**Saturday, March 3, 2012**

For the winter quarter, the Monday section and the Wednesday section of the Maxine Lewis groups merged to create a group of nine (“The A-Team”). From the Monday section, we received Jonathan Mintz, Wyatt Levy, Clincy Cheung, and Javal Patel. The previous Saturday, three of our group members had gone during the day to log 7+ hours of community service. Our other six members (Clincy, Joey, McKenzie, Wyatt, Javal, and I), went this day.

We woke up early in the morning, Wyatt drove all six of us in his Prius (which only has room for five), and we arrived about five minutes late. This turned out to be no matter, however, since the employee in charge of us, Amanda Smith, arrived at the same time. She led us to an older male employee who divided our group and set us to work.

Javal, Joey, and I organized a shed. We opened the door to find dozens of bags and boxes lining up along the wall and clustering in a giant pile in the center between two racks that lined the walls. “There is no possible way we can make this mess look pretty” first came to our minds. The ultimate goal of our task was to have everything lined up against the wall. Simply, this did not seem possible, but we tried. First, we took everything out to see how much we were dealing with and to place like items next to each other (deodorant with soap, socks with shirt, etc.). We spent most of the morning doing this.

By the time everything but a few boxes of clothes that already lined the racks in a nice fashion had been moved out, our 10:00 break came. During this break, I decided to sit down with a couple boxes of toiletries and sort (a menial task). I made piles of shampoos, conditioners, soap, mouthwash, and lotion (so much lotion). When by team members came back, I stood up, grabbed a couple more boxes, and we were off. Every bottle of shampoo and bar of soap in that shed had its own designated area. By the time we finished that task, the other half of our group, who had been inside the shelter cleaning, started bringing out boxes of shampoo, toothpaste, and soap. We filled up two plastic trash bins with soap. It was coming out of our ears.

By this time, the heat was starting to affect our work. Thankfully, this was our time to take a lunch break. Right after we came back, we got right back to work. All six of us started moving stuff back inside. Due to the heat, we moved fast. This hindered the quality of our job. We ended with more than we began (because of what we brought from inside the shelter), but we did manage to throw out a few things. Once everything was back inside the shed, it didn’t look too much different from when we first arrived. The shed was mostly full, but it did look a little nicer. Everything was in its proper place and access to every item was much easier.

The male employee who had set us up with our first task had been telling us to slow down our productivity or else he’d have to find something else for us to do in order to fill our hours. He told us we might have to pick weeds. Thankfully, he had us just pick up cigarette butts instead. Due to extensive tree coverage around the littered areas, the air was relatively cool. This bode well for me since I wore a sweatshirt the entire day and did not want to take it off because I did not like the shirt underneath.

We did this for about an hour until most of the trash around the shelter had been taken. We then proceeded inside where we got our service hour paper signed and found out that the employee, Amanda, was a Cal Poly graduate (liberal arts). We said goodbye and Wyatt drove us home where I took a long shower (my jeans and sweatshirt were not a wise pick for the hot day).