Pitt students 'Make a Difference' in McKeesport

More than 4,000 University of Pittsburgh students took part in their annual "Make a Difference Day" on October 24 with service projects across Allegheny County. This year marked the university's first time taking on work in McKeesport.

Nearly 100 volunteers, including local team leaders, separated into groups to bag trash and debris throughout the city's downtown and several residential neighborhoods.

Mayor Michael Cherepko said the city is proud to partner with the University of Pittsburgh for Make a Difference Day.

"With so many volunteer activities going on in the city this weekend, it is wonderful to see local volunteers take the time to help the Pitt students with their effort and guide them through our city," Cherepko said. "This fits in with our administration's theme of 'Working Together for a Better McKeesport.' We have dedicated volunteers and community groups in this city that are always looking for new ways to make McKeesport a better place for everyone."

Pitt Serves outreach coordinator Rachel Zadnik said "Make a Difference Day" is a learning experience.

"Students come to Pitt because they seek the highest quality of education, and part of that is recognizing their civic duty and commitment to serving others – and I don't think that there's a better embodiment of that than Pitt Make a Difference Day," Zadnik said. "We're very humbled by the support of our partners on such a large endeavor and we have no doubt that their passion for their community is contagious - what better way to learn about service than through those that devote countless weekends, evenings and any spare moment to helping others."

Word & Worship

The City of McKeesport was blessed to work with Word & Worship volunteers, who came to McKeesport from their church campuses in White Oak, Murrysville and North Braddock to clear garbage and paint no-parking areas. They concentrated on downtown McKeesport and made their way up to Versailles Avenue.