Life in the City event better by telling us sooner, possibly
The AC in the chapel to be turned down.
Some confusion with Life in the City sign up-did not get survey (had to have friend forward email to me). More team building activities-specifically for each team to know members more
I would try to come up with team names and colors
Better sleeping conditions, more chances to bond with our entire team
Better food, better family dinners, less (?) for dinner
Better sandwiches at lunch, no huge lunch lines.
Not have the lights out time and the separation of rooms be as late, it was very tiring
make night worship and team/church meetings at night shorter. Personally me and other people in my group had a hard time staying awake and worshipping because we were tired.
More time for everything basically.
Please, please, please, PLEASE make the morning service longer and the night time one shorter! Thank you!
Make sure sleeping arrangements are a bit better. First we were in Gray hall but our sleeping area was so small we didn't have enough room for everyone. But it was rearranged the second day and was better. Thank you for all the hard work!
More showers!
No, but just know this week actually sucked and most of the staff was rude
Some of the staff wasn't particularly nice at times. I understand they were trying to do their job, which is fine, but you don't want to leave a bad impression on the participants either. Can guys and girls switch sleeping locations every once in a while? I've been sleeping in the same cold room for 5 years (Gray hall) and it's been rough every year.
Food but more equality, within groups and all the groups in THP
Longer Week
You're doing great! Maybe you should not pair churches with different churches only because we had a few problems with a different church.
food-lunch
Not to my knowledge
Better schedules and no scavenger hunts
Different girls sleeping area. Switching on and off with the boys every other year
A little more free time, shortening the evening lectures, showers
Breakfast and Lunch! Have Church meetings go longer because our church meetings are as lit as Jesus.
More time to sleep (shorter breakfast /dinner?)
More opportunities to interact with other churches
No. Maybe fun activities for all groups
You guys are doing great
I think the THP program was excellent i wish it was never ending. Thank you!
More places to sleep
More love to the city lol :)
More food/snacks and a wider variety for breakfast
More food, snacks like after sessions, after dinner, at worksites
More bonding with different churches time
Nope!
MORE FREE TIME
I think the breakfast should be better. I think there should be a vigil so that Holy Spirit will not be

constraint.
More than one shower
I do not have any suggestions
Better food
DO NOT DO THE BUS SIMULATION! Our phones didn't work for it, we were lost, I was the only student navigating and doing the work to get to the places while the others were just complaining and not helping (ask a leader), and we were over an hour late because you didn't let us leave till about 11:50. And I had trash duty at Love Wins 2 years in a row and there was nothing to do. Also, the girls room was freezing and it's June... kind of cruel.
Break time during church meetings
Don't do bus thing. plz. plz no.
A little more wiggling space
Maybe give us a little more time packing up and unpacking our air mattresses and cots and such like get us up earlier but let us sleep earlier too
Make the wake up time at 8:00
A few suggestions that I have for THP next year is to enforce rules better, like cleaning up after ourselves and being quiet and considerate for those sleeping at night. Another suggestion would be to have more activities for each of the teams so that we could create better bonds between each of the different churches.
The food line was very slow and late. And make night services shorter.
I know that we have a lot to fit in, but a little more sleep would be wonderful.
More team building. Learn more about the issues in the city or anywhere that we can help with. Learn about the worksites we don't go to.
Temperature at night. Where we slept. Time we wake up. Business of the bathrooms in the mornings.
I think offering more food (lunch) choices, and also incorporating more free time.
Less Songs
Get more organized packets!
Turn off alarms please
Turn off ac in the chapel. Bring back gospel choir (Bushnell park)
Make sure a leader is qualified to serve
More well - known songs. Gospel choir every day (and performance)
Gospel Choir!!! Well known worship songs. Better message theme and more engaging.
More food.
Give everyone a home dinner
Don't do what they did as the activity on Thursday
That the services wouldn't cut into meeting time or run too late
Having peanut butter sandwiches four days in a row gets old.
Doing more in the city.
Some new speakers
I feel that some of the messages were a bit vague and non-scripturally oriented. The "visions are the best way to interact with God" served. At some points I didn't see the connection to God's word clearly, or It didn't seem to connect much at all (at least to me). However, I think the service work here is amazing! Keep it up!
Improve the Life in the City Activities and make them more informative.
First off: I'm not coming back. I think three of your speakers were horrible. You guys need to get better speakers. Seriously, the schedule had the sermons waaaay too long. I can't sit too long. The nights were

