



Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at the Potomac Center

For this tree planting, Cacapon Institute and WV Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) worked with youth and adults at the Potomac Center in planting a mix of 16 trees on Thursday, October 26.

About a week before the planting, Potomac Center staff drove to Keyser, WV to rent an augur. The holes were drilled on the morning of tree planting by the Project Leader, Mark Ritchie, and his assistant Dave. They worked together with Cacapon Institute and DEP staff to lay out all of the trees and planting materials and prep the holes for the volunteers.

At around 1:00pm, the children came out with adult chaperones to learn about planting trees. They

eagerly dove in to the task and had all of the trees planted in about an hour. They especially enjoyed mulching the trees and putting on the white bark protectors.

Species planted include two black birches, three chestnut oaks, nine pin oaks, and two white oaks.

All of the volunteers had a great time and the trees are going to have an amazing impact on the facility and on the lives of the wonderful youth on site.

This was Potomac Center's second CommuniTree planting, the previous project taking



place in [spring 2012](#), which was the first season in which Cacapon Institute's began offering CTree Kits.

According to Mark, his favorite part of this project was that the "children has an amazing time listening about the trees and how they grow."

That was our favorite part of this planting, also!

A word from the Project Leader, Mark Ritchie:

"...Our children had an amazing time listening about the trees and how they grow. In my opinion, [CommuniTree] was perfect and [Cacapon Institute] worked with our staff and children wonderfully and walked me through all the steps"