



What a Difference a Day and Our Volunteers Can Make

11/15/2012

October 27 was National Make a Difference Day and more than 100 Beckman Coulter associates from four sites across the U.S. joined 2.7 million volunteers around the world who gave of themselves and their time to help improve the lives of others—especially within our sites' communities.

Brea, California



Team Brea painted at Fullerton Arboretum

Nearly 65 Brea associates came out to support our 17th annual NMADD project at the Fullerton Arboretum located at California State University, Fullerton.

Brea's project goals for this year were very simple: identify a local non-profit organization we had never partnered with in the past who could offer us a completely new project experience—the Fullerton Arboretum allowed us to achieve both. What made this year's project even more special was the addition of the Home Depot in La Habra, which complemented our efforts with a small volunteer team of paint and building materials experts.

After nearly two days of Home Depot volunteers prepping the Arboretum's Oak Hall for the Oct. 27 event, our volunteers breathed new life into the administration building and wrap-around deck's posts, trim and overhead lattice. Many volunteers also had the unique opportunity to work on a changing seasons leaf-inspired mural adorning the facade of Oak Hall, which also serves as a Fullerton School District teacher training facility and overflow classroom.

In the Arboretum's Children's Garden, volunteers removed old fencing and did an extensive clean-up of plant material in addition to planting new native grasses. To help transform the garden into an outdoor classroom, volunteers constructed and installed planter boxes and added 16' benches for seating and a massive work table—all made from local reclaimed lumber.

well as a classroom and deck that will serve students, visitors and volunteers for years to come," said Fullerton Arboretum Development Director Harriet Bouldin.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Beckman Coulter Foundation and Beckman Coulter volunteers we have a Children's Garden that can offer significant programming and education opportunities, as

Carlsbad, California

Carlsbad associates partnered with the organization I Love A Clean San Diego, with whom they have a long-established relationship through the various Clean the Beach events our volunteers have participated in over the years.

This year's project took place about 15 miles away from Carlsbad at Escondido Creek in the Elfin Forest Reserve, which offers numerous opportunities for recreation, educational research, environmental appreciation and of course volunteer clean-up efforts.

The team of 18 volunteers collected a total of 2,920 pounds of trash and 200 pounds of recycling, totaling 3,120 pounds. This means that each volunteer collected an impressive average of 173 pounds per person. The event served as a tremendous opportunity to provide some greatly needed attention to an inland area that has not received any volunteer clean-up support in two years, according to local rangers. Items collected included trash, a toilet, furniture and even an entire bag of fish heads—yes, fish heads!

"The volunteers were happy to get up early to start the day by making a huge difference," said Human Resources Specialist Jill Merritt.



Carlsbad Crew - I Love A Clean San Diego

Chaska, Minnesota

This year, our Chaska colleagues participated in NMADD by partnering with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity works around the world to provide housing for people in need. People of all ages and skill levels are able to work at a large variety of tasks that are necessary to construct a house and make it ready for inhabitants.

Three Beckman associates and one spouse of a Beckman associate gave up their Saturday to work on a house in Minneapolis. Our on-site catering service graciously provided lunch and snacks for this small team and progress was made to make this home ready for a family with four daughters. Our associates had a positive experience and would recommend it to others.

Indianapolis, Indiana

A group of 20 dedicated Indianapolis volunteers braved the cold and spent the day on Oct. 27 at the Jameson Camp, a local camp for at-risk youth. Most of our volunteers were assigned the task of staining the exterior of two of their buildings, while a few others raised their hands to be inside and finished painting the interior walls, trim and baseboards of one of the cabins.



Chaska partnered with Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers at Jameson Camp are a vital component to its success; it has 200 acres and 14 buildings to maintain with only one maintenance person. Needless to say, camp officials were very appreciative of our time and effort.

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Indy helped out at Jameson Camp