Grace Hill
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Grace Hill Children's Center
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Built sandbox
cut grass pulled weed

wasn't well suited for young kids
before

renovations + asked state but got
nothing

had plans for several years
better suited
more adequate
safer
climbing equip

retain wall
keeps gravel in
place

"Thanks to vol eff of MTC + UW
kids have wonderful play space
they'll enjoy for long time"

DSW 135729

STLCOPCB4035706

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Karen Schneider

ST. LOUIS -- October 6, 1995 -- About 30 preschoolers at the Patch Community Center day care facility will be able to enjoy the crisp fall weather while playing outdoors on their new playground thanks to the efforts of Monsanto's Carondelet plant employees and a donation from the Monsanto Fund.

Before the renovations, the daycare's playground was not well-suited for young children. Plans had been proposed years ago but without funding, they collected dust on a shelf. Employees of Monsanto's Carondelet plant in south St. Louis, past supporters of the Patch Center, dusted off those plans and put them to work.

"Monsanto tries to be a good neighbor by helping out where we can," stated Craig Vanderburg, plant manager. "We were pleased to be able to help the community by giving these kids a safe place to play."

Renovations consisted of dividing the play space with a fence and gate to allow separate space for the toddlers to play apart from the preschoolers. A retaining wall was build around half of the playground to hold in 17 tons of pea gravel which were delivered and spread around the climbing area to give kids a softer landing surface.

In addition, a white and green playhouse with its own carport was built on the grounds giving the kids a popular new attraction while providing a shady area during hot summer days. The house had to have its own building permit and be inspected during construction. Monsanto employees also mowed the grass, killed weeds, repaired a broken swing set, repaired a fence gate that wouldn't open and built a sandbox.

In all, over 360 man hours were donated by plant employees and the Monsanto Fund donated $1,500 to pay for materials.

"Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Monsanto, the kids now have a wonderful play space that they'll enjoy for a long time," stated Colleen McClanahan, Grace Hill day care director.

The playground repairs were conducted as the plant's United Way "Days of Caring" project. Days of Caring provides outlets for members of the community to help out United Way agencies by giving gifts of time in addition to the traditional financial contributions.

Monsanto's Carondelet facility employs 245 people and makes food grade phosphates used in toothpaste, bread, and other consumer products.

The Patch Community Center is a member of the Grace Hill Neighborhood Association.....

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DSW 135730

STLCOPCB4035707

Author: BETH J CALABOTTA at MONCAR01
Date: 9/29/95 4:24 PM
Priority: Normal
TO: ERIC S BRIMER
TO: DIANE B HERNDON at MONCOM01
Subject: Re: Patch dedication
---------- Message Contents ----------

Diane,

I have the following comments:

Colleen McClanahan is Day Care Director for Grace Hill. (There are two day care centers associated with Grace Hill - Grace Hill Children's Center and Patch Day Care Center. Colleen splits her time between the two places)

Carondelet employees 245 people.

In addition to the activities listed, we also mowed the grass, killed weeds growing in the playground, buried several tires, repaired a broken swing set, repaired a fence gate that would not open, and built a sandbox.

Other interesting tidbits of info:

The kids have moved into the playhouse. It has it's own kitched now.

The theme of Grace Hill is "Neighbors helping Neighbors."

To build the playhouse, we had to get a building permit. Plans were drawn up by a licensed civil engineer at our site, Mitch Kordonowy. During the construction phase, we had three visits from the building inspector, Tony Kidd.

Good article.

Beth

_____ Reply Separator _____

Subject: Patch dedication
Author: DIANE B HERNDON at moncom01
Date: 9/28/95 10:25 AM

Attached is a draft press release about the dedication of the day care center. Coleen gave me some facts. Others, as you'll notice, need verification. Please return any changes to me and I'll fax it to Karen Schneider at Grace Hill who will issue the press release on behalf of Patch (better publicity if we don't release it ourselves). Please also ask Craig to approve his quote. Thanks. --Diane