

The first time I volunteered for Rebuilding Together-Solano County was when I received an email from our Community Affairs Department at work. I signed up for the Vallejo, CA and Benicia, CA project. This organization, a non-profit, assists low income homeowners by rehabilitating their homes to make it healthy and safe. It was such a great feeling being able to help someone in need and to see how the different communities came together for the same cause. I invested an additional 32.5 hours of my own time at both locations. Some of my duties included painting, landscaping, cleaning and debris disposal. I even located a piece of blue stain glass (four inch by four inch) to replace the one in a kitchen door that had broken approximately 45 years ago in one of the homes. The homeowner sent me a thank you card with a picture of her standing in front of her “new” kitchen door. I couldn’t wait to sign up for this organizations next project.

The next project was to rehabilitate the Boys and Girls Club in Vacaville, CA. Skilled and unskilled volunteers were needed. I requested paid time off and did not hesitate to sign up. Volunteers were needed for two days, Friday and Saturday. I had the opportunity to be the Event Manager and represent the company I work for. It was an honor. A fellow coworker and I had the opportunity to prime the girl’s bathroom on Friday and on Saturday I and another volunteer painted the bathroom bright pink. This color was selected by the children and staff. My other duties were pruning, raking, weeding, laying down cardboard and bark in both the front and back yards. I also helped with the cleanup of the boy’s bathroom after it was painted a blue black. The before and after said it all, what a difference. The number of volunteers that showed up on both days made this project a success especially when it rained on Saturday.

I was given a photograph of the children that attended the Boys and Girls Club and each child wrote thank you on the photograph. This photograph has been forwarded to our Community Affairs Department.

This organization has touched many lives in its short existence of approximately two years, I am glad that I had the opportunity to volunteer my time with this organization on several projects so far and I know that it has made a difference in other people's lives. I will continue to volunteer in this organization's future projects. Volunteers, donations and great leadership makes this organization successful. Our company's volunteers do make a difference and hope to see more join me at future projects.

