

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

STORIES AND EVENTS FROM ROOFING LOCALS THROUGHOUT THE NATION

## San Diego Roofers Are Way Better Than Santa Claus

Christmas actually arrived early for a few residents of Southern California last year, thanks to the generous spirit and hard work of area volunteers, including members of Local 45 in San Diego, CA.

Christmas in October is a program sponsored by local businesses and organizations and the city of Chula Vista. It provides home improvement repairs at no cost or obligation to low-income homeowners, typically those who are elderly or disabled.

Volunteers, with donated materials and contributions from local supply companies, businesses and supporters, perform the work for homeowners to make repairs that ensure their environment is healthy and safe. This marks the 15th straight year the program has contributed these services.

Journeyman and apprentices from Local 45 were proud to give back to the community by working on



*Standing, from left, are Christmas in October volunteers Roy Sugioka, Juan Valtierra, Apprenticeship Coordinator Paul Colmenero, Sergio Cardenas, Luis Tapia, Arnulfo Amparan, Nicolas Fischer, Ronald Schwab and Jaime Garcia. Kneeling, from left, are Efrain Martinez, Kenneth Gates and Pablo Garcia. Not pictured are Hector Galvez and Marshia Chavez.*

the Christmas in October project. Their efforts helped make a remarkable difference in local residents' lives—something worth more than any Christmas present.

## Local 182 Volunteers Roof Youth Center

Henry Davidson had a dream of providing a safe place for the inner city youth of Cedar Rapids, IA. He founded the Henry Davidson Youth Center in 1997, and since then his organization has been providing meals and activities for children who would otherwise be unsupervised.

In 2008 the center, along with hundreds of homes and businesses in Cedar Rapids, was devastated by the historical floods. The organization was able to purchase an old cinderblock building to house its programs, but the old structure needed massive amounts of work done before it would be ready for occupancy.

This is where volunteers from Roofers & Waterproofers Local 182, Cedar Rapids, IA, stepped in. Journeyman and apprentice roofers donated the labor and skills needed to replace the roof. Once the roof was finished, workers could insulate the building, install heating and air conditioning, and finish the interior. Local building trades unions provided most of the free labor.

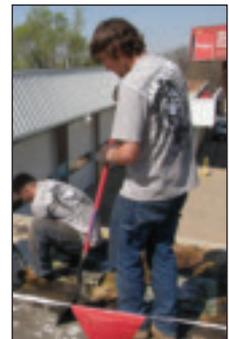
The youth center provides a hot breakfast five days week. After school there are snacks, activities and computers to use, all offered in a positive, drug-free



*Left to right: Brothers Josh Mathers, Matt Lewis, Steve Gomez and Dana Page.*



*Local 182 volunteers Adam Williams, Mark Vasey, Brian Cosgrove and Quinn Vasey work together to replace the roof on the youth center.*



*Quinn Vasey and Kyle Smyth volunteer on the Henry Davidson Youth Center.*

environment. More special events are held for kids and families throughout the year. It's because of the hard work by these volunteers that the youth center is able to provide services that keep area children safe and off the streets.



## Paying It Forward in Honolulu

Roofers Local 221, Honolulu, HI, volunteers helped pay forward the good deeds that the Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) has been handing out for decades. Last year Local 221 apprentices gave the program's building a new roof.

The HCAP is a non-profit organization that has been helping the needy in Oahu since 1965. The center sponsors a broad array of programs for individuals of all ages and needs. Some of the assistance it provides includes food distribution, crisis intervention, youth services, weatherization assistance, agricultural training and substance abuse prevention.

"They do a lot of good things for the community," said Local 221 Apprenticeship Coordinator Rick Subiono. "They recently fell on hard times because they rely mostly on federal and state grants to operate. So this was a good project for us."



*Pictured left to right are new journeyman Trinity Pesamino and apprentices Manlito Contaoi, Robert Kimoto and Jesus Bangi atop the Honolulu Community Action Program building.*

Volunteers scraped off existing pitch and gravel and torched on new mineral surfaced cap sheet. Materials were donated by Hawaii Supply.

