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**Automotive High School
Senior Institute
Beautification Project**



The Automotive High School Beautification Project was designed to teach all twelfth grade students citizenship skills and the importance of contributing to their community. For this particular project the students engaged in removing graffiti and beautifying their school grounds. Throughout this project the students were required to follow specific guidelines while working collaboratively with their classmates. The students that participated in this project volunteered their time and skills without any financial compensation. The end result included a positive message and a unique mural that brightened the school and uplifted the community.

Created by
Laura Wallace
&
William Kalogeras

Jheanell Thompson reflects on her community
service experience.

It was on a cold December day that we decided to beautify our school and make a difference in our community.

As a senior at Automotive High School I looked at that offensive wall for almost four years. The wall was originally a beige brick with a marble top and a white painted swastika in the center. On the right of the wall were several garbage containers that displayed graffiti and other obscenities. I often thought it would be nice if students, staff and visitors could drive into our school parking lot without being offended with hate symbols and profanity. So, the Senior Institute Community Service Program decided to make a difference and beautify our school.

It must have been the coldest day of the year when we stepped outside with our rollers, paint brushed and buckets of primer. As we gathered together we all felt like we had a mission to accomplish and that was to improve our school's appearance. Each and every student was eager to get started and so we did. I recall priming the wall next to my friend and thinking how good I felt about myself. We laughed, looked at each other's work and assisted one another until the wall was completely primed.

After the wall was primed an artist named Barbara Listenik came to our class. She asked the class what they would like to see painted on the wall. We brainstormed and suggested some really good ideas. We said that we wanted to see The Statue of Liberty, a car and maybe even a bridge painted on the wall. The artist noted all our suggestions and encouraged us to contribute samples of our ideas. We quickly began drawing and came up with a variety of sketches. These drawings were then combined into one master plan, which became our model for the wall.

The wall was thereafter sketched and we began painting once again. The wall included The Statue of Liberty with a wrench in her hand, a bridge with a car driving through it with the words "Road to Success" printed at the top and a light bulb in the shape of a globe with the word "Think" above it. The entire wall was finally completed and it was a great success. I remember our final day in that parking lot thinking how we made a difference in our school, in our community and within ourselves.

By Jheanell Thompson

Veronica Walters reflects on her community
service experience.

The Automotive High School Senior Institute Beautification Project

It was a pleasure to participate in the Automotive High School Senior Institute Beautification Project. The class of 2004 contributed a mural in the back parking lot of our school. The mural displays an incredible scene and a respectable and positive message to our community. The senior class volunteered their thoughts and ideas, time and skills and most of all our hearts. We are hopeful that our mural will be an inspiration for others to give back to their community and beautify their neighborhood.

As a twelfth grade student I believe it is my responsibility as a mature individual to contribute to my community. I believe I have contributed to my community by beautifying my school grounds, advocating an inspiration message and setting a tone for future graduates. I also consider myself quite lucky to have been selected to participate in such an inspirational and memorable project.

I believe this project was a wonderful experience. It provided me with a better and clear understanding of what it truly means to care about my community. I feel I have personally benefited from this project as well. I have learned to plan and map out an idea, team up with my classmates and dedicate my own personal time to a positive cause. I think all students should have an opportunity to contribute to their community. I feel quite proud of myself that I have left a positive mark on my school wall that will be recognized and even admired by so many students to come.

By Veronica Walters

This symbol of hate was a primary reason why the students at Automotive High School began their Beautification Project.



The students began priming the wall.



The students removed graffiti by spray painting
the garbage containers.



Barbara Listenik and Miguel Sanchez sketch an
outline for the wall.



The wall was prepped, measured and then
outlined in light blue paint.



The students painted the outlined mural in the
bitter cold.



"I "think" we should "think" about our school, community
and ways of helping others."

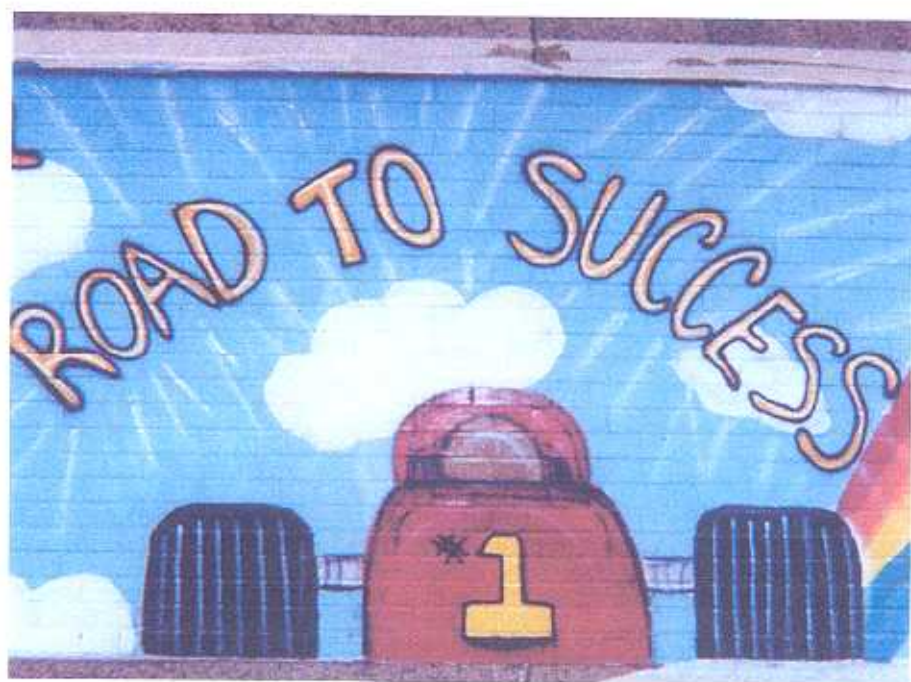
Veronica Walters

"The Statue of Liberty represents the pride we have for our
country. The wrench symbolizes how proud we are to be a
student at Automotive High School."

Elizabeth Rivera

"We had a mission to accomplish and that was to improve
our school's appearance. I think our efforts prove that we
are on the "Road to Success."

Jheanell Thompson



The Senior Institute students celebrate their completion of
their Community Service Beautification Project.



A special thanks to
The Greenline Newspaper
Artist Barbara Listenik
&
Park Avenue Building & Roofing Supplies

Automotive High School Senior's Mural Promotes "Positive"



Students: Merrick Bailey, Marion Sampson, Derrick Mitchem, Devon Bonnick, Elizabeth Rivera, Veronica Walters
Adults (standing): Barbara Listenik (2nd from left), Mr. William Kefogeras, Ms. Laura Wallace.

photos by Laurel Plak

Continued from Cover

In early December, senior students from Automotive High School (80 Bedford Avenue) created a wall mural as part of their Senior Community Service project. They collaborated with freshman students and were guided by graphic artist Barbara Listenik of Fierce Release Design who was enlisted by school faculty when they noticed and appreciated a mural she did across the street from the school, Park Avenue Building & Roofing Supplies donated materials for the project.



Students stand by their mural.



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THINK

