

GIRL SCOUT SERVICE TRIP

By: Cassidy & Jenna, Troop 8301

The two of us, Cassidy Yuhas and Jenna Szydel, are members of Troop 8301 from Port Washington. We are both seniors in high school and are Girl Scout Ambassadors, and we have each earned our Girl Scout Gold Award. We made plans for a final trip to celebrate our 13 years of Girl Scouting, and decided to plan a short cruise and some service work at the same time. Our mothers joined us too - Troop Leader Jamie Zalewski, and Janet Yuhas.



We left the Milwaukee airport on February 27th headed to Mobile, Alabama. Once we arrived in Mobile, we immediately did some shopping for items on the wish list for the Ronald McDonald House in Mobile, and also for the Ciudad de Angeles orphanage in Cozumel, Mexico where we would be heading after Mobile. Everything from food items to toiletries and paper products were in need. We used funds from troop money earning projects to purchase items.

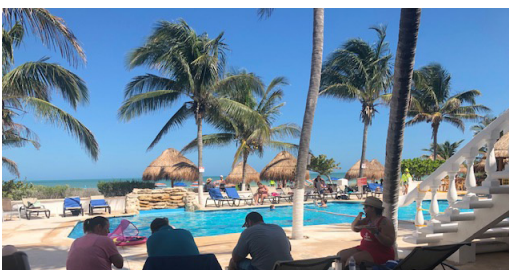
At the Ronald McDonald House, we were greeted by Liz Calci, Assistant Director of the Ronald McDonald House in Mobile. She was extremely appreciative of the items we delivered to them, which included: fresh fruits, paper plates, paper bowls, plastic cups, toiletry items, breakfast food, trash bags and more. The Ronald McDonald House has up to 37 families residing at the house while their children are receiving treatments and surgeries. Liz was kind enough to give us a tour of the facility. We saw several of the rooms where families reside, and they try to provide all the comforts of home. A full kitchen of food is open to the families. They even have started a small garden at the back of the facility to grow vegetables and herbs for the families. It was all very heart-warming, and we were glad to have chosen this organization to do some service work while we were in Mobile.



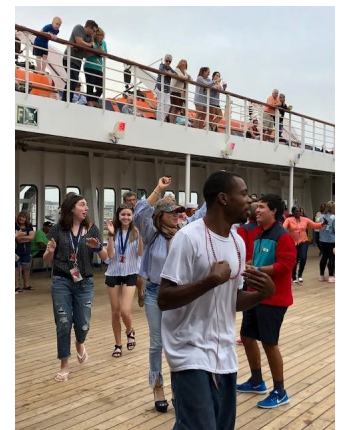
The next day, we boarded the Carnival Fantasy to begin a short cruise, with the destination port of Cozumel, Mexico. However, our cruise was delayed due to weather conditions, and our destination port was changed to Progreso on the Yucatan Peninsula. This put a little damper on our plans to visit the



orphanage, but we still had a great time enjoying the great food, shows, trivia, crafts, dancing and more on the board the ship. We got our STEM on and participated in an egg drop contest where we dropped an egg from three stories up that we packed in cotton balls, Kleenex and maxi pads, and our egg survived! We each received a medal for our efforts.



In Progreso, we went to an all-inclusive beach resort. The water was a little cold, but you could walk out a short distance, and stand on a sand bar. There was also a great Mexican food buffet. There was a pool on the premises, as well as hammocks for relaxing. Activities such as volleyball and



salsa dancing were offered too.

After our cruise ended and we arrived back in Mobile, we immediately researched nearby charities that could use the items intended for the orphanage in Cozumel. We found Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Upon our arrival at the Mission, we met with Debra Horn, and she was thrilled to accept the items we donated. She told us about their mission, and how they assist people who find themselves temporarily homeless. They provide food, clothing, and temporary shelter. They also assist families with home rehabilitation and weatherization programs. We were glad that they were able to use the items to support their mission.



On our way back to Mobile, we stopped at Gulf Islands National Seashore Park and explored their interactive learning exhibit, and also took a hike through the park.



As Girl Scouts, we try to do service work whenever possible, but also try to incorporate some fun too! This trip was no exception, and we had a great time!

