We went to Three Rivers to work with the organization known as *cino. The organization’s largest project is Huss School, which they have purchased and are trying to convert into a community center for the second ward of Three Rivers. Two things are significant about the building: one, that it used to be a neighborhood school, and two, that the neighborhood is the poorest in the city.

What Did We Do?

The school so they might bring the neighborhood back together. We contributed to the effort by tearing down drop ceilings, old cubicles, and glued-down carpet.

How Did Our Faith Grow?

The week in Three Rivers was incredibly peaceful. I felt like I had room for contemplation for the first time in the semester. It gave me the space I so desperately craved to quietly talk to God.
What Did We Learn?

We learned a staggering amount in one week. However, what stuck out to me the most was the idea of a purposeful life. The Vander Giessen-Reitsmas devote most of their time and energy to working on the Huss Project. They believe in the transformational power of living in community, and back up that belief by living it out. The people of the neighborhood know The V-GRs and community leaders believe in their cause. Through them, I learned a passion for something that extends beyond ideas and into daily life.

How Were Our Vocations Clarified?

Watching Rob and Kirstin dedicate their lives wholeheartedly to something they believe in has inspired me in my search for calling. I realized that I may not need to wait for a calling from the heavens, but instead identify a need in my own place. They intentionally serve their community because they see the brokenness and feel called to fix it. My goal has become to find a place to serve in the place I am.