
El Segundo News

Nonprofit helps beautify El Segundo Preschool 'Nest'

by **Jennifer Evans**

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Hauling wood chips, building cubbies and painting classrooms was all part of a volunteer effort by the community as well as the nonprofit organization ShareFest, when beautifying El Segundo's Preschool "Eagle's Nest" earlier this month.

Kelli Keller, preschool administrator and assistant principal at Center Street Elementary, said she was excited about the turnout of the event held May 2 at the city's preschool.

"There were so many volunteers present, willingly working toward creating an improved environment for our community's youth. They really need to be commended for their hard work," Keller said.



El Segundo Preschool's Eagle's Nest was refurbished earlier this month by volunteers from ShareFest and members of the community.

El Segundo Unified School District Superintendent Geoff Yantz said he was especially grateful to Wes Harding from the Foursquare Church, and Chad Mayer of ShareFest. "We want to thank them for making this dream a reality," Yantz said.

A new school garden was also a part of the beautification plan. Keller explained that individual gardening beds would be built outside each classroom, making them a "potentially rich learning environment for the preschool students." "What kid doesn't like to dig in the dirt?" Keller joked.

Also acknowledging ShareFest's help, Keller noted that they were the perfect group to partner with. "The organization is all about creating lasting positive change while encouraging the leaders of tomorrow and fostering volunteerism in the community," she explained.

According to the ShareFest Web site, www.sharefestinc.org, the organization was founded on the idea "to leverage a community's assets through the creation of working coalitions, rather than just coming in from the outside and encourage a community to be a consumer of services, ShareFest helps communities to help themselves, developing ownership."

Yantz was inspired by the organization's philosophy and was appreciative of their efforts. "The site's new enhancements are evidence of what can happen when we all work together and we look forward to our continuing partnership in years to come."

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