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**Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Program:
Los Padres National Forest/City of Santa
Barbara/County of Santa Barbara**

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Santa Barbara. Healing hands from Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care repair damage on the Jesusita Trail to Inspiration Point.

While most of the physical therapists, nurses and administrators from Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care (VNHC) had never held a McLeod or Pulaski before, they soon found themselves using these standard fire-fighting tools to clear water bars, restore tread and fight back overgrown vegetation. Under the supervision of a trained and authorized crew leader, the team had a good time and increased the safety and usability of this popular trail.

"The Front Country Trails are such an integral part of our lives in Santa Barbara, but we seldom consider what it takes to keep them safe and open" according to Lynda Tanner, President and CEO of Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care. "This sounded like the perfect opportunity to do something good for the community and to work together as a team. I have a new appreciation for our fire fighters. We will definitely plan to do this again. It was hard work but great fun"

"Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care is on the leading edge of a new trend in trail work volunteerism" according to Rebecca Mordini, Front Country Trail Coordinator. "Hundreds of people got a taste of trail work by volunteering in the aftermath of the Jesusita fire last year. Now they are going back to their communities, employers, churches and social clubs to set up trail projects."

The project was organized by Dave Everett, a physical therapist with VNHC, who has been organizing the Trail Work Happy Hour since 2009. Everett has been trained in project safety, erosion controls and maintenance guidelines and has been authorized by the Forest Service to lead projects with a single trail crew.

"Any group can put together a trail project, even if they have never done trail work before." according to Mordini. " We set you up with a trained crew leader and provide all the tools and equipment you will need, whether you have 8 people or 30 people."

"I was not too sore at all the next day...so I'd be happy to join the crew again next time. It was fun spending a little time with everyone outside the office." says Erica Victor of VNHC.

The crew was: Erica Victor, Lauren Noggle, Bob Crumm, Mary Beth Noggle, Robert Flores, Lynda Tanner, Kathie Organ, Babetta Daddino. MarionSchoneberger designed the banner.

The Santa Barbara Front Country Trails are managed jointly by the City of Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara and the US Forest Service with community input from a multi-jurisdictional Task Force. You can create or join a trail project by contacting Rebecca Mordini at sbftc1@gmail.com or 805-698-5455.

Nonprofit since 1908, Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care provides high quality, comprehensive home health, hospice and personal care services necessary to promote the health and well-being of all community

residents, including those unable to pay. For more information, call (805) 965-5555 or visit www.vnhcsb.org.

