

Momentum continues to improve downtown Whitefield with AHEAD project

BY COURTNEY VASHAW

Contributing Writer

WHITEFIELD

When Affordable Housing Education and Development (AHEAD), based in Littleton, was looking for a place to celebrate its annual NeighborWorks Week, new board member Peter Corey eagerly said to project manager Sally Ayers, "How about Whitefield?"

Corey sits not only on the the AHEAD Board, but he is also a newly elected selectman for the town. Corey chairs the zoning and ordinances committee for the Whitefield Project.

Passionate about seeing improvements to the town, Corey viewed a partnership between AHEAD and Whitefield as a great opportunity for both sides. He teamed up with fellow Whitefield improvement committee member Cory Pons to identify two sites that were within the scope of the project.

AHEAD owns and operates one relatively small property in Whitefield, but this was enough for town to qualify for participation in the Neighborworks event. Neighborworks is celebrated at sites around the country during the first full week of June.

The service week brings volunteers and resources together for a community beautification project, the scope of



COURTESY

AHEAD celebrated NeighborWorks Week with some beautification in downtown Whitefield. Many volunteers chipped in on the effort to add greenery in the Town Common area.

which depends on volunteers, donations, and available resources.

The Whitefield project, which took place on the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of the national week, focused on two areas: the public fountain outside the recently purchased Grist Mill and the Soldier's Memorial close by.

The theme of this year's event was "Creating Opportunity," so choosing a spot outside a new potential business was right on target. Volunteers from AHEAD, including Corey, as well as recruits from the USDA Rural Development Office and the Whitefield branch of the Bank of New Hampshire, came together to weed, mulch, pick up debris, and generally perk up the areas using elbow grease and supplies.

Lowes and Home Depot in Littleton donated items for the event. Some bags of marble were left for touch-ups, and paving stones that did not arrive in time to complete the project during the week should be installed by willing workers at a later date.

Although covering just one spot, the project serves as an another example of small but significant steps being taken by community-minded groups and individuals to breathe new life into downtown Whitefield.

The Executive Board of the Whitefield Project, from which the NeighborWorks idea was launched, will be meeting on June 17 to review progress thus far and talk about new initiatives. The public is invited to a second meeting on June 29 at 7 p.m. at the McIntyre Apartments. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.