As they say: one good deed deserves another!



## New Union Plus National Labor College Scholarships

*Helping Building Trades Members Prepare for the Next Step in Their Careers*

Last year we introduced the **Union Plus Building Trades President's Award**—a total of over \$13,500 in scholarships to Building Trades union members who register for the National Labor College's (NLC) online degree programs. The Award offers a total of seventeen scholarships. Each \$795 scholarship covers a 3-credit course.

The NLC offers three new online degree completion programs in their School of Professional Studies—making it possible to complete a Bachelor's degree in less than two years for less than \$10,000. These programs are for students who have started, but not yet completed, a Bachelor's degree, or for students who have completed an apprenticeship that has been assessed by a third party for college credit. Bachelor's degrees are available in:

- Construction Management
- Business Administration
- Emergency Readiness and Response Management

**Apply today! The deadline is April 9, 2012, for the Summer 2012 semester, and August 6 for Fall 2012.** Find out more by calling the enrollment advisors at the NLC at 1-800-462-4237 or by visiting [www.NLC.edu](http://www.NLC.edu).



## Building Homes from the Ground Up in Indiana

The Roofers Local 26, Hammond-Gary, IN, apprenticeship program donates the labor on at least one or two residential homes each year for the Porter County (Indiana) Habitat for Humanity. Apprenticeship Coordinator Keith Vitkovich notes that “this particular Habitat for Humanity does a fantastic job at selecting individuals who deserve a helping hand.”

This home was built from the ground up with donated labor from various apprentice programs such as Local 26’s. The local high school building trades school always lends a helping hand as well. All other labor is donated by surrounding citizens in the neighborhood.

Fourth-year apprentices installed the ice and water shield, as well as felts, shingles and all necessary flashings to complete the task at hand.

When this home is completed it will be handed over to a single mother of two at a no-interest loan for the cost of property, materials, and expenses, which will help her be able to afford the home. The neighbor-



*Local 26 volunteers Kevin Cooper, David Garcia, Jason Gutierrez, Tommy Haynes, Darren Hoskins, Fausto Jimenez, Jeremy Marsh, Joseph Matusiak, Travis Nuss, Jeremy Villarruel and Instructor Tim Miller lend a helping hand to Habitat for Humanity. Photo taken by Apprenticeship Coordinator Keith J. Vitkovich.*

hoods are always nice and are located in great school districts. Because of Habitat for Humanity and its volunteers, this family will have a safe, quality home for the children to grow up in.

## Making Christmas Dreams Come True, One Bike at a Time

Mike Pratt believes that the greatest Christmas gift a kid can get is a bicycle. So for the last seven years, Brother Pratt, Business Agent at Roofers Local 20, Kansas City, KS, has been providing hundreds of bicycles at Christmastime to area youth through a program known as Christmas in the City.

In the early years, Brother Pratt would rummage yard sales and thrift stores for bikes to donate. He would spend countless hours repairing them, fixing tires and breaks so he could give the kids safe, working bikes.

Soon organized labor started getting involved. Union members began to help deliver bikes, raise money and volunteer their time. “I can’t tell you how

great the unions have been,” said Mike. “They have given money, time, and in some cases both.”

Brother Pratt still spends countless hours getting the bikes ready and to their recipients. With donations he is able to purchase new bikes, but they still require assembly. And the quantity of bikes he gives away seems to grow each year.

But Mike insists that it’s the union volunteers who deserve all the credit for the program’s success. In the end, just as on the roof, it’s working together that gets the job done.



*The bikes are loaded and taken to a storage unit until it’s time to distribute them to the kids.*



*This young girl’s holiday just got a whole lot sweeter!*



*Local 20 member Mike Pratt, pictured left along with another volunteer, works hard to make sure each bicycle that goes out for Christmas in the City is in near-perfect condition.*