

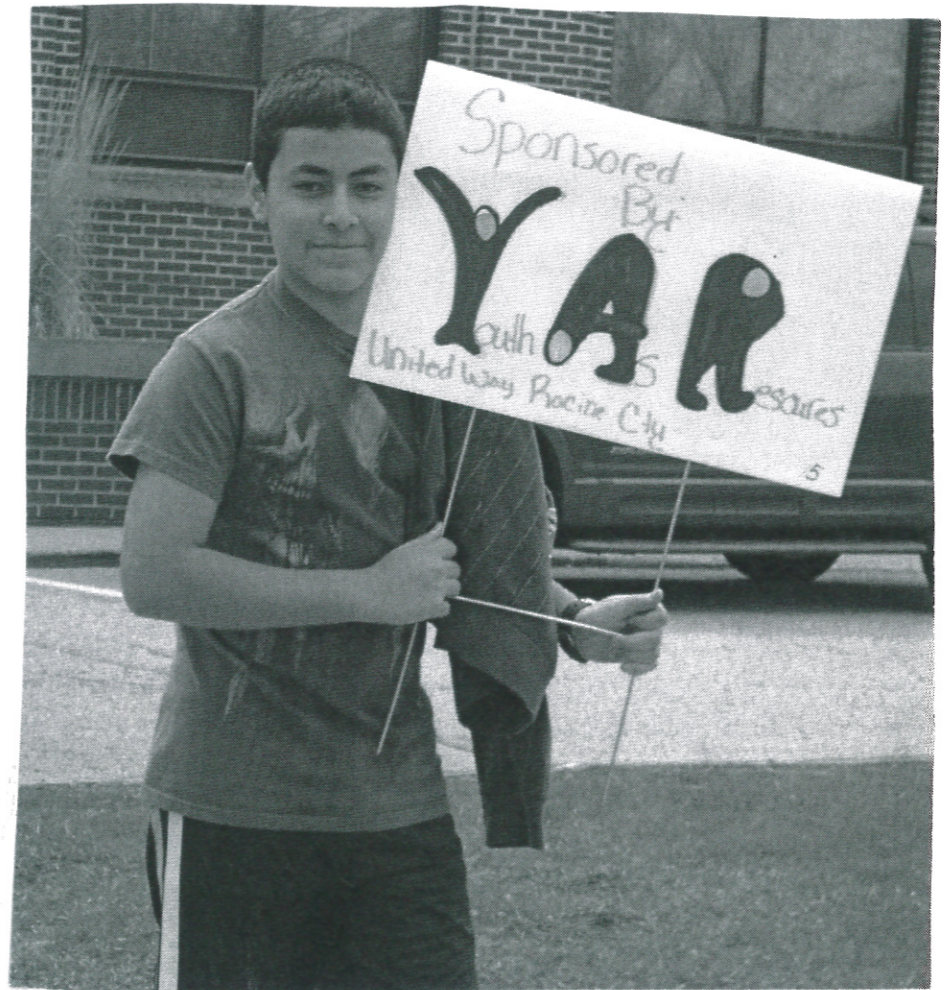
Karcher
Community
Clean-up
Day

Karcher
Community
clean - up Day

Thursday, April 22,
2011

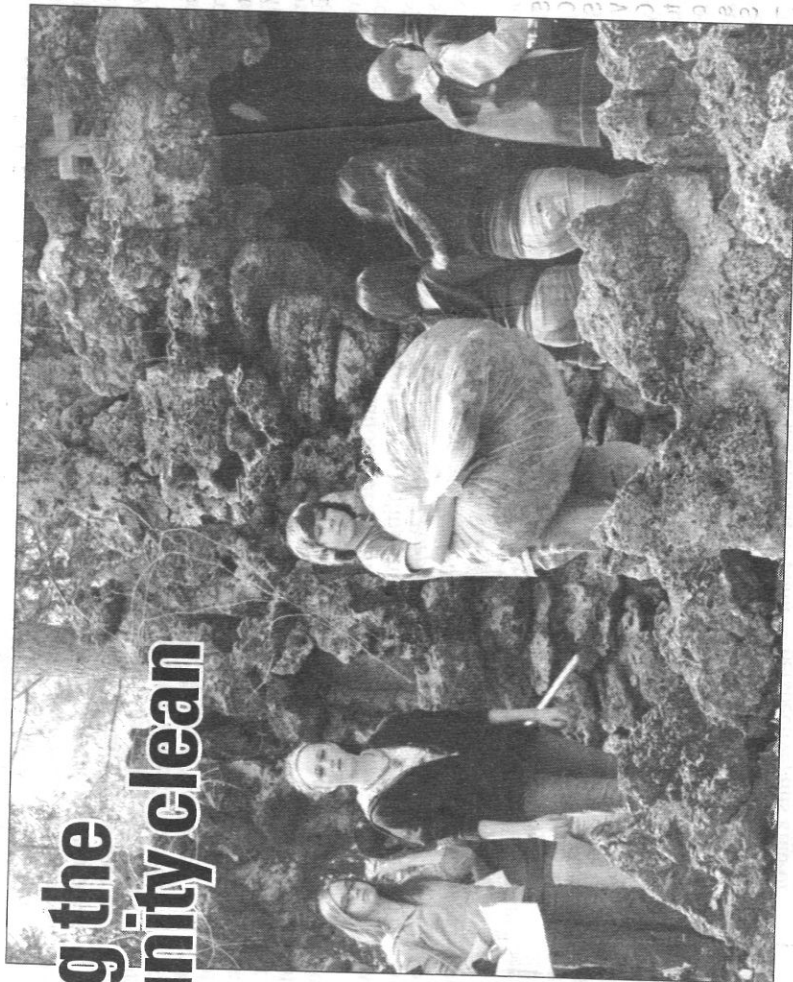
A Special Thanks to:

