

Lowe's Heroes

Lowe's employees in the Greater Dallas area help improve local Boys and Girls Clubs during a summerlong project.



Volunteers in the Lowe's Heroes program renovated several Boys and Girls Clubs to provide better facilities for kids' activities and enrichment.

All children need a safe place to learn and grow. Thanks to hundreds of Lowe's employees, 10 facilities can provide that environment.

During the 2006 Lowe's Heroes project, 33 stores in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, teamed up to renovate local Boys and Girls Clubs for youngsters between the ages of 6 and 18. The clubs provide youth programs and activities for those who cannot afford, or may lack access to, other community programs.

To begin the project, site assessments of the Boys and Girls Clubs were conducted to identify their needs. "In general, funding was desperately needed to improve the aesthetics, safety, and overall standards of these facilities," explains Jack Fuller, the North Dallas store manager. "They simply

were not conducive to the kids' learning and development." Improvements for the clubs included painting, lighting and wall repair, safety upgrades, and basic remodeling and landscaping.

The project that Jack found the most touching was the renovation of an Olympic-size swimming pool, which would have been shut down if the Lowe's Heroes program had not intervened. "Restoring this pool will impact a large number of kids for many years," Jack says. "There are 40 or 50 examples just like that pool—where the overall impact just can't be measured."

Most of the work took place during the summer of 2006. "We had more than 300 employees give their time—over 7,000 hours of skilled labor—for this project,"

Jack says. "The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas were also awarded a \$25,000 grant from Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation to purchase project supplies for the facility renovations."

Project completion coincided with the clubs' annual registration. Lowe's sponsored a grand reopening event on August 15 at the Oak Cliff location in southern Dallas. Jack describes the celebration as having a "festival atmosphere for the children, [including] face painting, kids' clinics, bounce houses, as well as food and refreshments, all free of charge."

Lowe's Heroes is an annual company-wide initiative in which Lowe's employees conduct volunteer projects to help their communities and neighborhoods become better places to live. For more information on the Lowe's programs and partnerships, visit Lowe's.com/Community.

