



COURTESY PHOTO

**Purcell Marian students** served at Over-the-Rhine Soup Kitchen as part of their freshmen service retreat.

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## **Purcell Marian freshmen start service early**

Purcell Marian High School in Cincinnati recently held its Freshman Service Retreat, and all members of the Class of 2012 participated. The students heard speakers about homelessness and community service. They also worked a significant portion of the days at various agencies in the Over-the-Rhine and Walnut Hills neighborhoods including Mary Magdalen House, Tender Mercies, Project Connect and Lincoln Crawford Nursing Center. The retreat ended with the students reflecting on their service, what they learned, and their commitment to working for justice.

More than 350 hours of community service were volunteered by the students. According to Purcell Marian's community service director, Brother Bob Jones, what might be more important are the life lessons learned by the students.

"At the end of the day, many students commented that they gained quite a bit from the experience," he said. "It was also great to see perceptions change for the better after students interacted with those they served, and many stereotypes were broken down throughout the day."