

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROTARY CLUBS PITCH IN TO SPRUCE UP THE HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER

Nearly 50 volunteers helped to paint service areas and lay new dining room floor

Santa Cruz, Calif – In a first-time-ever collaborative project, five Santa Cruz County Rotary Clubs joined forces to refurbish parts of the Homeless Services Center (HSC) on Coral Street on Saturday, April 7. Nearly 50 volunteers sanded and painted support pillars, benches, and picnic tables. They also installed new flooring and baseboards in the HSC dining hall.

The project was the brainchild of Mike Holton, San Lorenzo Valley Rotary, who presented his idea at the monthly meeting of the Santa Cruz County Rotary presidents. Each club quickly signed on, pledging funds, supplies, and labor.

“This was a perfect way to collaborate on a project that none of the clubs could have completed on their own,” said Mr. Holton. “No matter what skills the Rotarians had, there was some way to use them. It was obvious that the HSC clients were pleased to see the transformation.”

One vision-impaired HSC client said she was happy that the supports were being painted a bright color so she could see them much more easily. Another client was impressed by the number of people who had come to help.

“All of us at HSC, from our employees to our residents, were so moved by this incredible effort from our Rotarian neighbors,” said Phil Kramer, Executive Director of HSC. “Seeing the crew at work and now enjoying these much-needed improvements every day makes all of our lives better and brighter. A huge thank you to everyone at the Santa Cruz Rotary Clubs.”

Santa Cruz County is home to seven Rotary Clubs. Those participating included San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, Capitola-Aptos, and Santa Cruz Sunrise. UCSC’s Rotaract Club, a division of Rotary for young people, also joined in.

ABOUT ROTARY

Rotary International is a worldwide service organization whose purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. It is a non-political and non-sectarian organization open to all people regardless of race, color, creed,

religion, gender, or political preference. There are 34,282 Rotary clubs worldwide with 1.2 million members.

One of Rotary's crowning achievements is the near-complete eradication of polio around the world, as members administered vaccines to millions of people. That effort has been helped significantly with matching funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.