

# THE DAILY REPORTER

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## **Exchange Club hears youth group update**

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COLDWATER — Around 29 St. Mary's youth group members recently returned from their 8th Annual Mission Trip. This year's trip was to Denver, Colorado — participating in the Catholic HEART Workcamp, a non-profit national organization — where members painted houses, built fences and handicap ramps, did yard work and landscaping. They also spent the week with several residents, sharing stories, memories and simply spending quality time with those in need.

Bronson St. Mary's Catholic Church youth group leaders, Rusty and Vickie Smith, recently spoke about the group's Summer Mission trip during an Exchange Club presentation.

The St. Mary's youth group is for students in eighth to 12th grades.

Since St. Mary's Catholic School only goes to eighth grade, the group was started about 7 years ago as a way for the students that had been at St. Mary's to stay together and join with their former classmates and keep involved in the practice of their Catholic faith. They have meetings once a month.

At last count there were 112,000 students signed up to attend the camps during the 2018 summer, in locations all across America.

So far this local group has had trips to St Louis, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Betsy's Lake, Kentucky, Dover, Delaware, Champaign and Springfield, Illinois.

Once the kids and their chaperons arrive at their camp they are split up to work with groups from all over America. After a day's work, there are fun activities and worship in the evening. Their reward for a week of doing things for others is a day of fun activities on their way back to Bronson.

Throughout the year, members work on various fundraisers to earn money for the summer trip.

Some of the things they did to earn the trip were car washes, bake sales, make Christmas ornaments, reverse raffle, Knights of Columbus/Polish Festival activities, rake leaves, concerts and more.

The youth group would like to thank St. Mary's Church and the entire community for supporting them and making the rewarding trip possible.

The youth group is already accepting donations for its summer 2019 mission trip and can be mailed to: St. Mary's Youth Group, 602 W. Chicago Road, Bronson MI, 49028 or online at: <https://www.youcaring.com/stmarysyouthgroup-1053282>.