

Home Depot volunteers spruce up Headwaters' gardens

The Home Depot Canada made a big impression on Orangeville as 56 Team Depot volunteers came to Headwaters Health Care Centre (Headwaters) recently.

They were there to help refurbish and spruce up the hospital gardens. The volunteers from stores across the northwest Greater Toronto Area (GTA) spent the day enhancing gardens, repairing trellises and working on an environment project.

"Our patients benefit from having access to peaceful, therapeutic gardens to support the healing process," said Headwaters President and CEO Liz Ruegg. "The Home Depot volunteers turned out in truly impressive numbers and we thank them for their efforts to tend the gardens and make them more environmentally sustainable."

Team Depot volunteers came from stores across the northwest GTA including Bolton, Orangeville, Brampton, Woodbridge, Vaughan, North York and Rexdale under the leadership of District Manager Preet Gill. The initiative originated from previous volunteer work by Kevin J. Harris, manager at The Home Depot in Orangeville, in partnership with Lynn Sinclair-Smith, volunteer coordinator for Headwaters' Friendship Gardens.

"It was an exciting and gratifying day at Headwaters for our Team Depot volunteers," said Gill. "The Home Depot truly believes in giving back and making a meaningful impact to the communities we serve. We really appreciate this opportunity to make a big difference for the hospital's patients, families and staff."

The Home Depot volunteers worked on projects including weeding, edging and mulching the large gardens and spruce trees; staking 50 trees; repairing and rebuilding the top of the trellis garden; clearing and preparing an environmental project; and installing a picnic table and interlock brick. All the materials for the work were supplied by The Home Depot Canada Foundation.

Team Depot is a program operated by The Home Depot Canada in partnership with The Home Depot Canada Foundation to provide funding to support a variety of initiatives including local hands-on, neighbourhood improvement projects.

"Headwaters is very fortunate to have a large number of dedicated volunteers who work very hard to keep our gardens beautiful," Ruegg added. "We are all very grateful for this extra help from The Home Depot and its Foundation."

For more information on The Home Depot Foundation and Team Depot, please visit www.homedepot.ca/content/foundation/how-we-help/team-depot

The creation of the Friendship Gardens was the idea of a group of volunteers called Friends of Headwaters and was initiated in 1997 with the opening of the new hospital. The group looked at the new facility and saw a need to beautify its surroundings. The gardens are unique to Headwaters and a huge success with patients, staff and visitors. They make Headwaters a special place to receive care. The Friendship Gardens volunteers raise 100 per cent of the funds needed to build and maintain the gardens and more than 400 trees. Visit www.friendshipgardens.ca for more information and photos.



Team Depot volunteers from The Home Depot Canada - District 350 (Toronto West) pose with Headwaters' President and CEO Liz Ruegg, (third from the right, middle row) at Headwaters Health Care Centre.