

## HPHC Las Vegas Shine City Project volunteers at Opportunity Village

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On June 18, 2022, Shine City Project volunteered at Opportunity Village! Founded in 1954, Opportunity Village is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving people with disabilities by providing them with enrichment, empowerment, and employment opportunities. Every year, they serve over 3,000 people in Las Vegas with intellectual and developmental disabilities in hopes of giving them the opportunity to live their best possible lives. Fundraising events like HalLOVeen, the Great Santa Run, and the Magical Forest help to provide programs, services, as well as wages and benefits to those they serve.

Our Shine City Project volunteers met at Opportunity Village in front of the entrance to the Magical Forest. Normally illuminated and lined up with people in the evening hours in December, the Magical Forest stood empty in the summer months and was waiting for the next opportunity to light up again. Our volunteers were here to help make the next Magical Forest event extra special! In early 2021, the Bellagio Conservatory and Botanical Garden had donated some large props that had been used for their wintertime display - four horses and a carriage! Our task for our volunteers was to help clean up one of these horses of the grains that had been attached all over the surface of the horse.



To help with the project, we had eleven volunteers representing Shine City Project! Out of those eleven volunteers, three were joining us for the first time! With a power hose, one of our volunteers sprayed down the surface of the horse to help loosen up and make the task of removing the grains a little easier. Afterwards, with plastic scrapers and brushes, we slowly shaved away at the grains that were stuck to the horse. It was tough and meticulous work to remove the grains, but it helped significantly to spray down the horse from time to time to make the outside layer of grains softer. As we scraped away, bits of grain filled the air and would often get stuck to our skin and get into our hair. It was messy work, but eventually, we were able to remove a significant amount of grains from one of the horses!

