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Fairport Rotary Interact Club Cleans Up Youth Group's Erie Canal Adopt-A-Trail Service Recognized

Fairport, NY— The Fairport Village Partnership, local Adopt-A-Trail coordinating agency for the Erie Canal from the Monroe-Wayne County Line to the Town of Pittsford, recently recognized the efforts of Fairport Rotary Interact Club by presenting members with New York State Canals Volunteer patches.

The Interact Club, which meets weekly at Fairport High School, provides community and international service. These dedicated young people - scholars, scholar athletes, musicians, and others - come together to put "service before self." Involvement in foreign exchange programs are also part of the group's activity.

Interact is one of several groups involved in keeping the canal trail free of litter and debris throughout the year and has been doing so for over 6 years. They also volunteer for various community events and activities including Safe Journey, Scarecrow Festival, Come Home for the Holidays, Winter Fest, Canal Days, and more. "We rely on them as a great volunteer resource, and they always come through" said Scott Winner, Director of the Fairport Village Partnership.

The group, assisted by Fairport Rotary adult volunteers, recently refinished redwood park benches on the north shore of the canal between the Main Street and Parker Street bridges, stripping away layers of old, chipped paint and sanding out splinters and scratches caused by skate boarders and vandals.

According to Cindy Hunt, Interact Club's Rotarian Advisor, "These kids are not afraid of becoming involved in the world beyond high school. They're willing to give of themselves to their community."

"We're about service; in this case, making the area beautiful for everyone" said Simone Boykin, President of the Interact Club and in her third year of service with the group.

Other organizations participating in the Erie Canal Adopt-A-Trail program include Waste Management, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, CDS, Larson Engineers, and the office of Assemblyman David Koon.

Photo Caption: Interact volunteers (L-R front row), Rotary foreign exchange student, Eero Haavisto; Audrey Benedetto, Interact Adopt-A-Trail Chairperson; Simone Boykin, Interact President; Danielle Calkins, Interact Safe Journey Chairperson; and (back row) Rotarian Advisor Cindy Hunt, display their hard-earned New York State Canals Volunteer patches.

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