



CSSD Chronicle



A regular publication of information and news about Court Support Services Division

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THE JUDICIAL BRANCH'S COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM INSTALLS NEW PLAYScape AT LOCAL SCHOOL



Staff writer James Craven of *The Herald*, a New Britain area newspaper, photographed the four smiling faces above to complement his May 15th article on the construction of a long-awaited playscape at Chamberlain Primary School in New Britain. According to Craven, the playscape's \$75,000 price tag was paid with city, state, and grant money—and the installation was completed with a lot of hard, physical labor from approximately 50 men and women of the Judicial Branch's Community Service Program.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The Community Service Program is one of several sentencing options a judge has for those who have committed minor crimes. It is an alternative to incarceration that allows probation clients an opportunity to give back to their communities in a positive way; learn life and work skills; and address negative behaviors that led to their involvement in the criminal justice system.

CLIENTS AND CITIZENS WORKING TOGETHER

The Community Service crew at the Chamberlain playscape toiled for two days, under extreme weather conditions, in order to finish the project. Josh Hernandez, a young man working through his 300-hour sentence of community service, was asked by Craven how he felt about the project. "It's not like busywork," Hernandez said under a broiling sun as students began to line up to see the completed project. "Just seeing the kids' faces light up makes the hard work so worth it."

UNLIKELY HEROES

Playground Coordinator Nancy Puglisi, who, according to Craven, has worked with the Community Service Program on other New Britain area projects, had nothing but praise for Hernandez and the other community crew members who worked on the playscape. She told Craven, "Today, these men and women are heroes in the eyes of the kids. I bet none of them will ever forget it."

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

Jim Greene, Deputy Director of CSSD's Program and Staff Development echoed Puglisi's praise of the New Britain project crew. "From digging the footings to assembling the equipment, to spreading the wood chips, Judicial Branch Community Service crews did it all." Greene is credited with advocating for, and creating, one of the Judicial Branch's first Community Service Programs for adult offenders back in 1992. He has also been recognized for implementing special community service projects for juvenile offenders. Greene is well-known for his efforts to improve services and opportunities for people involved in the criminal justice system.



Greene also praised Craven's news coverage of the project. "This article captures the essence of community service—giving back to the community and changing the public's opinion of our clients. This is the thirty-fourth playscape we have helped to build."

For more information on the Judicial Branch's Community Service Program, contact Jim Greene, Deputy Director, at 860-721-2199, Ext. 3110.

SUGGESTIONS? QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS? CONTACT US!

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