



Volunteers ready the soil for spring planting at the YMCA South Valley Branch. *Photos by Norma Uenaka*

# Many hands make light work

## AVRC spruces up YMCA

By **Jeanne C. Carbone**  
Executive Editor

**T**he Almaden Valley Rotary Club is always looking for ways they can help the community—globally and locally.

As one of their local community service projects, they worked with the South Valley YMCA to refurbish various areas of the facility. This last Saturday the work was started and completed.

“We have been a supporter of the Y for a long time,” said Almaden Valley Rotary Club (AVRC) Community Service Director Paul Uenaka who also served on the YMCA South Valley’s original board. “We landscaped the grounds when it first opened and now it was in need of it again.”

The community service project included four areas in need of refurbishment. The raised planter box (which AVRC had built in 2006) at the front entrance had shrubs and ground cover and other areas around the front entrance that had grown sparse; new annuals and perennials were planted. The children’s play area was badly in need of ground cover which was replaced with soil and 15 yards of fur bark. The many picnic tables’ wood had grown weathered and in many areas not usable; all the wood

was replaced and stained and sealed. All materials and plant cost was donated by the AVRC.

Some 35 AVRC volunteers, YMCA South Valley board and members and Oak Grove High School Interact members (the high school club of Rotary) disseminated the work load which Uenaka estimated to take a day and a half originally. But instead, as noon approached, the work was almost completed.

Uenaka credits all the volunteers, but his organizational skills had Rotarian team leaders in charge of the four different areas to be worked on; Bob Seymour in charge of the planter, Jean-Luc Rensen for the picnic tables, Edesa Bitbadel for planting and Paul Consentino for the playground refurbishing.

And in a real demonstration of community service above self (Rotary motto) Rotarian members, YMCA board member and staff Cindy Minor, John Remy and Rich Valdez and Interact Club members from Oak Grove High volunteered, finishing the job in a third of the time expected.

“I’ve become more active with Interact this year,” said Oak Grove High sophomore Carolyn Nguyen. “When I heard this was for the community, I was real interested in helping.”

For more information visit [www.almaden-valleyrotary.org](http://www.almaden-valleyrotary.org).

