

## Employee Efforts to Beautify Phoenix School Wins Award

Although Avnet has many traditions, few are as long standing as its participation in the annual Make A Difference Serve-a-Thon for Schools. For 14 years, Avnet employees have donated time, sweat and elbow grease to help make Phoenix-area schools better places for local children.

This year was no different – 165 volunteers spent a day at Alfred F. Garcia Elementary School in Phoenix, planting trees, weeding and trimming, cleaning and organizing storage rooms, building picnic tables, picking up trash and doing a whole lot of painting – bus lines, basketball court lines, baseball field benches, soccer goal posts, awnings, poles, numbers on courts for lining up before school and indoor and outdoor walls as well as two murals and an Arizona map on the sidewalk.

“I get tired thinking about all of the work that was done – our campus is a much safer and brighter place for our students, staff and the community,” says Larry Lawrence, principal at Garcia Elementary. “Our students comment on how wonderful everything looks, especially the Arizona map, and everyone likes the trees and picnic tables.”

The only complaint from employees who participated was missing out on seeing the students’ faces when they saw the changes at Garcia Elementary. “I only wish I could have been there on Monday morning to see all the children’s reactions to the improvements to their school,” says James Krist, manager of transportation operations for Avnet Logistics Solutions.

However, he did get a preview. “One really cool part was when one of the children who attended the school came by and you could see the look on her face because the number for her classroom, ‘28,’ was being repainted and she seemed really excited about it,” James says.

Another highlight of his day was the feeling of camaraderie among employees. “I was shocked at how many people were there and the energy could be felt from the moment I entered the cafeteria. I was immediately greeted; everyone was happy and made me feel welcome,” he says. “I really felt like I was needed and any input about how to accomplish our task was appreciated. By the time we started scraping and painting everyone was having a really good time and there was plenty of laughter to go around.”

At a picnic lunch for volunteers following the morning’s hard work, Avnet was recognized as a top sponsor of Make A Difference and was presented with an award for the commitment of its employees – something that came as no surprise to Karen Zalesky, the Avnet Technology Solutions sales process manager who led the effort.

“As an employee myself, I continue to be amazed with employees’ commitment to this day of volunteering. They give up four hours on a Saturday to make a difference in our community, and I cannot be prouder of the team that each year shows up to give their all,” she says. “The project leaders who spend hours preparing to make sure the volunteers have a great time and feel good about what they have accomplished also deserve thanks for what they do and did, as does Avnet for its commitment to this organization and this day; that’s why we received this award.”

But that’s not all Avnet did to prepare for the big day. Four employees – Lori Dean, Priscilla Kadi, Jennifer Pisano and Charmaine Royalty – volunteered at a local television station for three hours one evening, taking on-air calls from viewers interested in participating in the Serve-a-Thon.