

Youth from Six Ohio Cities Lead Community Change on Global Youth Service Day
ServeOhio grants support seven service projects that invest in the betterment of Ohio local communities



Columbus, OH. – On April 26-28, hundreds of Ohio youth ages 5-18 will participate in service projects organized for Global Youth Service Day and supported by ServeOhio mini-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. Seven youth volunteer projects will take place in six Ohio cities – Ashtabula, Delaware, Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati.

The grants, made possible through ServeOhio's Stewards of Service corporate partners Honda of America MFG., Inc. and AEP Ohio, total between \$500 and \$1,000. The recipients will organize the following service projects:

- **After School Discovery – Ashtabula** – “Serve Our Community; Impact Our World” will engage 25 junior high students and additional volunteers in a service-learning project to pick up litter, enhance signage with planter boxes and maintain landscape at the Lakeside High School/Lakeside Junior High School campus.
- **BRIDGES for a Just Community/Public Allies Cincinnati – Cincinnati** – Public Allies is partnering with the Lower Price Hill neighborhood to establish a community garden, construct and strategically place a rainwater barrel for sustainable maintenance, and deliver an awareness-building lunch program to 20 youth and parents regarding affordable and healthy options for families.
- **HandsOn Northeast Ohio – Cleveland** – During April 26-28, nearly 200 youth and their families will volunteer at various local projects, including the Parks Beautification with the Salvation Army, Spring Festival at the Zelma George Emergency Family Shelter, and the Cleveland Jewish Teen Network's J-Serve Service Day.
- **Stockyard, Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Centre Community Development Office – Cleveland** – This group's Youth Leadership club and Lincoln West students and staff will join other community volunteers to clean-up and paint the exterior of Lincoln West High School. The project will beautify the school and improve school pride for students and the surrounding neighborhood.

- **I Know I Can – Columbus** – Columbus International High School Beautification Project includes four service projects that improve the landscape and design of the school, specifically toward the unfinished outdoor classroom and art installation. Ultimately, 85 youth and volunteers will be engaged in some fashion, whether by promoting sustainability and environmental education, making blueprints for a front terrace, or creating art projects centered on global awareness.
- **Connections Volunteer Center – Delaware** – 30 youth and adult volunteers will improve landscaping and plant an organic vegetable garden at the Equi-Valent Riding Center. The Equine Assisted Therapy program supports special needs children and their caregivers by encouraging communication, strengthening gross motor skills, and allowing for a safe environment.
- **Clinton County Youth Council – Wilmington** – Nearly 100 youth and family volunteers will engage in “Beautifying and Investing in our Community.” The project will improve a community and neighborhood bike trail, once prominent and centered around an elementary school that is now neglected with trash, debris, overgrown brush and outdated signage. Volunteers will clean, paint and make repairs to improve and maintain the quality of their neighborhood.

Visit www.serveohio.org/events for specific project times, contacts and locations.

“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 25th 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.

“Congratulations and thanks to the young people of Ohio for their work to improve their community,” said Steven A. Culbertson, president of YSA (Youth Service America), the founder and chief convener of GYSD. “On Global Youth Service Day, the world stands in awe as we see what’s possible when kids take the lead as change-makers.”

According to the [Volunteering and Civic Life in America report](#) released in December, Ohioans contributed \$5.7 billion of service through 255.3 million hours in 2011. Find out more about volunteer engagement in Ohio at www.serveohio.org.

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ServeOhio is Ohio’s Governor-appointed Commission on Service and Volunteerism. Their mission is to strengthen Ohio communities through service and volunteerism 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.

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