



Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

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## **ServeOhio Funds 13 Statewide Service Projects in Honor of Make a Difference Day**

*Grants support more than 350 volunteers engaging in local community service projects across 12 Ohio cities*

**COLUMBUS, OH** – ServeOhio, the Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, announces grant awards to support 13 local Make a Difference Day projects taking place the weekend of October 22. Make A Difference Day (October 23) is the largest national day of volunteering to meet community needs. The grants ServeOhio is providing, totaling \$15,371, will fund service projects in 12 Ohio cities led by more than 350 volunteers.

“We’re thrilled to see so many organizations across the state coming together to serve their communities for Make a Difference Day this year,” said William Hall, executive director for ServeOhio. “It’s true that you have to be the change you want to see in the world, and it’s great to see so many Ohioans with the common goal of making a difference in our amazing state.”

The ServeOhio grants will support local projects throughout Ohio that commit to bringing volunteers together to create or improve community assets or infrastructure such as parks, schools, senior centers, community gardens or low-income homes. ServeOhio awards these projects with help from their 2020-2021 partners, American Electric Power Foundation and AmeriCorps.

This year’s recipients include:

- **City of East Liverpool, *Liverpool*** – More than 20 volunteers will assist in landscaping lots where abandoned houses have been demolished. The landscaping will help beautify the spaces and prevent the empty lots from attracting dumping.
- **Clinton County Youth Council, *Wilmington*** – More than 75 volunteers will participate in the beautification of the Luther Warren Peace Path and youth center campus, planting native trees and improving accessibility to the public disc golf course.
- **Kiwanis Club of Portsmouth, *Portsmouth*** – 40 high school and college-aged volunteers will partner with Key Club and Circle K members to visit with second grade students, read to them, and encourage them to get excited about reading.
- **LifeCare Alliance, *Columbus*** – 20 volunteers will package portions of cat food to be distributed to Senior PetCare clients. This will allow clients to care for their pets and maintain their ability to stay safe and independent in the comfort of their own homes.
- **Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, *Cleveland*** – 10-15 volunteers will assist in landscaping and creating a garden plot in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood for people experiencing homelessness.

- **Middelburg Heights Community United Christian Church, *Middleburg Heights*** – More than 25 volunteers will build and stock a food pantry in a highly-traveled corner of church property to provide ready access to emergency food for those in need.
- **Northridge Local Schools, *Granville*** – 30-40 volunteers will safely remove and transport plants and shrubs from a closed school building to a new building connected to the rest of the district's school buildings. New plants and mulching will also be added to the landscaping of the new building.
- **Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association, *Jackson*** – 30 volunteers will replace swing sets, repair tennis courts, and beautify Eddie Jones Park to allow for community members to feel more welcome.
- **Owens Community College, *Toledo*** – 12 volunteers will remove clothing racks, build and install shelves, and organize and display a variety of basic living items in a free store in the Center for Campus and Community Connections.
- **Sandusky Valley Domestic Violence Shelter, *Fostoria*** – 5-10 volunteers will weed, lay weed killing fabric, and spread rocks into large flower beds to make them easier to maintain. The neater beds will help reassure residents that they are entering a safe and cared-for facility.
- **Serve City, *Hamilton*** – 15-18 volunteers will create a covered community table to allow for afterhours donations without exposing people to the elements. Volunteers will also create an outdoor congregation space by constructing and installing benches and planters.
- **Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses, Inc., *Cincinnati*** – 25 volunteers will work with West End residents to clean up litter and tend to the community garden.
- **Westside Free Store Ministries, *Columbus*** – 10-20 volunteers will provide one-on-one assistance with selection of coats for a coat, hat and gloves giveaway. Volunteers will also assist in the preparation and distribution of a hot meal.

Volunteers interested in serving in their community for Make a Difference Day or at any time throughout the year can visit [Get Connected](#), ServeOhio's statewide volunteer engagement platform.

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#### ***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](http://www.serveohio.org), or on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).