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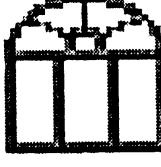
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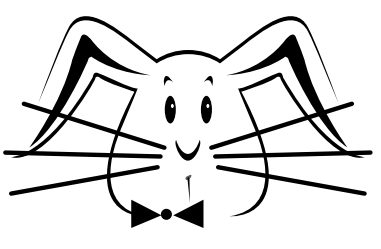
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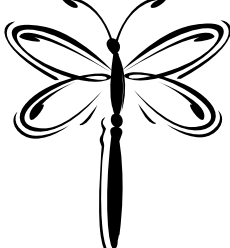
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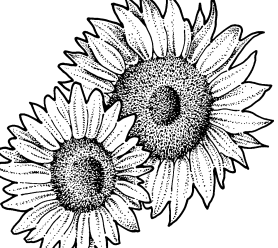












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Team leader Thomas Seagren for the summer mission of Catholic teens and a teen smooth out ground in preparation to put gravel down for a walk way on the house at 4th and Sherman. Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

## Teens spend week on mission work, painting, fixing

By Pat Schiefen  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Want to learn how it feels to help people fix up their homes? Seventeen kids from Goodland High School and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church spent a week or two painting houses and cleaning up yards for people who were unable to do it themselves. The teens from Goodland joined others from the Salina Catholic Diocese to spend a week cleaning yards, fixing up and scraping and painting homes for people who could not afford to do the work and were not able to do the work. Groups worked in Goodland, Monday to Friday, July 24-28 and July 31 to Aug. 4. The volunteers worked at several places, including a house in the 1300 block of Center; the Farm, a group home run by Golden West Skills Center; a house on 4th and Sherman; and a home in Sharon Springs. At 4th and Sherman, volunteers, scraped paint, painted, planted flowers and put in gravel sidewalks. In all, said Roberta Pianalto, the kids helped 12 families. The group worked on the house of Kristi and Tino Pena at 4th and Sherman. “It’s a blessing that they came,” Kristi said. “We wanted to do the work last summer when we moved in. “It was fun to have the kids around and they were good to my kids.” Kristi said she has three children, an infant, a toddler and an 8-year-old. Burton and Roberta Pianalto of Goodland coordinated efforts here. Burton is a deputy sheriff and Roberta is the secretary at West Elementary School. “I feel like we barely scratched the sur-

face,” Roberta said. Volunteers camped out at the Holy Family Center at the church. They went to Mass in the mornings before starting their day, and in the evenings had programs on different subjects. One evening, the group went to Burlington to visit St. Catherine Catholic Church, which was vandalized and burned in January 2004. Teens from Goodland who worked on the mission were Brad and Jessica Geist, Kali and Kaylor Rietcheck, Amanda and Kevin Amthor, Matt Rohr, Ashley Cebula, Josh Cech, Halli Stone, Jay Cotter, Sammie Raymer, Joseph Bondell, Matt Pianalto, Amy Cebula, Jillian Parker and Brennan Clouse. Nick Parker, brother of Jillian, also helped. The team leaders for both weeks were Thomas Seagren of Denver and Amy Schultz of Manhattan. Seagren is a seminarian in Denver for the diocese. “With it being the first year, you never know how it’s going to go, but we’ve been nothing but happy with the way it’s turned out,” Schultz said. The leader of this year’s summer mission program, “Prayer and Action: Mission Experience in Our Own Back Yard,” is Gale Hammerschmidt, who is studying to be a priest in the diocese. Hammerschmidt said he and Sister Barbara Ellen Apaceller, director of youth ministries for the diocese, began working on the program last summer. Sister Apaceller found out about grants through Catholic Church Extension Society and had the diocese apply, Hammerschmidt said. The grant made the mission an affordable experience

for the teens, at \$30 for a week. Kurt and Sandy Leistner from St. Francis Xavier Church co-ordinated the program in Junction City. Hammerschmidt, who had been on several mission trips to other areas, said they thought a mission in the diocese itself would let more people experience mission work. “The mission was very successful,” Pianalto said. “The diocese plans on doing it again next summer in a different town. The kids enjoyed it.” She said several businesses and individuals helped by supplying materials and equipment or feeding the teens, including the City of Goodland, Bowladium Lanes, Dependable Glass, Wal-Mart Super Center and Rasure Lumber Do-It Center.



A girl from Oberlin was a volunteer painting a house at a mission project for the Catholic Diocese of Salina.



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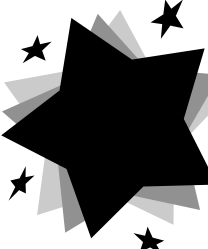
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