

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 21, 2021

CONTACT: Rebecca Kerr
rebecca@inspireprgroup.com

ServeOhio Funds 10 Statewide Service Projects Taking Place on Global Youth Service Day

These grants support 620 volunteers engaging in local community service projects across nine Ohio cities

COLUMBUS, OH – ServeOhio, the Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, announces grant awards to support 10 local Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) projects taking place April 23-25. GYSD is the largest service event in the world dedicated to the contributions that children and youth make 365 days of the year. The grants ServeOhio is providing will fund service projects in nine Ohio cities led by more than 600 volunteers.

To ensure the safety of all volunteers, all grantees have safety procedures in place and are following recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The 10 GYSD projects will engage Ohio youth volunteers to create or improve community assets or infrastructure. Additionally, the projects will incorporate an education component to create long-term, sustainable change on issues and with people.

“It’s so inspiring to see the seeds of service begin to grow in our younger generations,” said William Hall, executive director for ServeOhio. “We are proud to support the service of our youth as we continue making strides toward a better Ohio.”

ServeOhio awards more than \$17,000 in grants to support these projects with help from their 2020-2021 partners, American Electric Power Foundation and AmeriCorps. This year’s recipients include:

- **American Legion Caufield Post 434, Bloomville** – 75 youth will learn the importance of volunteering by clearing flower beds, replacing mulch, and beautifying the parks in Bloomville.
- **Boardman Glenwood Junior High School, Boardman** – 55 students, teachers, parents, and school staff will paint 50 exterior panels of the Glenwood Junior High School building, giving the school a much-needed makeover.
- **Cleveland Police Foundation, Cleveland** – 20 youth and 30 police officers will work together to create the “Reimagining Our Community” mural, a project aimed to bring together traditionally marginalized youth to express their views and emotional issues verbally and visually around the violence they are witnessing at the hands of police. The mural is a step toward understanding and healing.
- **CNE Cares, Batavia** – 35 youth and 15 adults will come together to launch the CNE Cares Community Garden at the CNE Elementary school. Youth will build four planter boxes, install a 60-gallon rain barrel, and paint a garden sign, picnic table, and affirmation rocks at the garden site.

- **Lifeline Christian Mission, Westerville** – 225 youth will pack 50,000 nutritious shelf-stable meals that will be distributed to the community through local churches and food pantries.
- **Love Zion Community Garden, Columbus** – 30 youth and adult volunteers will come together to build a lending book, food, and seed library in the Love Zion Community Garden. The lending library will provide free garden seeds, books, and food pantry items for the surrounding community.
- **Watch Me Grow Ohio, Portsmouth** – 25 youth and adult volunteers will prepare the community Fellowship Garden for the growing season by clearing debris, stripping sod, tilling land, testing soil, prepping grow space, constructing raised beds, and transplanting vegetable plants.
- **Wave Pool, Cincinnati** – 20 youth will improve the Camp Washington community garden by creating rainbow-shaped trellises, a mushroom shaped and painted rain barrel collection watering system, better signage, and an outdoor classroom/gathering space for the community.
- **Wings of Hope, Recovery Services, Portsmouth** – 70 youth and adult volunteers will repair and beautify the Peace Park in Portsmouth by creating decorative planters for the herb garden, planting new flowers and shrubs, spreading mulch, building benches, and adding stones, boulders, and plants around the waterfall. The project will bring together a diverse group of youth and adults and will provide a space for serenity and peace.
- **YMCA of Findlay, Findlay** – 20 youth enrolled in the YMCA's afterschool program and 10 University of Findlay students will repurpose space at the Child Development Center and create a community garden that will provide learning opportunities for youth at the YMCA and produce fresh food to share with the surrounding community.

In addition to these service projects funded by ServeOhio, thousands of individuals across the state will volunteer in their communities on April 23-25 in recognition of GYSD. Volunteers interested in serving in their community for GYSD or at any time throughout the year can visit [Get Connected](#), ServeOhio's recently launched statewide volunteer engagement platform.

###

About ServeOhio

ServeOhio, Ohio's Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, strengthens Ohio communities through AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement. Through programs and initiatives funded and supported by ServeOhio, thousands of Ohioans of all ages engage in and are recognized for their service. Interested participants may learn more about ServeOhio at www.serveohio.org, or on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).