

QHS seniors build picnic tables for QVMC East Wing

By REBECCA YOUNG
Post-Register Writer

Quincy Valley Medical Center celebrated the arrival of four new picnic tables with a picnic / barbeque to honor the three Quincy High School seniors who made the custom furniture. Omar Moreno, Esperanza Tafoya and Edgar Sanabria raised funds for the supplies and then built the tables.

Moreno said during advisory he heard the hospital was looking for a senior to make eight picnic tables for the convalescent center residents, so they could eat outside when the weather was nice. He decided it would be a great project.

"It was a good project to help out the community," said Moreno.

Tafoya and Sanabria came aboard. Tafoya focused on raising funds for the supplies they would need. Ace Hardware donated two boxes of wood screws. The group applied for a Quincy Partnership

for Youth mini-grant and was awarded \$150. Jim Patterson and Mike Kniep each donated \$100 to the project. The group was also awarded a \$200 grant from the Ernie Ford Fellowship Foundation, but is waiting for the funds to come in before they can complete the last four of the eight planned tables.

"The grants were a long process. Each one had to be filled out perfect," said Tafoya.

Working with advisor Nancy Lynn, the director of medical records at QVMC, the students determined the tables needed to be high enough for wheelchairs to be wheeled up to them. They made the tables with two separate benches for each side, which could be moved out of the way or used. Creating the first table was the most difficult, said the students. They tried a lot of different steps to come up with the finished product, but after the first table, the remainder weren't as difficult.

"In the beginning, we didn't have tools, so we had to make

angle cuts with handsaws," said Sanabria.

They were eventually able to borrow tools to make the remaining tables. The students painted the tables white. They said it was difficult to find a day that wasn't raining or too windy to paint. Moreno said he is proud of their finished product.

"It feels good to see them out here," said Sanabria, gesturing to the tables on QVMC's patio. Tafoya agreed.

Lynn said she really appreciated the students picking the hospital to benefit from their project. She said the tables will make a huge difference to the long-term residents, making the center more like home. Lynn said the residents plan to have some picnic parties with their visitors this summer.

"There are a lot of needs at this type of facility that students can fulfill," said Lynn.

Hospital administrator Mehdi Merred said, "It is symbolic of the young helping the elderly and sick. We have talented youth."



Photo by Rebecca Young/Post-Register

Esperanza Tafoya, Omar Moreno and Edgar Sanabria were awarded certificates of appreciation from QVMC administrator Mehdi Merred for building picnic tables for the convalescent center.

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