



JENNIFER KUKEL/Standard Speaker

Masonry Students from Keystone Job Corps cleaned up Route 924 in Hazleton Friday afternoon. As part of Make A Difference Day.

Job Corps students 'care' for Route 924

The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership and Keystone Job Corps Center teamed up Friday to beautify the section of Route 924 closest to Broad Street.

The Partnership sponsored a "day of caring" by Keystone students who weeded, cleaned, mulched and planted flower beds the Partnership planted along the highway last spring.

Bob Skulsky, the Partnership's executive director, described the work students did.

"The existing beds had gotten overgrown with crown vegetation," Skulsky said. "They pulled out all of the crown vegetation and weeds. They weed-wacked the grass around the beds, re-mulched the beds, and started digging for spring planting next year. We had quite a bit of mulch left over from what the state gave us for our spring planting. We will be planting shrubs and trees."

Skulsky said the students worked from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and was surprised with the amount of work they did in that short time period.

"It's much easier when you have a crew," he said. "The crew was fantastic. There were about 20 people. I can't believe the amount of work they got done."

Matt Waltman of Keystone said the students came from the plastering and cement trade shops at the center.

The site was the first gateway beautification project the Partnership did several years ago. Since then, other projects have been added, as the Route 924 area was weeded, and new plantings done several times.

The other beautification areas the Partnership did include along Route 424, near Route 309 and Route 93.

Plans are also in the works to plant the rest of Route 924