

Silent Victims Of Crime

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A-MAZE-ING Camp Success: Community Service

NAAWS provided Neal Pfeiffer, Paulette H. Pfeiffer, Jody Cresti and Brandon McAlister an opportunity to give back with the "Make A Smile" project by building playgrounds in New Orleans' 9th ward in May. We met



a lot of wonderful people from across the country as we all got our hands dirty to provide new parks for communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. It was a special time in our lives and we didn't want those feelings to end.

2008, 26 teenagers, several children of prisoners, from Anderson County participated in the first life-changing science and engineering camp.

When we returned home we tried to think how the idea of building a playground could be applied to children in South Carolina. We applied for a grant to build a maze. During the week of June 23rd

A-MAZE-ING Camp Success gave campers unprecedented access to teachers and industry professionals. Together they learned engineering skills through team-building activities, workshops, learning labs, and field trips. First the campers interviewed the client to discover the need for the outdoor recreation area. It was decided that the project would be a MAZE on half an acre of land. The teens were divided into three teams. Each team designed a digital version of a MAZE and constructed a 3-D model.



What was supposed to be a summer camp for local youth has turned into a one-year community beautification effort. Other organizations in Anderson have heard of the MAZE and are interested in constructing the teens' designs on their own properties. We also see the value in having a MAZE as an interesting place for the public to gather and as a means to raise money by decorating for holiday events and selling seasonal items such as pumpkins, Christmas trees, etc.

The campers are excited with the prospect of seeing their designs brought to life, and physically making it happen. The Call Me MISTERS (our counselors) have committed to incorporating this initiative as a recurring component of their Summer Internship.



We celebrated the MAZE Groundbreaking Ceremony on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at Christ Temple Church in Anderson SC with the construction of a pavilion and planting of the first garden.

The press has been extremely supportive and a local high school is planning to use the pavilion for a yearly "Shakespeare In the Park".

Thank you NAAWS for the opportunity to keep on giving.