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Being the Church by Heidi Allingham

On Sunday, April 27, 2008, Del Cerro Baptist Church closed their doors. They joined 20 plus other churches in San Diego who decided to do more than go to church...they decided to be the church.

Over 125 members participated in two different *Faith in Action* community projects. One group went to Lake Murray and worked in several areas: re-painting the direction signage on the roads: weeding and mulching flower beds: painting storage walls and handing out cold water bottles to the public.

The other group went to Murphy Canyon Military housing. Part of the participants from Del Cerro went door to door and offered to wash cars for the residents. Other participants brought lawn and yard equipment and mowed, trimmed and cleaned the resident's back yards. They also brought a small craft project for the children in the



neighborhoods to work on.

On a previous Sunday, April 13, approximately 12 members of Del Cerro Baptist went to Pershing Middle School to provide a free lunch for the families in the Crusader soccer league. This was the last week of games for Crusader soccer and the church, along with a local Kiwanis club, provided hot dogs and hamburgers to many of the families and soccer players.

In all three of these projects, Del Cerro members found the community a little hesitant at first to accept the free services being offered. Very quickly though, the member of Del Cerro, who ranged in ages from 3-83 years old, were able to connect with individuals and then give their gift of service. Those who were recipients of the free services not only became more receptive, but many joined in. The desire of the churches that participated in *Faith in Action* was to be an active part of their communities while showing the love of Christ to their neighbors and to each other. The Del Cerro congregation already has plans to continue serving in their community and beyond as they believe that is where the church should be.