

Caritas Community Pear Orchard Planting

Since last month's News & Views invited everyone to join in, it seems only fair to follow up on the success of the pear tree planting. People began showing up even before 10:00 am, and it was especially reassuring to have Charmaine Craig, the long time "plant lady" from Knox there to oversee the project. As Angel Pena, the Knox Crew Supervisor put it, "she taught me everything I know about plants."

Things really kicked off a little after 10:00 with remarks from Patrick Doyle, the new Executive Director of Knox Inc., and then the work began. The partnership with Knox, Immanuel Congregational Church and AHNA and the leadership of Lynn Johnson made the project all the more fruitful.

Rick Taylor and a few friends provided the drumming that set the tempo, and as soon as the location of each tree was determined, volunteers picked up the shovels, picks and anything else needed to create the hole where the pear trees would go.

Instead of the 7 planned trees, 9 were delivered and planted. Angel Pena, after dropping off the trees, went back to Knox to bring the topsoil and mulch that would be needed to ensure the success of each tree.

The size, shape and depth of the hole has a lot to do with the future success of each tree.

The volunteers who helped included some long time experienced gardeners like Mike McGarry and Jennifer Cassidy as well as some brand new to the effort like Allan Induswe, who just happened to be in the area at the moment, and Ted Carroll an occasional gardener who came to help out his neighbor Lynn. As each hole was completed, Charmaine or Angel or both

inspected and corrected them before the tree was put in place. It's also important that each tree is straight and vertical to have the best chance of success, so a lot of care was taken there as well.

In less than two hours, all 9 trees were planted. As for their future, Knox has agreed to maintain them, including watering them for the first two years to ensure their success. After that it will be left to the community, both the Niles Street gardeners and the community at large to take care of them and enjoy the expected fruit.

For more photos of the event, go to: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/DJe5ezQET6YBrda6A>

