

# YNIA ~ Baltimore

## SUMMER 2017

HELPING YOUTH ENCOUNTER JESUS THROUGH SERVICE, COMMUNITY AND PRAYER

You are invited to be a part of the second annual Mercy High School mission trip experience! We will be participating in a week-long mission this summer (June 25<sup>th</sup> -July 1<sup>st</sup>) serving our neighbors in need. I hope you can join us!

What is YNIA?

- YNIA stands for Young Neighbors in Action
- it is a unique, integrated service-learning experience for high school students
- it gives young people ways to learn about social issues, celebrate the diversity of culture, experience prayer and liturgy, and make new friends
- it features a solid Catholic approach to service that includes Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, direct service and a search for justice

A YNIA volunteer should:

- be between the ages of 15-18 (current Sophomores and older)
- be comfortable in a group setting
- be flexible and willing to try new things
- be willing to explore the call to work for justice while engaging in meaningful service opportunities

What's the goal?

- to provide young people with the opportunity to serve those in need, to learn what Scripture and our Tradition say about justice, and to hear the ways God is calling them to bring about a more just world
- The week culminates with a visit to our Maryland State Senators on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. to advocate for justice on behalf of those whom we have met and served throughout the week.

Where will we serve?

- at sites that are serving the poor and those in need in Baltimore City
- service opportunities may include: care for children and families, soup kitchens, recreation and tutoring programs, painting and minor repairs to homes

Where will we stay?

-TBD: an area school, retreat center, or a similar location

How much does it cost?

-The price per participant is \$395.

-The fee includes:

- program resources
- lodging and meals for the week
- worksite materials and supplies
- personal accident insurance
- cultural and recreational events during the week
- a t-shirt, journal, and water bottle

What if I can't afford to go?

-Speak with Ms. Bell; there are strategies for fundraising that can be discussed.

Will we be safe?

- As a Mercy group, we will travel and serve together throughout the week. Mercy students will not be separated from one another, or from Ms. Bell, while serving.
- All work (service) is done between 8:30am and 4:00pm Monday through Friday, and worksites are selected with safety in mind

How do I sign up?

- If you are interested in being a part of this service trip, please answer the attached application questions.
- There are a limited number of spots available, so applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received.
- The application deadline is January 30<sup>th</sup>.

For more information about YNIA and our Baltimore mission please visit the YNIA website

<http://www.youngneighbors.org> or contact Ms. Bell via email at <mailto:kbell@mercyhighschool.com>.