



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth From Thirteen Ohio Cities Lead Community Change on Global Youth Service Day

ServeOhio grants support nineteen service projects that will mobilize over 1,300 volunteers in communities across Ohio.

Columbus, OH – On April 12-14, more than 1,300 volunteers will participate in service projects organized for Global Youth Service Day, which will be supported by ServeOhio project grants. Established in 1988, Global Youth Service Day is the largest service event in the world, and the only day of service dedicated to children and youth. Nineteen youth volunteer projects will take place in thirteen Ohio cities – Athens, Cincinnati, Columbus, Coolville, East Cleveland, Elyria, Greenville, Hamilton, McArthur, Middletown, Napoleon, Springfield, and Wellsville. The grants - made possible by Honda of America Mfg., American Electric Power Foundation, and the Corporation for National and Community Service - range between \$500 and \$1,000 each.

“Involved youth do so much to make our communities stronger,” said William Hall, Executive Director of ServeOhio, Ohio’s Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism. “Research demonstrates that youth volunteers become civically engaged adults. This is an investment in Ohio’s future.”

Now in its 31st year, Global Youth Service Day recognizes the positive impact that young people have on their communities 365 days a year. GYSD is celebrated in more than 100 countries with youth-led service projects.

The recipients will organize the following service projects:

- **The iBelieve Foundation, Athens** – 250 high school and college students in Athens and Highland Counties will participate in feed-the-funnel food packing parties and will package over 100,000 packages of food.
- **Cincinnati Federation of Colored Women’s Club Reigning Royalty Chapter, Cincinnati** – 20 youth from the Reigning Royalty youth program will build a community garden and plant herbs and vegetables on the grounds of the clubhouse.
- **Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation, Cincinnati** – 10 youth from the Walnut Hills Youth Council will maintain 36 flower pots in the business district by filling them with soil and seedlings.
- **St. Vincent de Paul, Cincinnati** – 30 students from St. Xavier High School and the University of Cincinnati will reestablish a community garden that was previously dismantled to build a parking lot. Volunteers will plant new produce, as well as weed and maintain existing plants.

- **University of Cincinnati, *Cincinnati*** – 50 University of Cincinnati students will revitalize Coy Park by repainting the storage building/containers and replacing the bleachers.
- **Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed, *Columbus*** – 40 youth and adult volunteers will plant 60 containerized native shrubs in Snouffer Park to enhance the biological diversity of the riparian area plantings.
- **I Know I Can, *Columbus*** – 80 West High School students will beautify the high school by cleaning the outdoor area, laying new mulch, and planting flowers.
- **Boys and Girls Clubs of Columbus, *Columbus*** – 15 Boys & Girls Club members, volunteers from Veritas Community Church, and the Milo-Grogan Civic Association will build a garden shed, weed, and plant pollinators and fruit bearing plants in the Milo-Grogan community garden.
- **After-School All-Stars, *Columbus*** – 100 student “All-Stars” will create blankets for children at the Ronald McDonald House and for animals at the CHA animal shelter.
- **Coolville Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, *Coolville*** – 178 Coolville Elementary School students will improve their school garden to meet the needs of their community.
- **East Cleveland Rise, *East Cleveland*** – 200 students at Shaw High School will repair the Martin Luther King Civic Center by finishing floor demolition, painting, laying tile, and moving in new furniture.
- **Horizon Education Centers, *Elyria*** – 45 students, families and community members will assemble 1200 feminine hygiene care kits to be distributed to all middle schools in The Elyria City School District to be used by girls in 5th – 8th grade.
- **Recovery and Wellness, *Greenville*** – 30 volunteers in the “We are the Majority” youth program will beautify the city by spreading mulch, pulling weeds and adding flower pots to high-traffic areas.
- **Hamilton Urban Garden Systems, *Hamilton*** – 21 youth from the Riverview community will participate in the “Plant a Seed and Watch it Grow” program. Students will plant seedlings in the Hamilton community garden and create floral arrangements to donate to Hospice of Hamilton.
- **Vinton County Middle School Junior Beta Club, *McArthur*** – 50 students from Vinton County Middle School will paint buildings on the Vinton County Fairgrounds and beautify the grounds.
- **3 R Development, Inc., *Middletown*** – 150 youth will participate in a community cleanup - disposing of old tires, clearing debris, and tilling community garden plots.
- **Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives, *Napoleon*** – 15 youth will package band-aids and laundry pods for people in need.
- **Springfield Promise Neighborhood, *Springfield*** – 50 youth volunteers will enhance the neighborhood community garden by planting produce, installing a new sign, and planting an orchard.
- **Wellsville Veteran’s Memorial Council, *Wellsville*** – 35 youth from the First Christian Church will revitalize the wall on the Veterans Memorial Park by cleaning, caulking cracks, and painting the wall.

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ServeOhio is Ohio's Governor-appointed Commission on Service and Volunteerism. Their mission is to strengthen Ohio communities through AmeriCorps service and volunteer engagement by supporting and funding programs and initiatives that engage thousands of Ohioans of all ages. Interested participants may learn more about ServeOhio at www.serveohio.org or visit them on Facebook and Twitter.