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ServeOhio Funds 9 Statewide Service Projects Taking Place on MLK Day

These grants support nearly 300 volunteers engaging in local community service projects across seven Ohio cities

Columbus, OH – ServeOhio, the Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, announces grant awards to support 9 local Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service projects on January 17. Much like Dr. King’s legacy, these grants will help nonprofits across the state improve their communities through service and volunteer activities. The grants will fund service projects in seven Ohio cities led by nearly 300 volunteers.

Each project commits to bringing volunteers together to create or improve community assets or infrastructure and supports local community engagement and impact. Additionally, every project includes an education component based on Dr. King’s message of peace, unity, and service to create long-term, sustainable change.

ServeOhio awards these grants with support from the American Electric Power Foundation. Each grant totals between \$750 - \$1,500.

- **Community Food Initiatives, Athens** – Volunteers will install ADA-approved raised garden beds at several community gardens to make them more accessible.
- **Elder Tree Forest School, Dayton** – Volunteers will remove invasive plant species and add compost and woodchips throughout a trail. Volunteers will also add an information board to share information with the community regarding the trail and other ecological projects or events.
- **Focus Learning Academy of Northern Columbus, Columbus** – Students will work together to compile community resources and pass out food in partnership with INPREM, a local subsidiary of the Mid-Ohio Food Collective.
- **Franklinton Farms, Columbus** – Volunteer crew will build raised beds, improve irrigation, mulch growing sites, and pass out home-growing kits to community gardens and neighbors across Columbus.
- **Geary Family YMCA, Fostoria** – Student and adult volunteers will paint the gymnasium in preparation for new wall pads.
- **OneEighty, Wooster** – Volunteers will put together self-care bags for residents or the emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- **Rebuilding Together Dayton, Dayton** – Volunteers will put together Fix-It-Kits consisting of smoke and CO2 detectors, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, cleaning supplies, and exterior security lights to help homeowners age in place in a safe and healthy home.

- **Ursuline College, Pepper Pike** – Students will engage with residents at local nursing homes through writing cards and delivering gift bags with wellness activities.
- **Wyandot County Public Health, Upper Sandusky** – Volunteers will add a shed and picnic table to the community garden.

In addition to these service projects funded by ServeOhio, thousands of individuals across the state will volunteer in their communities on January 17 in remembrance of Dr. King and his life of service. Volunteers interested in serving in their community this MLK 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, or on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).