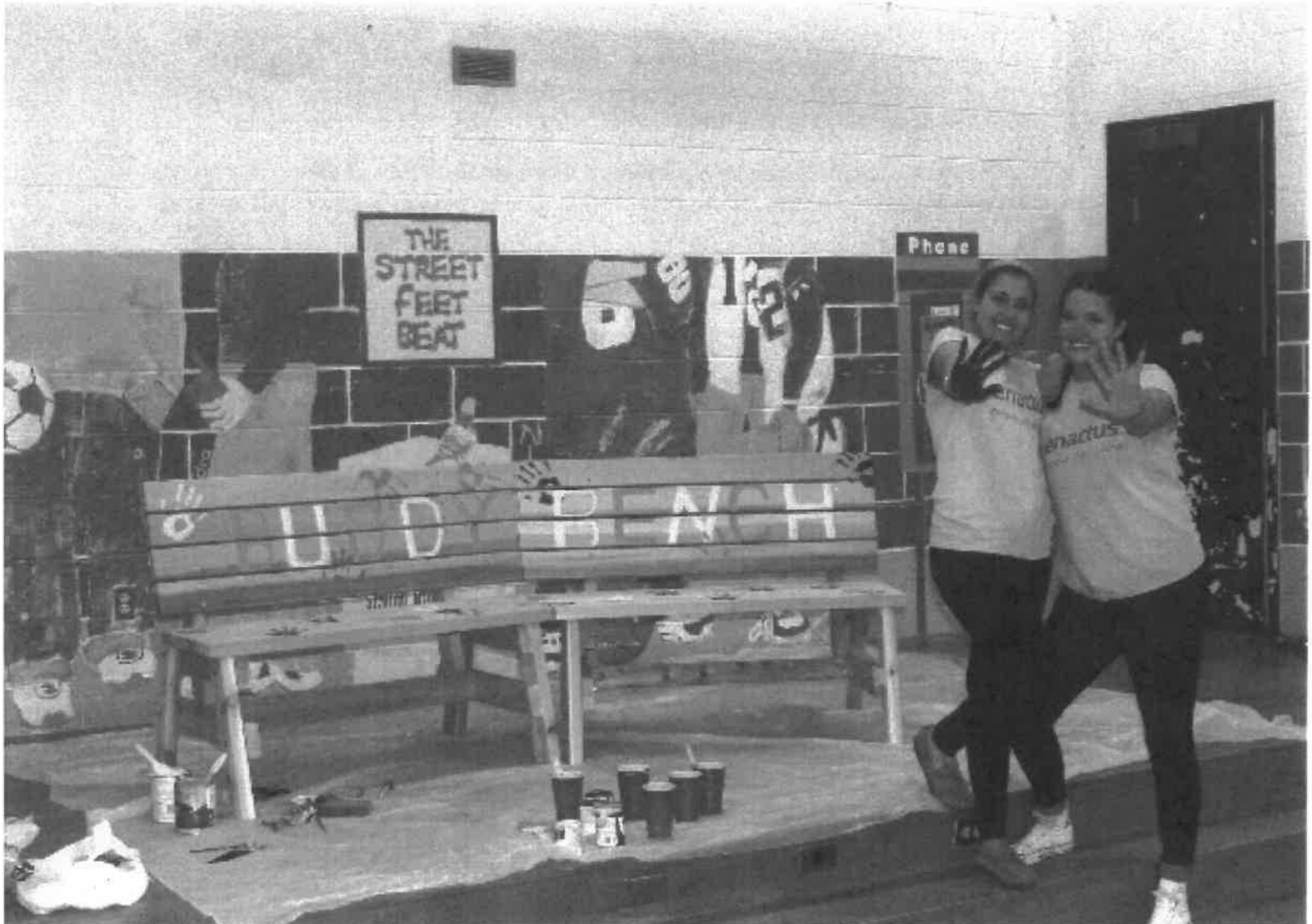


BUDDY BENCH



PROJECT MANAGERS: REBECCA JACOBS & ISABEL RICHARDS

ADVISOR: DR. JOAN MAHONEY

WHAT IS BUDDY BENCH?

“Eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground.”

Buddy bench was started by an elementary student named Christian. He came up with the simple idea of finding a way to include more kids at recess. He worked with his family and teachers to come up with the Buddy Bench, which they installed at his playground. Christian taught his classmates about ways to use the bench as a tool of inclusion and friendship.

We want to use Christian’s buddy bench as a gateway to educate the youth of Worcester on this idea of inclusion and friendship. It may seem trivial at first glance, but we need to start working on:

EARLY PREVENTION

- Bullying has been and continues to be a huge issue in our society. According to a study by ABC News over 30,000 children stay home every day due to the fear of being bullied.
- Bully victims are between 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims, according to studies by Yale University, and a study in Britain found that at least half of suicides among young people are related to bullying.
- There have been increased efforts to educate students about the effects of bullying, but this is mostly concentrated in High School because that is the age where most of these suicides are occurring.
- By teaching early elementary students to accept one another’s differences, we will help to decrease the amount of bullying at an older age, as opposed to waiting until the damage is done to teach older kids what they shouldn’t be doing.

- Quality Education
- Reduced Inequalities
- Good Health & Well-being

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

ANIMAL CRACKERS NURSERY SCHOOL:



CHANDLER ELEMENTARY:



TATNUCK MAGNET:



CHANDLER MAGNET:



WHAT ARE WE CURRENTLY DOING?

GOAL: Implement the Buddy Bench program in 8 more Worcester Public Elementary Schools; doubling our impact from last year.

Team Structure:

Co-project managers in charge of logistics between Worcester Technical High School bench building & installation, scheduling of assemblies, corporate sponsors, sustainability of project, etc.

One team leader assigned to work with each of the schools.

3 team members per school.

Semester 1 Schedule:

May St. School

Quinsigamond School

Roosevelt Elementary (am) & Belmont St. Community School (pm)

Norrback Avenue School

** 5 schools total (sets us ahead of goal schedule)

Semester 2 Schedule:

(aiming for 4-5 more schools)

TIMELINE FOR THE FUTURE:

TOTAL WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS:	33
SCHOOLS COMPLETED AFTER CURRENT YEAR:	<u>(13)</u>
SCHOOLS REMAINING AFTER CURRENT YEAR:	20

CONTINUATION OF STAGE 1: Buddy Bench installation & assembly

Semester 1: 5 schools

Semester 2: 5 schools

Semester 1: 5 schools

Semester 2: 5 schools

** All Worcester Public Schools completed by end 2020

BEGINNING OF STAGE 2: Implement Buddy Bench/Inclusion curriculum

Sustainable program (Independent from Enactus)

FINANCIAL RESOURCES & COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Designed & Built by Worcester Technical High School carpentry department.

Main Contact: Joe Lonergan (Head of Carpentry Department)

Cost: \$595 per bench

** GOAL: reduce price for financial sustainability

Currently pulled from Enactus project funds, which comes from WSU and various grants.

Sustainability: Fundraisers & Corporate Sponsors

- Annual halloween dodgeball tournament (1st scheduled for October 30th & 31st)
- Home Depot (Enactus partner company) or Lowes to donate lumber for benches
- Other businesses (Enactus partners) to make money donations