

LOCAL NEWS

Help beautify South Bay and Harbor Area schools and parks on Sharefest workday

By [DONNA LITTLEJOHN](#) | dlittlejohn@scng.com | Daily Breeze

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Every year, hundreds of volunteers fan out to make the South Bay and Harbor Area a little bit better on [Sharefest Community Development](#) workdays.

There's still time to volunteer for this year's event, the 13th annual workday set for Saturday. On the list are nearly 50 project sites that have been adopted by companies, community groups and churches.

The work includes such things as planting gardens and painting murals, with many jobs being family friendly and including volunteers of all ages.

Focused on helping families impacted by drugs, violence and gangs, Sharefest aims to create positive changes in the community and education system by mentoring young people and building coalitions to carry out volunteer projects.

The workdays have been growing in popularity, with the nonprofit reporting that



This year's groups include Balfour Beatty Construction, Coast Christian Fellowship, Dana Middle School PTO, First United Methodist Church in Redondo Beach, Girl Scout Troop 9595, King's Harbor Church, Journey of Faith, Kaiser Permanente, Life Covenant Church, Lighthouse Community Church, Los Angeles Harbor College, MMR Contractors, NewSong, Oceanside Christian Fellowship, Phillips 66, Remembrance Community Church, the River Church of the South Bay, Ambassador High School, Rotary Club of Palos Verdes Peninsula, Saddleback Church, Saving San Pedro, Bethany Christian Fellowship, Wilmington Rotary Club and Tesoro.

Projects include:

- Campus beautifications at [El Rincon Elementary School \(Culver City\)](#) and [Da Vinci Design High School \(Hawthorne\)](#).
- A beach [cleanup and painting project at an access ramp on The Esplanade](#) in Redondo Beach.
- Cleaning, landscaping and painting [murals at the Wilmington post office](#).
- [A mural to envelop the entire public restroom building at Point Fermin Park](#) in San Pedro.

In many cases, preparation work has been ongoing throughout this week.

For example, the restroom building at Point Fermin — a frequent target of tagging and graffiti — has been painted blue and volunteers who show up at 8 a.m. Saturday will be directed to paint an unfolding ocean scene.

"The whole idea is to make it blend into the horizon," said James Baeza of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council and one of the organizers.

It is also hoped that the new mural will take care of a community eyesore and nuisance.

An anti-graffiti coating will be applied when the mural is finished. Baeza added another finishing touch: colorful handprints of all the participants left on the door to commemorate the experience.

While the project overlooking the ocean won't be all work, it will probably be messy for those who volunteer.

A complete list of all 44 projects and information about each can be found at <http://workday.sharefestinc.org/projects> on the Sharefest website. Signups should be done in advance online. Some projects already are full, but others have very few or no volunteers.

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Donna Littlejohn | Reporter

Donna Littlejohn received a bachelor's degree (double major) in journalism and political science from California State University, Long Beach, and began her career in daily journalism with the San Pedro News-Pilot, transferring to The Daily Breeze staff in 1998 after the San Pedro publication closed.

dlittlejohn@scng.com

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