

abbvie

WEEK OF
POSSIBILITIES

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Volunteers rebuild science labs at Chandler Magnet School in one day

More than 100 AbbVie volunteers painted murals, assembled furniture and set up three state-of-the-art STEAM labs for students

In the morning there were blank walls, cluttered labs and old furniture. But by 2 p.m. on June 19, Chandler Magnet School was in part transformed thanks to about 100 AbbVie volunteers who spent the day painting, installing floors and transforming an office and computer lab space into a suite of state-of-the-art STEAM labs.

“I’m emotional and I’m grateful,” said Chandler Magnet Principal Ivonne Perez at the ribbon cutting ceremony. “I want to thank you all on behalf of our students who deserve labs like these. As you know, exposure to STEAM labs makes all the difference for students.”

AbbVie volunteers set up brand new technology in the labs and freshened up the school’s exterior landscaping. They also created book bags for students to take home to grow their home library and painted a large-scale mural in the new lab that celebrates the city of Worcester and Chandler Magnet.

Worcester City Manager Edward Augustus, Jr., Superintendent of Worcester Schools Maureen Binienda, Tim Murray, President and CEO of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce also attended the ribbon cutting after touring the upgrades and improvements.

“We all had a moment in school when it clicked,” said Mike McDonald, manufacturing site director at AbbVie Biomedical Research Lab in Worcester. “Maybe it was a teacher or a book you read that opened the world of science or art and all the sudden you couldn’t get enough. Today, we had an opportunity to give some kids that moment. Maybe when they see these new labs and murals and new technology they won’t just see themselves successful this school year but also years and decades down the road.”

This year as part of their fifth annual Week of Possibilities, 8,000 AbbVie employees contributed 36,000 volunteer hours in 50 countries around the world. In the United States, AbbVie improved schools across the country, including Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, North Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Raleigh, Redwood City, Tampa, Washington and Worcester.

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