

Phoenix Employees Get Their Hands Dirty to Help 2 Area Schools

Many people spend their weekends working on a "honey-do" list of errands, home repairs and yard work. But on April 25, more than 200 Avnet employees picked up paintbrushes, shovels and trowels for a different reason.

For the 15th year in a row, Avnet participated in the annual Hands On Greater Phoenix (formerly Make A Difference) Serve-a-Thon for Schools. From 8 a.m. until noon, 231 Avnet employees, suppliers, friends and family members painted murals, curbs and walkways; poured a cement pad; planted trees and plants; cleaned a compost area and pulled weeds at Lowell Elementary School in Phoenix and Mesa Junior High School in Mesa.

At Lowell Elementary, the Avnet crew also put a playhouse back together and painted it, cleaned a pond and added river rock, hung bird houses, worked in the library, boxed classrooms for a teacher, and moved shelving. In addition to painting a very large mural at Mesa Junior High, Avnet volunteers painted student-designed artwork in three walkways, painted all swing outs at the school and sanded railings.

"I continue to be amazed by employee support for this day of volunteering," says Karen Zalesky, sales and marketing manager for Avnet Technology Solutions Americas. "They give up four hours on a Saturday to make a difference in our community, and I cannot be prouder of them for giving their all year after year."