too late. You guys need to properly feed your children. This was a waste of a week. I had to sneak extra ham sandwich from the psycho lady with the short brown hair. Here's an overview: more food available. shorter sermons. better speakers. the bus life in the city was a joke. horrible, horrible, horrible. waste of time.
Some of the messages were not Biblically based. The worship songs didn't always communicate clear spiritual messages.
Focus more about learning more about God and what God's will is, by studying the bible, not by experiencing things which are based in feelings.
Warmer air in the room for girls. Turn lights off too early because session usually ran late. More substantial sandwiches.
Warmer rooms to sleep in!
One thought I had was Wednesdays' speaker was very unbiblical and tried to force kids to have visions. I was very forced and made many in my group uncomfortable. Other than her off teaching, the other speakers were great!
I think that the organizing of people to get their food could be much better. It was very disorganized.
Warmer sleeping arrangements. More room to get ready at morning and night. Not enough time at night before lights out.
Sleeping Stuff, and better sleeping areas.
Maybe things could be more organized. Sleeping, meal, etc.
No Gluten Free Pancakes for all of us!
Not to make the messages as long during service. It gets tiring and boring after a while.
Same person do the messages. Bed arrangements a little but more organized.
Lunch/Dinner/Food
change the paper towels in the bathrooms
Better breakfast
More the age level up; I found that the younger kids complained more and had a harder time
Better food! Better sleeping arrangements.
Bring back home dinners! PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU!
Don't make people travel across the ENTIRE city during day 4 LIC when others had to barely walk at all or ride the bus
MORE SHOWERS!
Talk less instead of more and create more opportunities to help around with kids/children
Bring the gospel choir back!
Keeping spiritual atmosphere before sleeping. More lunch options. LIC: Keep, it was on survey but never happened
Better food. Better sleeping arrangements (less cold). More showers!
More sleep and more food (candy)
Better home dinner
Make Gray hall warmer!!! way warmer
If we were allowed to know teams ahead of time that would be great. If we could have better breakfast and lunch with higher protein.
The general meeting talks this year did not meet my expectations compared to previous years. Worship seemed shorter.
Better Breakfast
Sunday night until Friday or Saturday. Blueberry pop tarts and raspberry pop tarts. Less ac in Gray hall.
No, it was a great experience and I want to come back next year so thank you!

More organization
More fruit for breakfast, something other than paper bacon, less hard, crinkly sausages, wheat bread for sandwiches
Didn't like Thursdays activity. More downtime. Wanted prayer walks. Better devotionals
Give the kids some time to chill and hang out around the church or give us some down time at one point where we can just do whatever so we aren't as tired or bored
Definitely make gray hall warmer at night. Also, was surprised that you covered such an electric topic as black lives matter.
Make sure everyone gets the email for worksites/food
Maybe give us more than one shower if possible, and somehow decrease the price if possible. I would also recommend handing out earplugs for the nighttime music worship team. Thank You!!!
Longer worksites
More food! Snacks. Bigger Meals
Better showers please. More worship songs.
Most sermons weren't very impactful. The worship was seemingly empty. His presence wasn't felt strong there. Should be more enforcing of rules cuz people do what they feel like and you do nothing to stop it. Life in the City should be more organized. Please make kids go to bed when they're supposed to.
Make kids more quiet at night. More activities for LIC rather than lectures/speeches. Different lunches than sandwiches? Either more showers or better quality places to shower at. Another dinner option on Love Wins day because not enough food often. Church meetings aren't necessary. Better speakers/worship songs. More of an age range/difference in groups.
Worship
Make showers at the end of the day
Perhaps more variety in worship? Glory Chapel is great (to a lot of people) but it isn't my style and what I would prefer, perhaps a different band every night/morning to cover all bases in a sense? Devotions have steadily gone downhill since I began coming, this year they were extremely basic and shallow. Not much to talk about for my team because it was so... simple, I guess? All in all, this year was one of the best ones I have been to. Life in the City was fantastic this year, especially the Scavenger Hunt. Lunches were normal, breakfasts were good, but I kinda liked it better when it was only one day with hot food... more realistic for a "mission trip". Decent sermons, decent worship, good worksites (I, for one, prefer talking with people and seeing the real side of Hartford than things like VBS prep). Last things: this probably isn't your fault, but Classical Magnet School's Showers were absolutely horrible. Some barely worked, others didn't change temperature, etc.
depth in the sermons
Keep helping the community but in different ways
To please make the schedule not as repetitive
Extend the days. Give better tasting food.
nope I loved it the way it was
Two showers (Monday and Wednesday) and chicken
stop calling it purpling it sounds weird
Better worship team/songs
Better worship team and songs. NO SUPERNATURAL! It is easily one of the worst "worship" songs I've ever heard
Some of the worship was not directly about God and the words focused more on us than God himself.
More Sleep. More Showers. More songs and God in evening worship.
No scavenger hunt (shorter one) Let us sleep longer!
less intense music

