

Helping Hands volunteers beautify the city

On May 8, approximately 175 'Mormon Helping Hands' volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints joined together for park beautification projects throughout the city of Cypress.

Eager volunteers from Buena Park, La Palma, Anaheim and Cypress met in Cypress at a local meeting house to receive park assignments. Mayor Prakash Narain, M.D. presented volunteers a certificate of appreciation for the service to be rendered that day. "I thank and commend every one of you for your spirit of volunteerism in cleaning our city parks today".

Volunteer efforts were part of the Mormon Helping Hands Community Day of Service.

Cypress Mayor Narain recognized that the Cypress volunteers were among approximately 45,000 church members in Orange County, and 100,000 volunteers statewide that would be offering service to clean up parks

"Church members participate in numerous service projects throughout the year," said William Wynder, president of the Cypress Stake of the Church. "But this year, on May 8, the Church has asked us to unite and help to renew and restore California parks - an effort that is particularly needed in this time of tight government budgets for these areas and services."

Wearing bright yellow vests, volunteers in Cypress focused on cleaning 12 Cypress parks. Trash

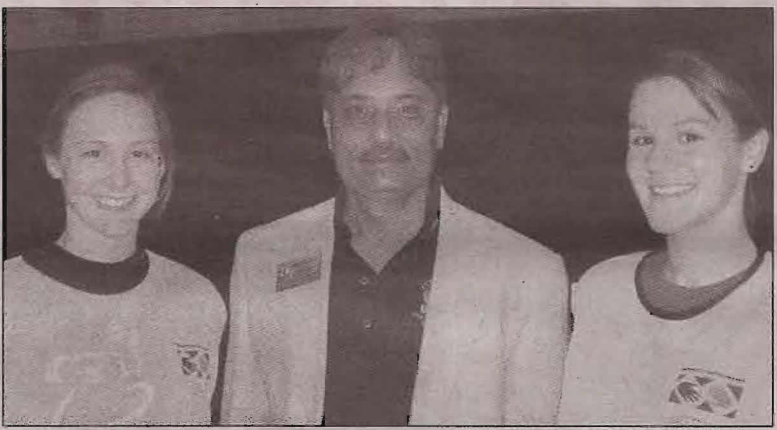


Photo by Vickie Wagstaff

Cypress Mayor Narain stands with Tasha Dickinson and Misty Brunner of Buena Park.



Courtesy photo

A mom (with baby in tow) cleans park equipment.

was picked up, equipment was cleaned and basketball courts and walkways were swept.

"I've always loved going to the park," Volunteer Cami Walker of Cypress said. "As the mayor mentioned this morning, our parks

help us to connect to nature and each other. As a member of the Mormon Church we are encouraged to be active in our communities and provide service. What better way to do both and enjoy a beautiful Saturday."