guard Chris Paul and Mayor Mitch Landrieu. Residents got into the game by sprucing up the area.

"On Make A Difference Day, you can give back in so many ways," Paul said.

In Cincinnati, the Jones siblings — Maggie, 7, Sam, 5, and Gracie, 3 — took part in their second Make A Difference Day drive with their grandmother Kathy Owens. Going door-to-door with their red wagon, the foursome collected and delivered six boxes of supplies for the Saint Joseph Home, a facility for the profoundly disabled. They also donated $50 in cash — the proceeds from two summer lemonade stands.

Across the USA and around the world, financial conglomerate Citi recruited more than 45,000 volunteers in 100-plus countries for its Global Community Day.

Californians tackled thousands of community needs. In Santa Cruz, nearly 1,000 people painted schools, collected food and more. More than 2,000 went to work in Bakersfield, planting flowers and recycling 10,000-plus pounds of e-waste, an event organized by the city’s Solid Waste Division and Keep Bakersfield Beautiful.

Said spokeswoman Jessica Felix: “Make A Difference Day has become a tradition here. People look forward to it year after year.”

It was a good day for a lot of Americans. Here’s a sampling of efforts covering needs big and small:

In Elmer’s Island, La., 30 volunteers installed fencing and planted 7,500 starts of dune grass to save an ecosystem battered by hurricanes and the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster.

Up the coast in New Orleans, the NBA Hornets held a basketball clinic after the dedication of a new court in Digby Park by All-Star