

Students help 'paint'

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As part of an ongoing project aimed at fostering civic and community pride in the Hazleton area, the Key Club of Hazleton Area High School recently planted color coordinated flowers and declared it was "painting the town red, white and blue."

The program is the brainchild of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership. This type of community-oriented project fits in well with the mission of the Key Club, according to its moderator, Rich Marchetti. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Hazleton, club members provide community service to the town. In fulfilling this mission, about 25 students took part in the "Paint the Town" program.

A sign exclaiming, "Greater Hazleton Paints Our Town Red, White and Blue" festoons the HAHS landscape and begonias, ageratums, impatiens and petunias were planted in front of the high school near its Fitness Trail signs, where the decorations will remain all summer.

Lena Kotansky, the Partnership's executive director, says the project is about instilling in citizens a sense of community

pride and unity throughout the area by encouraging them, as well as schools and businesses, to emblazon their surroundings with the patriotic colors.

"Flags, window boxes, and ribbons can all contribute to the project and the beautification of the area," Kotansky said. "The undertaking will continue through the summer, commemorating national holidays like the Fourth of July and Labor Day and will finally conclude during Funfest weekend in September.

According to Kotansky, everyone is needed to help make this project a success. Businesses have already donated materials and time, including Interstate Road Markings and Berwick Industries. They are largely responsible for the painted stars along roads and the ribbons that adorn city hall and Memorial Park. Over 100 volunteers fashioned the ribbons and hung them throughout Hazleton.

For information about the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership's "Paint the Town Red, White and Blue" project, or to find out how you and your family can help, call the Partnership at 455-1508.



PAINT THE TOWN WITH FLOWERS - Members of the Hazleton Area High School's Key Club plant red, white, and blue flowers as part of the Paint the Town project. They are, from left Shannon Boyle, Lindsay Onder, Amanda Bartkus, Monica Henschenski, and Heather Porpigli. Residents are invited to decorate their properties all summer long. The project concludes Funfest weekend.

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