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Aiming high: Eagle Scout project ends in blessing for church

By Shari Lopatin
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Seventeen-year-old Kurtis Haynes (middle) works on patching up the floor of the Sacred Heart Youth Center with friends as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

wanted to patch up and re-floor the room.

"I really felt it would give a warmer environment, as well as a safer environment," Kurtis said.

He spoke to Sacred Heart's youth minister Vincent Gallegos about his vision, and Gallegos immediately jumped on the idea.

"It was really a great project Kurtis approached us about," Gallegos said. "It achieved something deeper."

By this, he meant the new flooring brought warmth to the room, which allowed for deeper prayer and talk among the church's youth.

"If the church had to purchase materials and labor, the cost to the church could've been about \$10,000," he continued.

Kurtis kept the price of materials down to \$3,500. He conducted fundraisers, received donations from Lumberman's, and got discounts from Home Depot to pay for materials. Along with the help of contractors Rick Brown and Ken Hawthorne, as well as a group of friends and other Boy Scouts, Kurtis put about 190 hours into his Eagle Scout project.

"It's humbling when you receive a gift of this size,"

Gallegos said.

The feeling was pretty good for Kurtis, too.

"I feel very proud, actually. When I (first) thought about it, I didn't think it would be a great deal," Kurtis said.

Now, however, he thinks much differently, and he realizes the change he made. Best of all, he said everyone involved had a

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lot of fun completing the project.

"I watched him go through the paperwork process and planning part and was really impressed with how he just stuck with it," said Kurtis' mom, Kelly Haynes. "It just turned out wonderful ... I'm really proud of him."

Kurtis is a member of Troop One of the Old Capital District Boy Scouts.

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