- * youth AS Resources and the United Way of Racine County for funding our project.
- * BASD custodial staff, Love Inc., and BHS chemicals for donating supplies.
- * City Dept. of Public Works for giving their time.
- * Arbor Images and Kevin Remer for donating mulch.
- * Karcher staff and City Administrator Kevin Lohner for putting this event together.



Eighth-Grader Luis Jimenez holds his group's poster that was left at their site when they were done cleaning.

Keeping the community clean



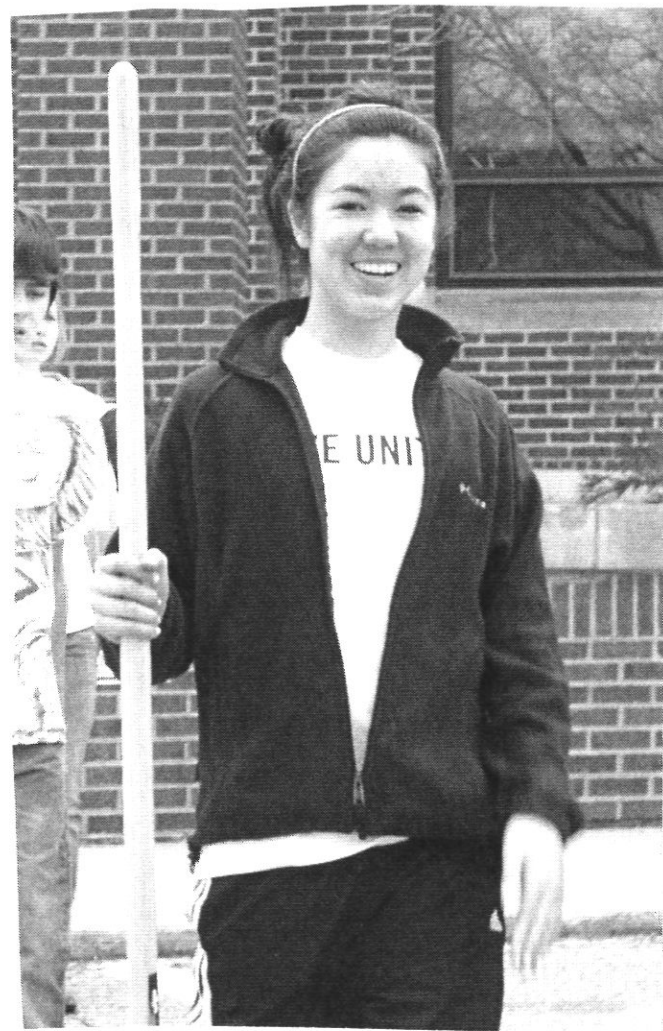
Above,
Karcher Middle
School's Tony
Davis, Kayla
Abel and Joe
Nguyen load
wood chips
to scatter at
McCanna Park
last week during
the school's
Community
Cleanup Day. At
right, Karcher
students walk
down into the
grotto at St.
Francis Friary.

JENNIFER EISENBART
Standard Press



coverage in the Burlington standard
press.

Karcher
Kids
have character
😊



Student council member Lydia Crabtree
carries a rake to the buses.

Youthful resources:

By Jennifer Eisenbart
STAFF WRITER

Character education is a pretty big part of what is promoted at Karcher Middle School.