I just think the food should be better. And going to sleep a little earlier if we are waking up really early.
Better lunch. Possibly provide snacks. More time to get ready to go to sleep/get ready for bed. More time to get to know our team better.
I think overall it should be a little more organized and things should be more clear when it comes to the schedule and such... other than that it's a great program
The staff was wearing really short shorts that broke the knuckle rule and set a bad example for the girls participating in THP, I think that should be changed and the staff has to obey the same rules as participants. On Tuesday, in Grey Hall after LIC someone was playing secular music which sets a bad example, impression on THP participants.
Better shower times
Please bring back the flashmob.
Giving more people colder waters.
Better Meals. A.C.!!!!!!
Bring the flashmob back!! Also I'm not sure if in previous we've worked more or had more time to work, or had two worksites instead of one each day, but I feel we didn't do as much work than in previous years
LIC Thursday activity was not very effective as planned. Bring back flash mob pretty please :)
Have extra jobs if teams finish early (if teams finish early). Organize love wins more (people not from our group were at our station)
I was disappointed with not going to a house on Monday night. Bedtime earlier?
Some suggestions are better food and more food. Also, more A.C. throughout the building. Finally, better accommodations and bathrooms. Also, more bathrooms and more sleeping areas.
I would love to have I am Clay come back for worship. Dan Heermance Dave and Chris Bugnacki. AC in the meeting house.
My group got all worksites that did not require very much interaction with non-believers. We got promo but our route was all apartments - mix it up :) Worship wasn't as good as last year. Almost all the songs were unfamiliar. My leaders were unwilling to go on prayer walks. Maybe THP Staff could organize some during free time.
Sleep the night on Thursday and leave in the morning on Friday
Better food
How it was three years ago. Bring flashmob back.
Better food. More free time. Earlier bedtime.
Stop changing things, back like it was three years ago
THP Rocks!
Not really
Better lunch. Temperature colder in chapel.
I think the worship was ok, it wasn't bad, but not amazing. The preaching was pretty good too.
Get to do things with our whole church some days
Better Lunches. Nicer Staff. Come as you are --> Judgmental against clothing in an unreasonable way. More prayer walks. Where the money we pay goes? Why do we pay so much to volunteer... we sleep on the ground. not as good food. yelled at for clothes that show nothing. Staff was complaining about girls wearing 2 inch tanks... doesn't show anything, its hot, and doesn't say not to in the packet.
I was not a huge fan of my leaders. Some of the worksites I feel did not impact people who weren't already Christians. I feel like we should have done more evangelizing. Some of the worship songs were unfamiliar and a little much. I think we should have done more songs that were slower and more powerful. My leaders were unwilling to go on prayer walks and maybe some THP staff could organize some.

Don't do the scavenger hunt again. Better food for dinner (last night)
The Thursday activity wasn't fun but it was eye opening. money with dinner. more LIC activities/simulations. choir haha. thank you mucho <3
At Love Wins there should be a selection of what you get to eat (like a choice of hot dogs or hamburgers)
I think we should be able to sleep on beds!! and more showers
Be a little more organized
Do it Monday-Friday
I always try to make my suggestions seem polite but this might sound mean (I hope not). THP, I had a wonderful time except for one thing: the food. I try not to be selfish with the food and try to be less picky. But the food didn't really stand out to me and I really didn't like it. I am super thankful that I got fed and I was served well, but I was just letting THP know :)
More food and more bathroom/changing space
All sleeping areas
Please consider putting younger youth in groups other than 'Barriers to Employment' because some may be too young to understand everything/have a job.
No, I love it!
People should be able to show a little PDA!!!!
Give every homeless person 999,991,000,000,000,000 Pieces of candy
Love Wins needs to be at the end so we can build up to it.
Put Love Wins at the end of the week
More meat on lunch
Love Wins at the end of the week
More meat in lunches
No I can't think of any improvements. I really enjoyed it. Thanks :)
I like showering, but I know it is hard to fit in so that's ok.
Bring back the flash mob! I feel like the bus simulation was not effective. I would rather be bringing people joy by dancing.
Sleep more. Sleep more. Sleep more. Sleep more... Oh! Yeah! Sleep more.
more showers or less outdoor stuff (even a hose shower)
No, it was an amazing experience! Very well organized and impacting

