



Creative energy at work: More than 50 City Year corps members pitch in to spruce up and inspire at Manchester enrichment center

By TED SIEFER
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MANCHESTER — CALL IT A WIN-WIN.

On Friday, Girls Inc., a center that provides after-school enrichment activities for underprivileged girls, got bright new murals and blacktop games. And the members of City Year, who spend most of the week in classrooms helping teach and inspire struggling students, got to get paint on their clothes.

“This is such a nice break, getting creative and dirty — and we know we’re helping the kids,” said Sam Wallace, a City Year member from Nottingham, as she worked on a large blacktop painting of a Ms. Pac Man game.



Jake Goodwin of Conway organizes a bookcase at Girls Inc. on Varney Street in Manchester during a City Year New Hampshire day of service on Friday. Photo by Ted Siefer / Union Leader



Phieu Luu of Los Angeles outlines a map of the United States at Girls Inc. on Varney Street in Manchester during a City Year New Hampshire day of service. Photo by Ted Siefer / Union Leader

More than 50 City Year New Hampshire members painted, landscaped and organized at the center as part of the organization’s service day, a monthly event when the members lend their energies to helping out local nonprofits.

This being City Year, of course, even the colorful paintings were educational.

On the blacktop behind the center, at 340 Varney St., the corps members painted number and alphabet snakes, so the girls could play hopscotch while perfecting their ABC’s and arithmetic.

There was also a large and accurate map of the United States.

Girls Inc. is a national organization that aims to empower and teach life skills to girls ages 5 through 16.

City Year New Hampshire recently made Manchester its headquarters, and it sent its largest contingent ever into the city schools this year.

The members completed the painting on Friday while the Girls Inc. participants were in school.

“It’ll be cool for them to show up and see the blacktop transformed,” said Ted Wing, the recruitment director for City Year.

Wallace noted that she and other City Year members work with many of the same girls in school that go to Girls Inc.

“I’ll definitely be asking how they like it,” she said.