Annie Weber- Before I got here, I expected the hostel to be dirty and run down. However, upon arrival I found that this was not at all the case. Driving up to the hostel, the scene was comparable to Glatfelter Hall. I truly was expecting a disheveled building with a crowd waiting to enter. To my surprise, this shelter provides housing for those on their way to a more stable life. The women can stay in the shelter for up to 2 years.

When we got to the room, I realized that the hostel wasn’t dirty, it was just simple. After getting settled in, Bianca began our orientation of the N Street community. I learned about the many programs and services offered to the homeless women here in Washington D.C. Classes offered include crocheting, Spanish through the arts, and sign language. There are also other services provided such as job assistance programs, addiction recovery support, and a medical clinic. In addition to the hostel we are staying in, there is another residence building across the street that houses over 30 women and it also provides more permanent low income housing for the poor.

I thought it was interesting how Bianca was describing the “new face” of poverty in D.C. Previously, homeless women were single, recovering addicts but now, the new face has transformed into educated mothers who once lived in a home.

Even though we haven’t done any service work just yet, I still get the sense of community in being with my classmates, sharing a similar passion and working towards a common goal.