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## Tower Companies Greens Sligo Middle School

ROCKVILLE, MD (September 27, 2013) - THE TOWER COMPANIES 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tower Employee Volunteer Day turned out over 50 volunteers to build a conservation landscape, butterfly garden, and vegetable gardens at Sligo Middle School as part of US Green Building Council (USGBC) Green Apple Day of Service. Led by Tower's Director of Corporate Responsibility, Eugenia Gregorio, the company encouraged employees to take four hours of paid leave during the workweek for this unique experience and to lend their sustainability expertise.

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, two shifts of Tower volunteers worked eight hours to help the Montgomery County School, located in Silver Spring, MD, learn about sustainability first hand. The Tower team:

- Built a 450 SF conservation landscape (excluding the paving area) and 125 SF butterfly garden. The conservation landscape and paver area is set up to provide a place for the runoff from the 2,250 SF sidewalk that drains to it, to be filtered and/or soaked up prior to overflowing into the storm drain system that eventually goes to Sligo Creek.
- Built three vegetable gardens (4' x8' each) and planted almost 100 cabbage, kale, and collards plants in total.

"When kids see and learn about where their veggies come from, there's a good chance they are going to eat more of them, which could help lower obesity rates and make our children healthier." My Green Apple Day of Service Website

Tower was joined by partner organizations, which donated the following:

- RainScapes Program Design and materials for conservation landscape and butterfly gardens
- · Perkins & Will Design and volunteer help
- · Brickman Group Veggie boxes, fabric, soil, guidance on volunteer day
- · Geppetto Catering Vegetables for the garden from a local farm
- · Finley Asphalt Gravel
- · Montgomery County Facilities Department
- Sligo Middle School Staff

"They (Tower Team) group did a fantastic job and I hope that the school will enjoy their efforts for years to come. We also hope the project becomes a visible way for the school community to learn about their watershed and the ways that they can participate in watershed related volunteer projects like stream clean ups or actually install a RainScape at home." RainScapes Program, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, The Green Apple Day of Service program is officially being celebrated nation-wide and between 9 am – 12 pm Sligo Middle School will finish the plantings with students, staff, and parents.