

Master Gardeners complete courtyard work at Suncrest



Herb Hampel carefully pushes a wheelbarrow load of crushed marble through the hallways at the Lapeer County Medical Care Facility to get to a courtyard where Lapeer County Master Gardeners gathered recently to do a little landscaping.

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LAPEER — Residents at the Lapeer County Medical Care Facility have limited views in their daily lives, but the Lapeer County Master Gardeners do what they can to make the grounds a pretty place for those who live there to enjoy.

On Oct. 28, a group of volunteers gathered at the facility to do a landscaping project in one of three courtyards that were left unfinished after the facility was expanded a few years ago. The courtyard the volunteers tackled is locked in by the building, so machinery such as lawn mowers can't get there.

"When we started, it was a sidewalk with just mud," said volunteer Carl Kern.

The volunteers who helped out spent a good hour trucking wheelbarrow loads full of crushed white marble through the building to the courtyard. They then spread the marble, planted dwarf varieties of evergreen shrubbery and other low-maintenance plants, added a piece of art that had been purchased for the courtyard and mulched to finish it off.

"We tried to make this as close to a zero-maintenance affair as we could," Kern said.

The Master Gardeners, he said, work on a volunteer basis in the Display Gardens on the Suncrest grounds, but the courtyard isn't something they intend to be an ongoing project. They just wanted to help out with the enclosed area,



Photos courtesy of Carl Kern

Just mud and sidewalk before, this courtyard at the Lapeer County Medical Care Facility was recently improved by a number of volunteers from the Lapeer County Master Gardeners.

beautify it for the residents who pass through and whose windows look

out upon it, and give the facility's maintenance people ideas to use for

the other courtyards, which are more accessible.