So when eighth-grade class secretary Sammi Robers got the opportunity to spearhead this spring's service project, she jumped at the chance.

"I was excited about it," Robers explained. "I was looking forward to putting all of this together. I thought this was a really cool idea for a project."

Robers didn't just lead April 21's Community Cleanup Day in Burlington, which hit 38 sites throughout the city and spent anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour cleaning.

She also formatted the presentation that got the more than \$1,300 in funding from United Way.

That money went toward busing students to and from Karcher to clean up last week's sites, which included the St. Francis Friary, all of the district schools, city parks and Burlington Cemetery.

More than 500 students participated in the cleanup day — the entire student body of Karcher in one form or another. Those who did not travel to sites were involved in other in-school activities.

The concept for the day began earlier this year when the teachers at Karcher began organizing a community service project. Those teachers then approached the student council for ideas.

By far, the most popular

idea was a community cleanup day.

"This was the main project on everyone's minds," said Robers. "This is what they wanted to do."

From there, Karcher teacher Lori Hintz asked Robers to take charge of the project.

Robers' enthusiasm for the project was not unique, Hintz said.

"Every kid, they're like, 'We're doing this,'" Hintz recalled.

From there, Robers needed to make a presentation in front of the "Youth As Resources" group from United Way. Mary Beth Kallio, a member of that group, remembered being impressed — enough so that the group exceeded its normal \$1,000 limit.

"Typically, we do give under \$1,000, but we were impressed with this," Kallio said. "We thought it was important enough to grant the money."

"To see the impact on the community ... that's amazing."

Kallio got to see that impact first-hand last week, stopping at several of the cleanup sites.

Perhaps one of the largest single efforts came from seventh-graders who were at the Friary, picking up garbage and downed branches.

The Friary is scheduled to reopen this summer to a group of novitiates, and the grounds have not been extensively open or used since 2005.

Several students ganged up and brought up branches the size of small trees, and the

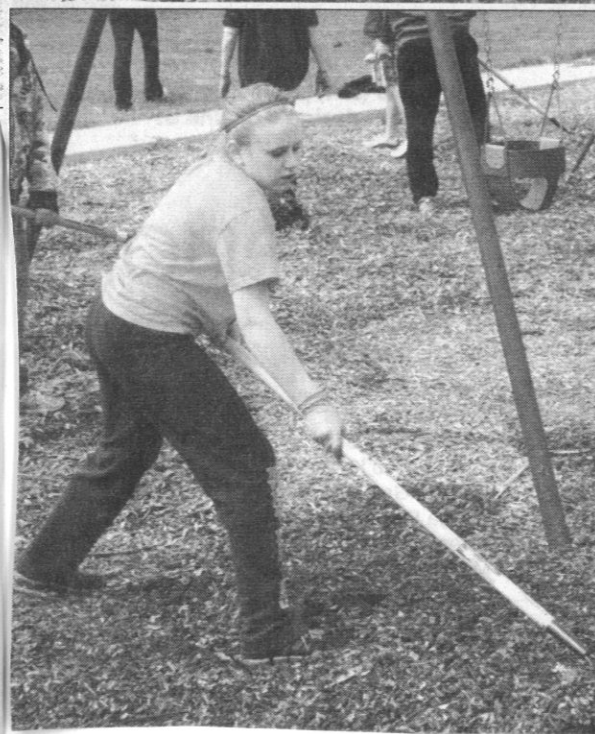
groups scoured the land for garbage.

At McCanna Parkway on the other end of Highway W, students scattered woodchips on the playground, raked the playground and picked up garbage.

The group also got one of the only nice days of the week for its event, with temperatures hovering in the low 50s with on and off sunshine.

Hintz said there would have been excitement regardless, but the good weather was a plus.

"It would've been pretty miserable, probably, because of the weather," Hintz said about the possibility of rain. "But I think the kids still would've been excited."



Above, students from Karcher Middle School carry a large branch on the grounds of the St. Francis Friary last week during the school's Community Cleanup Day. At left, Sadie Tenhagen rakes out wood chips at the playground at McCanna Park.

JENNIFER EISENBART
Standard Press

A group of 7th grade students load the buses ready to go!



What Students Learned:

"The value of a little physical labor." - D.S.

"Pride in the community." - K.R.

"Helping the community is a positive thing." - M.J.

"Positive attitude makes 'dirty work' more fun." - D.S.

"How to plant trees." - B.B.

"Service is not about what we like to do, it's about what others need us to do." - K.S.

What Students Learned:

"Hard work and doing something for the community is rewarding." - S.B.

