San Pedro nonprofit leads Earth Day project at Wilmington continuation school

100 Wilmington volunteers joined Sharefest Community Development, a Harbor Area non-profit in building a mental health garden and painting murals on the campus of Avalon Continuation High School in Wilmington Friday April 21, 2023. Sharefest helps vulnerable high school students who are under-served, under-resourced and underestimated by guiding them into college and career pathways, breaking a cycle of poverty. Volunteers layed sod, painted murals on almost every campus wall and collecting bulky trash items. (Photo by contributing photographer Chuck Bennett)

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More than 100 Wilmington volunteers spent Earth Day eve creating and planting a mental health garden, and painting murals at Avalon Continuation High School on Friday, April 21.

It was all part of a service day sponsored by Sharefest, a San Pedro nonprofit that provides guidance and support to more than 300 students at six continuation high schools in the Harbor Area.

Sharefest helps high school students who are underserved, have fewer resources and lower expectations. The goal is to guide them into college and career pathways while breaking the cycle of poverty.

Volunteers laid sod, painted murals on nearly every wall and collected bulky trash items at the Wilmington campus, 1425 N. Avalon Blvd.

Among those on hand during the event were Los Angeles Councilmember Tim McOsker, Assemblymember Mike Gipson, D-Carson, and Chad Mayer, executive director of Sharefest Community Development.

Brissa Sotelo-Vargas of the Valero Energy Corporation, and Avalon High School students, faculty and volunteers also participated.

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