



Kids Build participants show off their projects, completed at a popular monthly session under the guidance of NCSRCC volunteers.

Building Joy North Central 'Kids Build' On a Roll

A small but ambitious idea for enhancing community relations in the Twin Cities area of the North Central States Regional Council (NCSRCC) has quickly grown into a tremendous council wide success. The idea was to hold a Kids Build workshop and invite children from the community to come to the local training center to work on a free carpentry project. Even up to the start time of the first session there were doubts about whether it would work - but as it turned out the response was nothing short of remarkable.

With just 30 slots advertised, 36 kids and their parents attended the first-ever Kids Build event at the Twin Cities Training Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Kids ate donuts, listened to instructions, put on safety gear and grabbed hammers. Once the projects were built, kids had time to paint and decorate them. The first project? A tool box, of course.

Registrations for the next St. Paul event filled in less than 24 hours. The following month, Executive Secretary-Treasurer John Raines expanded the program and scheduled

a Kids Build workshop in conjunction with an Open House at the Council's new building in Papillion, Nebraska. That too, was a resounding success, and Kids Builds are now scheduled monthly in Papillion.

Since then, NCSRCC has rolled out Kids Builds in 11 more training centers, including a second location in Saint Paul - and now the program is spreading across the Brotherhood as other regional councils have begun sponsoring Kids Build programs.

In addition to the tool boxes, monthly NCSRCC projects included step stools, bookends, napkin holders, bird houses, treasure boxes, jelly bean dispensers, jewelry holders, picture frames and planters. Each project is branded with the council's logo and web address. Sessions are staffed by UBC volunteers, including council staff, apprentices and retirees. Council-wide, more than 90 members volunteer each month to help with the 400 participants who attend.

"The main reason I volunteer is seeing the kids' faces light up with joy and

accomplishment from building a project on their own," said Kids Build lead Jim Hendricks. "It's also great to see the parents get excited about watching their kids have so much fun.

"Everybody learns so many life lessons in the short two-hour span," he added. "I can't say enough great things about it. I'm glad to be a part of it."

For more information, visit www.north-countrycarpenter.org/kidsbuildworkshops or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KidsBuildWorkshop/



UBC Members Volunteer in Flint

When a crisis struck their neighbors in Flint, carpenters from the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights were ready to take action. Nearly 800 people turned out and volunteered to deliver water and install filters for residents.

"The people of Flint need to know that Michigan unions have their back. It's unconscionable that this happened and we are going to make sure that every person in Flint has access to clean drinking water," said Mike Jackson, Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

The volunteers helped deliver two 53-foot trailers of bottled water to Flint residents shortly after the serious problem with the town's drinking water came to light. But the support didn't end there. Recently the Council contacted members who were affected by the crisis and followed up with them. Those that were still in need had care packages delivered to their doorsteps, including gifts for any kids in the house.

"It's hard to sit comfortably in my home, with a good conscience, and not do something," said volunteer Tim Housley, a millwright from Local 1102.

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on new facilities for architecture; science and engineering research; international studies; and two new residence halls, as well as major renovations and infrastructure improvements.

That's on top of the smaller renovations that occur every year - and the day-to-day maintenance that is handled by on-campus building trades crews. Employed by J.J. White, Inc., the current UBC Notre Dame shop crew includes seven Local 413 members.

Attention to skills, attitude and productivity define the UBC and fit well with Notre Dame's world-class standing, said UBC Midwestern District Vice-President David Tharp.

"Both Notre Dame and our Brotherhood were born well over 100 years ago," Tharp said. "One of the things we have in common is



Local 413 members staffing Notre Dame's Carpentry Shop include Jeremy Feltz, Tim Meers, Brian Guthrie, George Walters, Vance Welton, Derek Stump and Ted Hodowaniec.

a devotion to developing the next generation of trained and educated individuals. We are proud that our partnership has helped to make this university great, kept our members working over many decades, and made our union stronger."