"Taking pride in what they're doing." - S.T.

"Not liking to pick up trash = don't litter then." - M.B.

"Team Work." - J.P.

"How to do something for others out of their comfort zone." - K.N.



(From left): Allison Miller, Mr. Jones, Samantha Lo Bianco, and CJ Schiller pick up trash at Echo Park.



Seventh-Grader Jessica Umbel picks up trash and collects sticks at St. Francis Monastery.

Letter to the editor

Many helped Karcher kids put a shine on the community

I have learned to never underestimate the powerful energy of students united with a common cause.

Karcher Community Clean-up Day on April 21, saw 525 seventh- and eighth-graders, in teams of about 15 with an adult, clean 38 city/county/school district public areas. It was amazing to be part of such a huge effort, to help clean up our community

in just two hours.

Karcher Middle School curriculum includes character education and Karcher staff routinely model strong character traits. Once a quarter, students have the opportunity to participate in a character-based focus activity, in this case, community service. Teachers along with City Administrator Kevin Lahner were instrumental in planning the event.

Student Sammi Roberts

wrote a grant proposal to fund buses and supplies. Youth As Resources (funded by United Way) invited Student Council officers to present our clean-up project; the grant was awarded.

The custodial staff of BASD provided gloves, trash bags and manpower. Love Inc. donated rags. BHS chemical class produces playground cleaner.

City Dept. of Public Works gave hours to ensure student success with this

project. Arbor Images and Kevin Remer donated tons of mulch for the city parks. Thank you to all.

Karcher Community Clean-up Day was a huge success because of the priceless help and donations of so many.

So, as you enjoy the city public areas this season, please thank a Karcher kid for the efforts.

Lori Hintz
Karcher Middle School
Burlington

coverage in the Burlington Standard Press.

Coverage in the Racine Journal Times



SCOTT ANDERSON scott.anderson@journaltimes.com
Karcher Middle School student Kayla Abel spreads a box of mulch Thursday on the playground at McCanna Park. Karcher Middle School students took to cleaning McCanna Park and numerous other spots in Burlington on Thursday. Eighth-grader Sammi Robers wrote a grant that provides funding for transportation and tools for the cleanup project.



Karcher Middle School student Sadie Tenhagen spreads mulch on the playground at McCanna Park on Thursday. Karcher Middle School students took to cleaning McCanna Park and numerous other spots in Burlington on Thursday. Eighth-grader Sammi Robers wrote a grant that provides funding for transportation and tools for the cleanup project.

Assistance granted

Karcher Middle School gets \$1,300 to implement local cleanup project

LINDSAY FIORI
lindsay.fiori@journaltimes.com

BURLINGTON — Eighth-grader Sammi Robers held her digital camera at the ready, waiting for the perfect shot.

She didn't have to wait long.

Around her other students created plenty of picture-worthy moments as they took over a park, spreading mulch, picking up trash and cleaning benches.

The students' efforts were part of Karcher Middle School's Community Clean-Up Day on Thursday. For the event, Karcher's 525 seventh- and eighth-grade students spent the afternoon cleaning up 38 sites around Burlington including parks, play-

grounds, bike trails and more.

Sammi was taking photos for an event reflection book because she was the project's main student organizer and played a lead role in securing the grant that allowed the project to happen.

Karcher staff came up with the idea for the cleanup day service project, but they said if Sammi hadn't gotten the grant money, the event probably would not have materialized.

More Online
at journaltimes.com



Links
Youth As Resources grants
www.unitedwayracine.org/youth_as_resources.html

"We needed money for buses, for playground cleaner, for rakes, shovels, etc.," said Karcher teacher Lori Hintz. She knew the money could possibly come from a Racine County Youth As Resources grant, but she needed a student to write it to meet grant requirements. So Hintz approached Karcher's Student Council, and Sammi, the Student Council's secretary, stepped up.

More on **PROJECT**, Page 13A

PROJECT / Community cleanup

From Page 11A

"I realized it was going to be a lot of work, but I was definitely really excited by it because I like challenges," said Sammi, 14.

For the Youth As Resources grant application, Sammi said she had to describe the project plan in detail — including a budget and what supplies would be needed. Then she and two other students had to present the project before the Youth As Resources Board, which is made up of adults and other students who chose grant winners.

"We had like 20 people watching us, so it was kind of nerve-racking, but it was good," Sammi said.

Karcher ended up getting a Youth As Resources grant of about \$1,300; the grants are funded by area groups including the United Way of Racine County.

