



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On MLK Day, Nonprofits Use ServeOhio Grants to Serve their Community

Grants support eighteen local community service projects and over 1,630 volunteers throughout Ohio

Columbus, OH – ServeOhio, the Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, announces grant awards to support seven local Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service projects on January 21, 2019. The grants - made possible through partners Honda of America MFG., Inc. and American Electric Power Foundation and the Corporation for National and Community Service’s Volunteer Generation Fund - honor Dr. King’s legacy through service and volunteer activities. Service projects will take place in Bowling Green, Cincinnati, Columbus, Hamilton, Kent, Middletown, Nelsonville, Parma, Portsmouth, The Plains, Toledo, Westerville, Wooster, and Youngstown.

Each project commits to bringing volunteers together to create or improve community assets or infrastructure and supports local community engagement and impact. The various projects include collaborative partnerships among businesses and nonprofits. Finally, they all include an education component based on Dr. King’s message of peace, unity, and service to create long-term, sustainable change on issues and people.

“As the need for service continues to grow, we honor Dr. King by supporting local organizations that give back and make a real impact on our communities,” said William Hall, ServeOhio Executive Director. “Ohio volunteers will use the power of service to make a difference in our local communities.”

ServeOhio awards these grants with support from their 2018-2019 partners Honda of America MFG., Inc., American Electric Power Foundation, and the Corporation for National and Community Service’s Volunteer Generation Fund. Each grant totals between \$500 - \$1,000.

- **Brown Bag Food Project, Bowling Green (\$1,000)** – 100 volunteers will “Can”vas door to door in Bowling Green and Wood County to collect food items for area food pantries.
- **Give Back Cincinnati, Cincinnati (\$1,000)** – 100 volunteers will makeover St. Aloysius, a school and mental health facility in Cincinnati. Volunteers will paint, reorganize classrooms, deep clean hallways, and more.
- **Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati (\$1,000)** – 40 volunteers from Mount St. Joseph University and local AmeriCorps programs will build home storage sheds for two habitat homes under construction.
- **Community Refugee & Immigration Services, Columbus (\$1,000)** – 45 volunteers will transform an unused space at Columbus Global Academy (a school for ESL students) into a therapeutic gym/activity space for students to use during the school day or after school.
- **I Know I Can, Columbus (\$1,000)** – 40 volunteers will pack and deliver care packages to homeless-support organizations, programs, and shelters in Columbus. Care packages will include food, water, feminine hygiene products, gloves, socks, ear warmers, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

- **Seeds of Caring, Columbus (\$1,000)** – 200 volunteers attending the King Arts Complex’s annual MLK Day Open House will participate in service projects including assembling compassion kits for the homeless, making fleece blankets, designing bookmarks for local seniors, and creating encouragement cards or worry dolls for hospitalized children.
- **Southern Orchards Civic Association, Columbus (\$1,000)** – 200 volunteers will distribute resource bags to every resident in the neighborhoods of Southern Orchards, South Side C.A.N, and Ganther’s Place. Resource bags will include motivational letters, healthy snacks, and information on annual neighborhood events and social services in the area.
- **Hamilton Urban Garden Systems, Hamilton (\$1,000)** – 30 volunteers will clean up litter, tree branches, soiled mattresses, and any other yard debris at the Hamilton Urban Garden site and surrounding area.
- **Kent State University, Community Engaged Learning, Kent (\$1,000)** – 200 volunteers will transform Upper Room Ministries, a community center which serves Kent and Ravenna. Volunteers will clear out and organize the space for renovation, remove existing carpet, and paint the walls, ceiling grids, and trim.
- **3 R Development, Inc., Middletown (\$1,000)** – 150 volunteers will perform a community cleanup, which includes disposing of old tires, clearing debris, and tilling 3 garden plots.
- **The Hive of Nelsonville/Integrated Services, Nelsonville (\$1,000)** – 50 youth volunteers will mend and replace sections of the fence at Nelsonville Commons Park. Additionally, volunteers will paint and mend the roof of the shelter house located within the park.
- **Parma City School District – 21st Century Learning Center, Parma (\$1,000)** – 50 student volunteers will collect items and create a minimum of 60 Comfort Cases (hygiene kits) for children that are removed from their parents (via Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services) and placed in emergency custody.
- **A Great Works Ministry, Portsmouth (\$844)** – 50 volunteers will provide updates to the 14th Street Community Center by painting rooms, patching holes in the walls, and assembling storage racks for sports equipment.
- **Rural Action, The Plains (\$1,000)** – 65 volunteers will pack comfort kits for children and young adults involved with Perry County Children’s Services, serve and clean up a free community lunch at the local Methodist Church, and serve at Passion Works, a local arts organization.
- **The University Church, Toledo (\$1,000)** – 30 volunteers will revamp the career center at Rogers High School by creating artwork for the walls, providing furniture and other decor, and creating a college and career readiness resource board for students.
- **Otterbein University, Westerville (\$1,000)** – 200 students will pack backpacks with food for food-insecure elementary schoolers, create stuffed animal dogs to give to children, and build accessible garden beds in the Otterbein community garden to make the space more accessible for physically challenged community members.
- **OneEighty, Wooster (\$500)** – 30 volunteers will create artwork that will be distributed to clients moving out of a local domestic violence shelter and into a new home.
- **Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, Youngstown (\$1,000)** – 50 volunteers will clean up and secure over a dozen vacant homes in the Lansingville Neighborhood on the Southside of Youngstown. Volunteers will board up the houses, clear brush and debris, remove illegally dumped tires, and scrape and edge sidewalks to restore them to a safe and usable condition.

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ServeOhio is Ohio’s Governor-appointed Commission on Service and Volunteerism. Their mission is to strengthen Ohio communities through AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement. Interested participants may learn more about ServeOhio at www.serveohio.org or visit them on Facebook and Twitter.