Momentum continues to improve downtown Whitefield with AHEAD project

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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 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 which depends on volunteers, donations, and available resources.

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.

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 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.