



Horizon Youth Enhancing Their Environment

On April 21st New York Cares, a volunteer organization founded in 1987 with the purpose of giving New Yorkers the opportunity to extend their time and talents to some of the City's most needy areas, sponsored the Hands on New York Project at the Horizon Juvenile Center in the Bronx.

Colleen Smithfield, the Annual Events Manager, along with twenty-five volunteers assisted twenty-five Horizon residents in painting various murals ranging from sports figures to leadership symbols in the Bronx facility. In addition, residents with the guidance of the volunteers cultivated a small portion of the facility's outside recreational area to plant flowers in a continued effort to enhance their environment.

A proud Sonia Galarza, DJJ's Director of Programs noted, "What the murals did for our residents gave them a sense of wealth and instant gratification, which is something they rarely see and experience. In addition, it gave the youth the opportunity to discover talents and gifts many of them never realized they possess."

Eduardo Marcial, the Executive Director of the Horizon Juvenile Center stated, "The residents of Horizon seemed to really enjoy participating in improving their surrounding environment through art and gardening. The enjoyment and fulfillment that came as a result of the finished projects will hopefully encourage these talented youth to participate in improving their own respective communities."

