



Madeira Board of Education, 7465 Loannes Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45243
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Bottle Caps to Benches

Just in time for nice weather, Madeira High School (MHS) has a new bench in their Romano Courtyard that all began with plastic bottle caps.

The MHS Environmental Club recently completed the project with Bottle Caps to Benches with Green Tree Plastics in Evansville, Indiana. Over the past two school years during their common time periods, after school, and on the school's annual Day of Service students in the club collected, cleaned, and sorted over 600 pounds of plastic caps. After the pandemic hit, students continued the process individually at home.

Throughout the undertaking the high schoolers learned the downside of "wish-cycling" - putting something in a recycling bin because you hope it might be recyclable. They discovered the importance of rinsing recycling items as one dirty cap can ruin a whole bag, and have a better grasp on the magnitude of plastic waste in our daily lives.

"Having the kids directly handling, hauling, sorting, and cleaning so much plastic has certainly been eye opening for myself and many of my students. It makes one more conscious of both plastic use and proper disposal of recyclables," club advisor Suzy Tucker stated. "In addition, during this challenging year for school it's nice to see their work pay off in the form of some additional outdoor workspace."

Community member Julie Harms introduced the project to the club and was involved throughout the process. Volunteers from BSA Troop 555, Jason Tucker, and Brad Stevenson transported the caps to Evansville, then later returned to bring the new table back to MHS.

The Environmental Club was started in 2013 by MHS Class of 2015 Maggie Nachtrab to encourage environmentally sustainable practices and promote a love of the environment. Students have planned service events and educational campaigns, run recycling drives, gone on nature walks, and participated in end of the year field trips to places like the Cincinnati Zoo and the Newport Aquarium.



Pictured at the new table in Ruth Romano Courtyard is MHS Environmental Club Co-President Francisco Caceres