



Compton Unified School District
501 South Santa Fe Avenue
Compton, California 90221
www.compton.k12.ca.us

Serving Compton
Carson
Enterprise
South Los Angeles
Willowbrook

Contact:
Ron T. Suazo
Office of Communications
(310) 604-6529

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2009

Compton Unified and Community Partners Give Kelly Elementary, Dominguez High School & Compton Creek Makeovers

COMPTON, Calif., — More than 1,000 volunteers including students, teachers, parents and community partners worked together, Saturday, October 17, to beautify Kelly Elementary School, Dominguez High School and the Compton Creek.

Throughout an approximately three-mile (AP?) stretch of the creek, volunteers including Compton Unified School District (CUSD) students, families and workers from the city of Compton picked up plastic wrappers, cans and bottles along its walkway, from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteers first gathered at Raymond Street Park, 435 W. Raymond St., before splitting up in groups to clean up different sections of the creek.

For Compton High School seniors Chris Paz, Jennifer Heraldez, Cinthia Garduno and Margarita Olvera participating in the Compton Creek clean-up was a fulfilling experience. “We’re doing this because we wonder what we’re going to leave behind for our children,” Olvera said. “Unless we start cleaning up our act now, there won’t be any clean air, oceans or forests left for future generations to enjoy. What we’re doing today is just a small step, but I know I’m going to continue helping out.” Heraldez said she was alarmed by the amount of trash she and her classmates found along Compton Creek. “If it rains, the trash goes into the creek and makes its way to the ocean.” Garduno explained, “We don’t want the fish to end up eating something that isn’t food.”

At Kelly Elementary School, 2320 E. Alondra Blvd., over 300 volunteers from the faith-based nonprofit the Compton Initiative gave the school a fresh paint makeover from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. With the help of CUSD students, teachers and staff, as well as the city of

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Community Cleans Up CUSD Schools and Compton Creek ***page two***

Compton, the volunteers also planted six palm trees and over 60 shrubs in the schoolyard. Across from the 710 freeway volunteers also worked together to re-paint Dominguez High School, 15301 San Jose St., and added new plants including four palm trees and 20 shrubs. The plants for both Kelly Elementary and Dominguez High were donated by San Diego-based Reliance Nursery.

Kelly Elementary Principal Valerie Quarles said she was humbled by the amount of support given to her school. “This was a phenomenal event,” she noted. “It means so much for us to have the Compton Initiative select this school for one of its community projects.” She added, “Through their help and the work of our many other volunteers, we’re giving Kelly students a safe and beautiful environment that is conducive to the learning process.”

Derek Hull, director of Planning and Economic Development, city of Compton, explained that the city’s volunteer efforts at Kelly Elementary and Dominguez High were an extension of the Compton Creek clean-up event that same day. “These beautification projects were truly a success,” he said. “It’s good to know that so many people are willing to help Compton even if they don’t live here. It shows us that people are willing to work for the common good, which is important in the midst of challenging times.”

For Parent Maria Corrales, whose two daughters attend kindergarten and first grade at Kelly Elementary, seeing hundreds of volunteers donate their time and labor to the school was a boost for the students. “I think this will help our students learn that it’s important to help keep their school clean and to take pride in it,” she noted. “It shows them to be responsible and to get involved if they want to create positive change.”

Additional information may be obtained by contacting CUSD’s Office of Communications at (310) 604-6525 or by visiting www.compton.k12.ca.us.

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Designing Hope — Parents Leticia Carrillo (*top left*) and Maria Corrales (*top right*) picked up their paint brushes, Saturday, October 17, as part of Compton Unified School District's (CUSD) Kelly Elementary School's campus beautification. Both mothers were accompanied by their children who also participated in re-painting the school.

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Cleaning Compton Creek — Compton Unified School District (CUSD) Compton High School seniors Cinthia Garduno, Chris Paz, Margarita Olvera and Jennifer Heraldez take a break from picking up trash at the Compton Creek Cleanup, Saturday, October 17. The event was one of three beautification events held that day, including efforts at Kelly Elementary School and Dominguez High School.

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