

## Teen Mural Unveiled

Marley Park Home Development, in Surprise, Arizona is a unique community lifestyle. Through their Heritage Community center they offer families activities, educational classes, and cultural enrichment through art.

Connie Whitlock, local artist, was asked to design and work with Marley Park's teens to create a clay tile mural in the teen room. The purpose of this art project was to develop a piece of art work which allowed the teens to take ownership of their space while at the same time creating something unique to enhance their community for years to come.

The students came to work on the mural every Tuesday and Thursday after school until 6:00p.m during the months of February, March, April and finishing in May. Many hours went into the planning, instruction, creating and installation of the art pieces. The theme was "The Six Pillars of Character": Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship, all components of building a Community of Character in Marley Park. Each student focused on one aspect of character and created their murals, which are placed around the center piece. The intention is to have another gathering next year for new teens to create murals and be placed among the initial pieces.

Connie says, "Thanks to Marley Park for the opportunity to work with these amazing teens in creating a lasting memory for years to come through this public art wall mural.

**"It takes a community of raise a child", and Marley Park you "got it right".**