The grant money was put to use — along with some materials donated by the city, district and others — on Thursday as Karcher students traversed Burlington cleaning in the first-time event. At the St. Francis Monastery, near the intersection of South

Browns Lake Drive and Milwaukee Avenue, a group of students picked up trash and fallen branches from the monastery's main driveway.

"It makes it look better than trash lying around," said seventh-grader Jesse Procto, 13, as he stacked sticks in a pile for eventual removal. "And it's to show other people that it's not that hard to pick up some stuff and make it look like how it should."

Standing near Jesse, Sammi nodded her agreement, and then kept on snapping pictures.



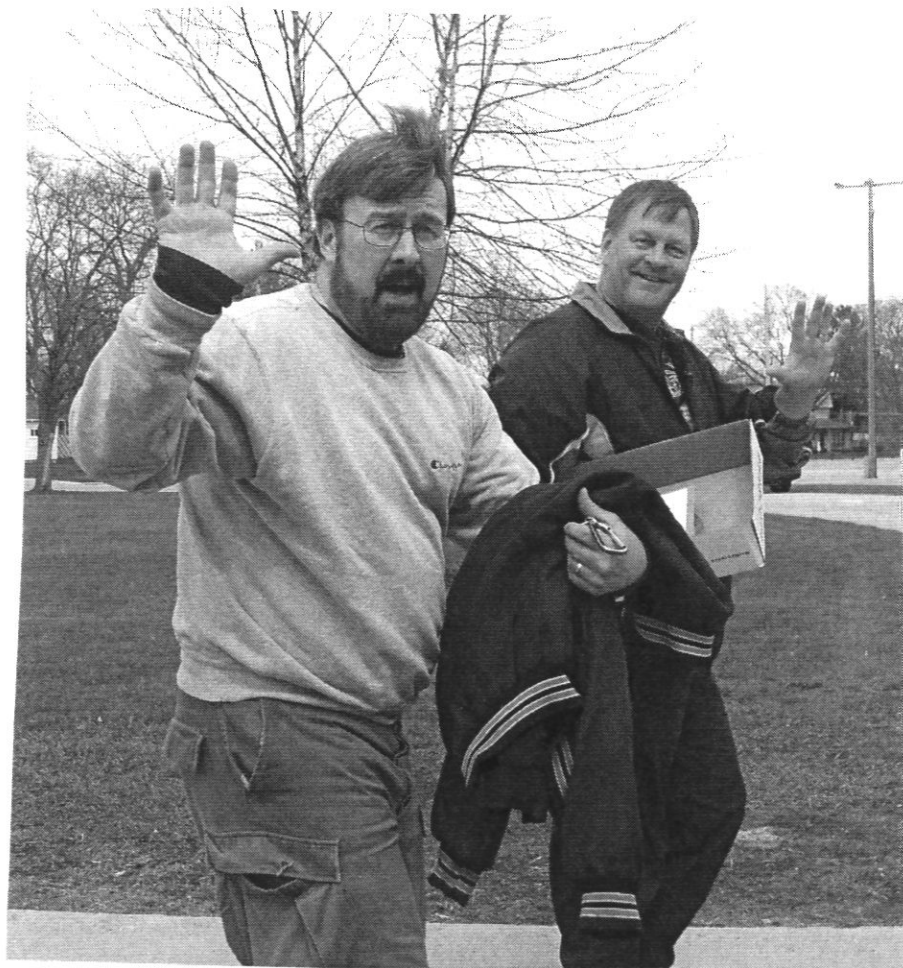
Karcher Middle School student Tony Davis uses the back of his sweatshirt to dry cleaning fluid from the slide as he slides down on the playground at McCanna Park on Thursday.



Eighth-Graders Sara VanBeen and Derek Jagielski proudly clean the playground at Echo Park.



Brandon Lindemann (right) shows his enthusiasm while getting off the bus, along with some of his classmates.



Mr. Eggers and Mr. Bartelson wave to the camera after returning from their clean-up sites.



A group of students arrive back at school at the end of clean-up day.

I would like to thank the Youth As Resources group and the United Way for this learning opportunity. Your support is much appreciated in our quest to provide real world experiences that promote character and community involvement. Thank you for partnering with Karder Middle School in our endeavor to reach the next generation of community stewards.

Power in Learning

Phil Shetty

Principal

Karder Middle School



Student Council members Sammi Robers and Ali Knight sport their "Live United" t-shirts alongside classmate courtney Krusemark.

This project was a huge learning experience for me. It helped me to take charge and be a leader. I realized that with a little push, kids can make a huge difference. I am so thankful for Youth As Resources for believing in us and helping to make our project a complete success!

- Sammi Robers,
Student Council Secretary