

Valley



Take mydesert.com with you

DOWNLOAD THE MY DESERT APP FOR YOUR SMARTPHONE AT MYDESERT.COM/IPHONE OR MYDESERT.COM/ANDROID

SECTION B

LOCAL EDITOR LORRAINE WHETSTONE (760) 778-4650 or localnews@thedesertsun.com

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Volunteers from Schneider Electric paint the house of an elderly woman in Desert Hot Springs as a Habitat for Humanity project. PHOTOS BY RICHARD LUI/THE DESERT SUN

Homes get much-needed TLC

By Daniel Simon
The Desert Sun

DESERT HOT SPRINGS—Habitat for Humanity of the Coachella Valley held “A Brush with Kindness” event in Desert Hot Springs for about four hours Thursday afternoon.

A group of 65 volunteers from Schneider Electric assisted Desert Hot Springs residents at 68-285 Calle Benita and 13-605 Cielo Azul with basic, but much-needed, aesthetic fixes, such as painting, landscape work and an overall outdoor clean-up.

“We had a 20-yard roll-off Dumpster. It was filled all the way to the top mostly with weeds and trees that were dead,” said Tony West, the volunteer group’s coordinator.

“Habitat in the valley has been here since ’89. We’ve done a couple of these



Vicki Repsholdt, of Chicago, Ill., paints the exterior of a Desert Hot Springs home.

events last year, but we’re planning on expanding,” said Greg Gaskill, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of the Coachella Valley.

Gaskill described the event was a “Win-win-win” for everyone involved.

“The homeowners are ecstatic that someone is lending them a hand,” said Gaskill. “The volunteers want to give

something back to the community and the cities themselves are very pleased.”

Habitat looks to assist those who may be struggling in various areas of their lives, he added.

Tom Scheideman, ReStore manager and ABWK project coordinator, said the city referred ABWK to one of the homes.

That recipient was chosen because she didn’t have much disposable income and didn’t have anyone to help with her yardwork, according to Scheideman.

“Be it old age, handicapped in some capacity, whatever misfortune life might throw at them, we try to help,” said Gaskill.

The female resident of the Calle Benita location is currently in the hospital suffering from emphysema, but her relatives were present.

The relatives told West, “She’ll really be happy when she gets home.”