



News

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ANA Cadets Refurbish Homes in Neighboring Community

CARLSBAD, Calif. – Three members of Army and Navy Academy Interact Club recently helped refurbish homes in the neighboring community of Vista as part of an annual project called Vistans ROC (Revitalizing Our Community). Cadets David Howard, Kevin Truong and Jacob Mankis joined nearly 800 volunteers from some 20 different organizations to provide the labor for painting houses, removing trash, and landscaping homes in the Vista Townsite area.

Sponsored by the Vista Townsite Community Partnership, Vistans ROC is in its ninth year. Catherine Manis, director of the partnership, conceived the project as a way to assist and inspire homeowners in a low-income area of the city. This year's event included 22 homes, and more than 80 tons of trash were removed, she said. The project took place on Cananea Street between Citrus Avenue and Indian Rock Road and along Calera Street.

As their part of the project, the cadets helped break down a retaining wall made with old railroad ties and rebuild it with bricks. They also planted new sod on one property and painted the house exterior on another.

"It took a tremendous amount of work, especially to tear down that wall," said Howard, "but we got the job done. We could see the whole neighborhood transform."

"It was a great learning experience," Mankis said. "I hadn't done anything like it before."

The day did not consist of all work and no play, however. A disc jockey provided music throughout the event and provided several dance breaks throughout the day. Howard led an entire street full of people in the Cha-Cha Slide, while all three cadets joined hundreds of other workers in the Chicken Dance.

The Interact Club, advised by Lyn Berry, English teacher, is the student arm of Rotary International. The club is sponsored by the Carlsbad Evening Rotary Club, with Cynthia Boone as the Rotary liaison.

The Army and Navy Academy is a private not-for-profit educational institution that provides an academically robust, character-based education for 7th- through 12th-grade young men. The Academy's mission is to educate and develop young men of good character. Some 320 cadets come from 13 states and 14 foreign countries to attend the Academy.

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