ADULT LEADER: Is there an experience you would like to share with us where you were impacted or where you saw God move?
Youth Challenge was incredible, had an opportunity to bond with the guys
God moved in the lives of the youth, they learned to love others
Youth stepped out of their comfort zone
Powerful worship, students opening up during the services and prayer
Loved dinner at Citadel of Love
Family dinner was great, and interaction with men at Youth Challenge
Youth Challenge was awesome, great combo of service and learning
God moved during LIC on Thursday, worship was impactful
Awesome interaction at host family dinner site, nightly sessions, LIC was great
Seeing youth become more comfortable, speakers, Hartford residents, their stories inspired us

Worked in unity, THP's relationship with organizations, great troubleshooting
Staff did great, God showed up throughout the week
Worship experience helped youth open up
Moved by experience at YMCA, blessed by Officer Barrits's ministry to the homeless
Impacted by Church Army, understanding of the judicial system
Seeing Hartford residents hunger for prayer
LIC activities were thought provoking, enjoyed youth interact with people different from them
Kids engaging others during Love Wins
Praying for people in the community
Wednesday night worship was impressionable
Seeing teams in the worksite, seeing a 7th grader passionate about praying for others
Seeing students speak and pray for others different from them
Youth came together to discuss experiences
A student connected very well with those she encountered
Homeless workshop was awesome
Prayed for a man on our way to Youth Challenge
Talking to people while at Church Army worksite
LIC activities were great
Wonderful interaction with a young man at Youth Challenge
Prayed for someone at City Hall and accepted Christ
Shared Christ with the community
Youth praying for others, great LIC activities, themes and speakers
Teens praying
Last day was impactful
Youth prayed for their leaders
Youth engaging with the crowd at Love Wins
Youth opened up during worship
Learning about people's story
Renee at South Church did great
Youth learned to listen to God, prayed for others
Playing with a young boy for a couple of hours while on Nelson Street

ADULT LEADER: Do you have any suggestions for improving THP?
More showers, at least 2
Lunch call by churches, knowledgeable sound tech, different locations for females
Work on schedule
More gospel filled music, clean toilets
Fewer speakers, shorter services, serve more, pace and activities overwhelming for youth
Sleeping in a large room was difficult and cold
Shorter teachings to give more time to respond in worship, prayer, and fill papers for prayer wall
Mandatory training to go over expectations, ahead of time, clarity on clothing rules,

LIC discussions offered little solutions, main sessions and worship lyrics void of substance, Andre and Dave were solid speakers, too much emphasis on hearing from God in that exact moment
Morning and evening services lacked substance, want more biblically based teachings
Speakers did not engage with students, need more engagement
Adjust AC, wake up 45 mins before breakfast, teams to set up and break down, more time for team meetings
Give teams a chance to set up and break down tables and chairs before and after meals
Easier registration process
Better prepared work sites, have churches bring supplies that may be needed at site
Having the last activities earlier in the week
Change LIC event, too much to do in short period of time
Balancing service with ministry at worksites
Keep the talks, add Banana Brazil to the restaurant list, shorten bus scavenger hunt
Dress code policy needed to be enforced, reaching out to more Hartford churches
More time to process experiences, morning devos disconnected, loud band
More direction during devos, talks dumbed down, orient youth of the street culture
Devos should have more group discussion, help youth go deeper
THP staff had inappropriate shorts, some songs ungodly
Better communication and organization, music before bed is not a good idea, too much to do in too little time, difficult to find students at times, first 2 LIC activities were weak, more breakfast
Not first-time user friendly culture, chaotic, bad communication and organization
Prefer teachings to be bible based and not tradition heavy, i.e Pentecostal
More down time to rest up
Rotating sandwiches, more organization, too many girls in one room, THP need to follow dress code
Stronger sermons, deeper teachings
Getting some background on sites and expectations
Deeper devos
Allow kids to unwind before bed
Disorganized during LIC, perhaps use cars, more security
More time to sleep, explain poverty tourism, bring balls to Bushnell, provide resource list , eliminate the word "slave" in game
Preaching after 10pm not effective, black and brown should co-lead LIC activities, more time to eat, more bible based teachings, meeting house not great
Make invoices available more quickly
Pre-THP orientation for all leaders
Simpler schedule, more direction
People did not respect sleep time or leaders, earlier bedtime, too much down time
Young youth disrespectful, more organization
Leaders should teach youth large group dynamics, too many young youth with new leaders
More respect among youth, greater sense of responsibility, i.e. picking up after yourself