



ON A LADDER, Gatlin Reichert (above) used a roller to paint the inside of the band shell at City Park. Becky Helm (below) helped pull vines out of Charlotte Meints' back-yard flower beds during the Mission at Home program last week.



Teens, adults do missions here at home

Teenagers scraped painted, painted, trimmed trees and bushes, yanked weeds and helped at the Good Samaritan Center last week in an at-home mission project.

The idea, said Duane Dorshorst, who coordinated the project, was to give kids the chance to serve others in their own community. Rather than taking a mission trip to another town to work, he said, they could do the same kind of work at home. The project, called Mission at Home, was sponsored by the Decatur Tomorrow volunteerism group, said Mr. Dorshorst, principal at Oberlin Elementary School and a youth leader at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He, Pastor Doug Mason of Teens for Christ and Dr. Elizabeth Sliter were the adult sponsors for the project, which started last Monday.

Mr. Dorshorst said the nine teenagers, two of whom graduated from Decatur Community High in May, worked all week through the rain on various projects in Decatur County. Some didn't get finished because of the weather, he said, and they will need to go back and get them done.

The teens and sponsors painted the band shell in City Park, scraped and painted a house for a couple in Norcat, trimmed trees and bushes at the Last Indian Raid Museum,



WITH AN EXTENSION ROLLER, Aaron Helm helped paint the band shell last week.

cleaned out back yards for a couple of elderly people and did some disinfecting at the Good Samaritan

Center.

In all, said Mr. Dorshorst, they hauled nine pickup loads of yard debris to the county compost pile with all the work they did.

Charlotte Meints, of Oberlin, said the kids pulled up a bunch of vine that had been choking out her rose bushes in her backyard. It was such a blessing, she said, especially for us senior citizens who can't bend like that and get down on our knees. Mrs. Meints added that she would have the group back next year to help again.

Hopefully, Mr. Dorshorst said, they will finish the painting which didn't get done because of the rain this week.

The group hopes to do the Mission at Home project every year, said Mr. Dorshorst.

Without the help of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus, who gave money for supplies, the project couldn't have gotten done, he said. Stanley Hardware also helped with material and supplies, Golt Construction loaned the group scaffolding to use at the band shell and Jim Plotts loaned scaffolding for the house in Norcat, he said.

"I'm looking forward to Mission at Home being bigger and better next year," said Mr. Dorshorst, "with more youths involved."