

EDUCATIONNews

MCC students create unique therapeutic bridge for kids

Two Mesa Community College students are making a difference in the lives of patients at Boulder Mountain Therapy in Mesa. Students Mollie Heiden and Joshua Okken built a bridge that provides special needs children with a unique way to improve their balance skills, according to a press release.

Jane Goodman, owner of Boulder Mountain Therapy, 844 N. Ellsworth Road in Mesa, said the children are thrilled with the new rope bridge.

"The bridge will offer a new obstacle to our clients as it will challenge their balance, coordination and gait," Ms. Goodman said. "We value our partnership with MCC, students and faculty."

The project began with an initial meeting between students and Boulder Mountain Therapy to determine the need for a bridge. The students then applied for a Making a Difference Grant to fund the project. Money for these grants comes from proceeds raised by the annual Lost and Found Sale and Silent Auction at MCC. This year the sale raised more than \$3,300 to fund up to 33 student-driven service projects.

Ms. Heiden said the concepts learned through her REC 120 class were helpful in the project and will apply to her life in the future.

"One thing I witnessed during this service-

learning project was the great effect civic engagement can have in a community," Ms. Heiden said. "We saw how dedicated the employees of Boulder Mountain were to their clients, but we also witnessed MCC's commitment to helping the community through the civic engagement offices. Being engaged and involved in your community is so easy and so rewarding. After this project I intend to become more active in helping my community and in inspiring my friends to do the same."