

Category: 1 – Contribution to the Community

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Project Name: Clarity Commons

Project Background

On December 13, 2013 Karl Pierson entered Arapahoe High School armed with a shotgun, intending to kill students and faculty at the school. Fortunately, he was stopped before completing his mission as planned, but not before taking the life of 17-year-old Claire Davis. Claire was not on the gunman's list, but was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Her last action was to ask the student, whom she had known for several years, what he was doing. Confronting the shooter cost Claire her life but possibly saved the lives of many of her classmates and teachers.

Only five months after Claire's tragic passing, family, friends, community members, Arapahoe High School (AHS) and Littleton Adventist Hospital (LAH) began planning a memorial to her on the AHS campus. Dubbed Clarity Commons, the memorial is a one-acre park on the campus featuring benches, grass berms, mature trees and shrubbery. At the center of the park is a granite pillar, dedicated to the memory of Claire Davis and filled with inspirational messages and quotes. The center plaza will continue to be filled with personalized pavers engraved with loving thoughts from donors. The park provides a quiet area on a busy campus where students and community members can gather for outdoor classes, reflection and meditation.

On August 16th, 2014 – on what would have been Claire's 18th birthday – Clarity Commons was dedicated in her memory. In attendance were her parents, classmates, friends, neighbors, and volunteers who made the park possible. Among the tears and smiles, it was extremely evident that Clarity Commons is a fitting tribute to the memory of a young woman who believed in consciously choosing to love.

Project Narrative

GE Johnson Construction Company has completed a tremendous amount of work in the Littleton and Centennial communities. Littleton Adventist Hospital and GE Johnson share a long and fruitful relationship stemming from the completion of many projects on the LAH campus. As the plans for Clarity Commons developed, GE Johnson saw the opportunity to not only support an

initiative of a valued client, but to help an entire community heal. For this reason, GE Johnson provided preconstruction and construction services for the project at no cost.

Project Managers Dave Kenney and Rebecca Terrazas spearheaded the project for GE Johnson, providing not only traditional project management services, but also volunteer coordination, safety oversight, marketing support, fundraising, and value-in-kind assistance and the resources of a large General Contractor.

From the start of the project, the GE Johnson team knew that completing the park in only two months would require a team approach and accountability by all involved at a level well above a typical project. The pool of donors was developed by the entire team; through well developed relationships, the project was able to secure full cost donations from several vendors and suppliers which included form work materials, rebar, concrete pump services, concrete wash out, trash removal, temporary toilets and concrete.

Timeline

GE Johnson was contacted in May of 2014 about this project; the goal was to have it designed, permitted and opened by Claire's birthday. Another goal was to fund this project through the sale of brick pavers, trees and benches. To meet these goals, the project team participated in weekly meetings to track and maintain the project schedule and budget and participated in several afterhours meetings and phone calls to ensure decisions were being made to keep the project on track.

Rockne Corty Design's plan was approved by Littleton Public Schools and the Davis Family on June 16th, 2014. The budget was higher than had been originally expected, so GE Johnson began soliciting subcontractors for material and labor donations while moving forward with the project schedule. Out of respect for the nature of the project, the local storm water authority donated all review and inspection fees to Clarity Commons.

The project was successfully completed 8 weeks from ground breaking to dedication. This required working with local jurisdictions and inspectors, sometimes after normal working hours. It was also necessary to coordinate weekend work for subcontractors who donated labor, and a day by day monitoring of progress to keep the project moving.

Clarity Commons has a project value of \$650,000; \$323,000 was raised through generous donations from Littleton Adventist Hospital, the Littleton Adventist Hospital Foundation and local subcontractors. GE Johnson donated the fee, insurance and rental equipment, as well as all project management and site supervision totaling more than \$70,000. The balance was raised through the sale of pavers, benches and trees on the site.

Although this project faced many challenges, all parties involved rose to the occasion and overcame every obstacle presented.

Company Participation

Like the Columbine High School shooting and Aurora theatre shooting, the attack at Arapahoe High School sent shockwaves throughout the region. As such, the Clarity Commons project was an extremely visible endeavor in Centennial and across the State of Colorado. When the Clarity Commons team decided to accept GE Johnson's offer of services to complete the project, there was an outpouring of support throughout the company's ranks. There was a general sense of excitement to be a part of something so meaningful. Dave Kenney and Rebecca Terrazas – with help from GE Johnson Sustainability Specialist Stella Hodgkins – rallied support throughout the company. In addition to generating visibility for the project on social media, 26 GE Johnson staff and family members joined the volunteer effort leading up to the opening. These team members were a part of the roughly 150 volunteers comprised of Littleton Public Schools staff, LAH staff, Arapahoe HS students, friends, family members, and community members who turned out on the volunteer day to share in the completion of Clarity Commons.

Safety / Environment

The entire project team knew that Clarity Commons was going to be a fast paced project; worker safety and especially public safety was paramount to achieving the tight schedule of the project. Through the stringent monitoring and implementation of safety measures, Clarity Commons was completed without any injuries.

The sensitive nature of the project, along with the proximity to the school put added importance on working professionally and courteously. Working with AHS, GE Johnson incorporated a tailor made code of conduct and orientation into our safety plan that ensured ALL workers on site conducted themselves appropriately while on an existing school campus. Our code of

conduct and safety plan for the site was drafted and approved by the school district. We received accolades from the school district for having such a detailed plan that dealt specifically with the school environment. All workers on site signed this code of conduct and attended orientation prior to starting work on the project. Our corporate safety policies were brought to this project just as we would any large construction project. GE Johnson's effort in being a welcome guest on the campus did not go unnoticed; Littleton Public Schools said "GE Johnson set a new standard for working at LPS".

Local environmental concerns were also incorporated into our project approach. As the park is located near two major thoroughfares (South University Boulevard and East Dry Creek Road), it was essential to plan and construct the site to anticipate the impact it would have on the area's storm water infrastructure. Working in full compliance with local and regional agencies, GE Johnson ensured the project was free from delays and costly remediation; quite a feat given the amount of rain the project received during construction.

Impact

As the plans and construction of Clarity Commons progressed, it became apparent the project was far more than just a park with new landscape and fancy walls, but an opportunity for a contribution to the greater good – it was a path to healing. Every worker involved in the project poured their heart and soul into it, and the results truly reflect how much Clarity Commons meant to the team. The volunteer effort leading up to the opening of the park was testament to this as well, with more than 150 people showing up to help plant shrubs and trees. Working towards a common goal, the Davis family, AHS students and members of the Centennial community found a way to keep Claire's spirit alive in the act of creating something special.

The Clarity Commons project has not yet begun to have its full impact. Whereas most construction projects are most valued upon opening, when the work is fresh and the public interest is the highest, Clarity Commons will continue to grow in its service to AHS students and the surrounding community. As the park matures, more and more students will benefit from its inspirational atmosphere and message of love. This fall, classes and gatherings will be held in the park, bringing together students who may still be scarred from the memory of that horrific day. At Clarity Commons, they can rediscover a sense of peace on the campus.



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