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**Kiwanis Club members fan out to help
San Ramon Valley schools and seniors**

The Kiwanis Club of the San Ramon Valley mobilized its members, as well as the two high school service clubs—called Key Clubs—it sponsors and several Cub and Boy Scout Packs and Troops it also sponsors, to provide to local schools, senior citizens and non-profits a concentrated day of help. Called Kiwanis Helping Hands, some 60 volunteers repaired, painted and planted to spruce up Charlotte Wood Middle School, the San Ramon Senior Center and the Bay Area Crisis Nursery on Saturday, March 29. In all, the Club and its affiliates contributed more than 250 volunteer hours to the community as part of an international concentrated work day that saw literally thousands of Kiwanis Clubs around the world volunteered.

Aided by Key Club members from San Ramon Valley High School and Boy Scouts from Troop 805, Kiwanis members built shelves to store emergency supplies, painted, rewired computers and re-planted the sixth grade quad at Charlotte Wood Middle School in Danville. California High School Key Club members and Cub Scouts from Pack 805 and 802, and Boy Scout Troop 805 joined other Kiwanis members to repair, plant and trim trees and build garden plots for the San Ramon Senior Center and even maintain the landscaping at the private home of a senior couple referred to Kiwanis by the Center. The husband was wheelchair-bound and unable to maintain the property. Still other members of the community service organization and their allied youth organizations did badly needed repair work at the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, a non-profit organization that cares for children during family crisis or other emergency situations.

According to Project Helping Hands organizer Nancy Bray of Danville, the service club had spent months researching the needs of the community and identifying projects that could allow the Kiwanis Club to make an immediate and meaningful contribution. “Meeting the needs of our young people has always been a Kiwanis

priority,” she said, “but we also wanted to do something for our senior citizens both as a group and, in this case, for individual seniors identified as especially in need. Also, the Bay Area Crisis Nursery seemed to be particularly appropriate because of the good work they do for families in need.”

The projects undertaken in the concentrated day of community service were also matched to the skills that individual Kiwanis members possessed. In addition to the hands-on work, the Kiwanis Club underwrote all of the materials costs associated with the projects. “Some of our members—business people, lawyers, realtors and accountants, while good at what they do professionally, might be limited in wielding a hammer, paint brush or shovel,” she joked.

Bray said the Kiwanis Club likes to get a little dirt under their fingernails with hands-on community service projects several times a year in addition to the organization’s primary community service mission of raising funds for deserving non-profit organizations. The club, which draws its membership from Alamo through San Ramon, is in the process of distributing more than \$33,000 of such grants, to be awarded in May. Last year, some 30 schools and non-profit organizations were the beneficiaries of Kiwanis grants, the funds for which are raised by the Kiwanis Club through such projects as sponsorship of the Danville Fourth of July parade and an annual golf tournament held at Round Hill Country Club coming up later this month.

Additional information about the Kiwanis Club of the San Ramon Valley may be obtained at their web site: www.kiwanis-srv.org. The club meets weekly for a luncheon at Tony Roma’s in Danville.