

## Local Teens Help Others in Need as Part of Catholic HEART Workcamp

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A group of teens are kicking off their summer vacation by rolling up their sleeves and getting to work. It is part of **Catholic HEART Workcamp** where 14,000 young people across the country volunteer their time and energy to help others in need.

It's hard work in the hot sun, but these teenagers say they're up for it.

"This huge ball of energy just waiting to be released, helping people and getting to know their story."

Those words from 15-year-old Scarlett Baeza of Carson City. She's one of 230 local teenagers who've chosen to spend the first week of their summer vacation helping others with Catholic HEART Workcamp. "We go out to different cities throughout the United States and youth groups from around the country come to a different community and they do service for people in need."

From painting fences to yard work - this week, various local homeowners will have young volunteers helping them for no charge. In the past some Northern Nevada teens have traveled out of state with Catholic HEART Workcamp to help in other communities. But this summer, for the first time, Reno is one of the cities benefiting from the program.

Toni Taft is partially disabled and says it's a huge help. "For instance, I have difficulty with my hands. They have hands, they can unscrew things, they can dig things. They can do all kinds of stuff that they take for granted, for me it's a blessing."

"It helps you feel good about yourself. Makes you want to do it more, helps you improve other lives, including yours."

Kyle Naas, one of the camp staff members, says it's about a lot more than a clean backyard. The teens connect with those they're helping on a very personal level. "Knowing that she's such a great, strong woman, it just inspires me to be like her."

The teens were recruited from churches throughout Northern Nevada. They will volunteer all week long.

Catholic HEART Workcamp plans to return to the area next summer.

For more information, email [renochwc@gmail.org](mailto:renochwc@gmail.org) or contact Marina Hedwall [mhedwall@stgall.org](mailto:mhedwall@stgall.org)

*Written by Andi Guevera*

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