

HELPING HANDS

Ben Franklin Builders Club plants courtyard at Pines Village

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VALPARAISO | The end of the school year for the Ben Franklin Builders Club members also brought to a close the completion of a community service project at Pines Village Retirement Communities that began in 2010. Club member, Emily Owen, was the recipient of the Indianapolis Colt's Student All Star Grant. These grants give Indiana youths the opportunity to make their community a better place by partnering with a non-profit organization to complete a student-initiated community service project.



The Builders Club collaborated with the Pines Village resident's committee to design, budget, organize and complete the courtyard landscaping to be enjoyed by residents for years to come. The Club also applied for and received an additional grant from the Porter County Master Gardner's Association for this project and Pines Village matched the grant amounts to expand the project.

As planting day neared, Pines Village arranged a field trip for the students to visit Horses Landscaping to receive expert planting instructions and Johnston Landscape Maintenance Inc. offered to supply the tools for planting day. Though the day was hot, with the help of volunteers from the Valparaiso Noon Kiwanis Club, more than 100 new plants found a new home in the Pines Village courtyard.

Pines Village Retirement Communities is a nonprofit organization that has been celebrating the lives of older adults since 1983. Through intergenerational projects like the courtyard planting, Pines Village strives to create an enlightened future where older adults enjoy the respect and honor they have earned.