

## Las Vegas Family Church Shine City Project at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary!

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On May 22, 2021, Shine City Project volunteered at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary! Founded in 1979 by Bill Gilcrease, Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary is a place dedicated to providing a safe haven for animals in need. More than 500 animals make Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary their home, including parrots, chickens, goats, pigs, turkeys, and tortoises. Some of their more unique residents include a mule deer, an ostrich, emus, peacocks, and llamas! With so many animals, Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary is the perfect place for educational and recreational opportunities for the entire family!



After more than a year, our Shine City Project volunteers returned to Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary! For this morning, our team was responsible for helping to prepare Gilcrease for its weekly Sanctuary Saturdays! After arriving a couple hours before the opening to the general public, our volunteers needed to make sure that the place was spick-and-span and ready to welcome visitors. With the guidance of Amanda, Operations Manager for Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, our team took a tour around the sanctuary while receiving instructions for what needed to be done.



To help with the opening, there were four of us representing Shine City Project! During our tour with Amanda, we helped to pick up and discard stray apricots which had fallen from a windy day before. We also got the chance to quickly see some of the animals while seeing our previous contributions to the sanctuary. After the tour, we divided ourselves and began our work! At the entrance, a couple of our volunteers were responsible for removing leaves from the koi pond, as well as sweeping them up from the entrance. In the main part of the sanctuary, other volunteers focused on stacking up window panels, winding up water hoses, as well as putting away stray tools and equipment. Additionally, as we finished up our initial tasks, we also helped to collect and pile fallen tree limbs and branches from the amphitheater and other areas.

After our work, we took a group photo and fed the goats! Overall, the service project was a great way to show our care and support for Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary! With each of our tasks, whether big or small, we hope that it was a way to show our love for all the caregivers and animals there! We hope that the sanctuary will continue to be a place where all animals can receive the care and attention they need! We look forward to visiting and helping out at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary again!

