

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Mayor's Office
861-5301

2013

BORN LEARNING PATH PAINTING PARTY IN WOODBINE

It was a crisp and colorful autumn afternoon in Woodbine on November 19 as volunteers gathered from many sources—Woodbine Recreation Commission, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Foster Grandparents, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), the Woodbine School Student Council, Woodbine Borough Council, and Woodbine Municipal Alliance—to creatively paint the newly installed Born Learning Trail in Woodbine's Lincoln Park.

"The Trail" (signs and stencils) was purchased by the Health Department from the United Way using grant funds from the NJ Partnership For Healthy Kids . The Born Learning Trail is part of United Way's Success by 6 Initiative, a national program focused on getting kids ready to succeed in school. Supported by the Woman's Leadership Initiative of United Way, Success by 6 develops programs for kids ages 0 to 6 and promotes access to prenatal care, parenting skills, early literacy, and immunizations.

Based on the latest early childhood research and approved by national early learning experts, the Born Learning Trail is designed to use outdoor activities to boost language and literacy development and to help caregivers understand how best to support early learning in outdoor everyday moments.

Kevin Thomas, County Health Department ,Joan Rowland, Cape May County Office on Aging and RSVP Director, Sheila Harris, Foster Grandparents, and Kim Cervantes, CMC Health Department Medical Reserve Corps were involved in the organization of the day and gathering of the volunteer painters (and participated in painting themselves). The grant paid for all the supplies which came from Home Depot.

Volunteers were:

Woodbine Recreation Commission: Lisa Feliciano, Aida Soto, Hector and Jennifer Cruz

Foster grandparents: Pete Gilson and Romanita Tirado

RSVP: Sharon O'Neill, Paula Harris, Evelyn Perez (who is also Woodbine Municipal Alliance Coordinator)

Medical Reserve Corps: Eleanor Forte

Woodbine Student Council members:

Taliah Anderson (grade 8), Jaelyn Murphy (grade 7), Alberto Gaytan, Ariel Cecilia, Eddyanna Rodriguez, KayLee Murphy (all grade 6) along with teacher/moderator Jacklyn Merollo, accompanied by Jaelyn and KayLee's mother Christina Murphy
And **Councilwoman** Mary Helen Perez

For posterity, the works of art created along the path, many freehand, were:
Station 1: "START" by Alberto and Pete;
Station 2: ladybug and slide, also Alberto and Pete;
Station 3: Circles by Jaelyn, Taliah, Ariel, and Councilwoman Perez;
Station 4: Music score by Eleanor and Paula;
Station 5: A, B, C, by Evelyn, Sharon, and Paula
Station 6: "Once Upon a time" by Joan and Kim with butterfly by Eleanor
Station 7: Frog and Duck by Jennifer and Hector
Station 8: Hopscotch by Kevin, Eddyanan, and Kaylee
Station 9: Flowers, tree, leaf, and sun: Romanita and Aida
Station 10: Shapes by Joan, Sheila, and Lisa
Sheila also served as official paint mixer.
Additional freehand art was done by

Woodbine Webmaster Bernard Sypniewski repeatedly walked in the path, memorializing the event pictorially. (Additional photos were taken by Kim Cervantes, MRC Coordinator for Cape May County).

Following the workparty, cookies and hot chocolate were provided at the Woodbine Community Center. Refreshments were donated by the Woodbine Municipal Alliance. This story was recorded by Maryjaye Frankel-Sypniewski of the Mayor's office (and Woodbine Municipal Alliance Chair).

"I want to thank the Cape May County Freeholders and especially the Cape May Health Department for their obtaining this grant for this project that both helps us in our revitalization of Lincoln Park while focusing on the needs of our Early Childhood population. It is particularly relevant as the Park is adjacent to the Head Start and Early Head Start facility in Woodbine, which uses the Park as a learning experience," added Mayor Pikolycky