



**DRAFT 6/4/08**

**2007 Data Report**

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October 27, 2007, marked the eighth year that Ohio citizens participated in Make A Difference Day. Currently, 2007 stands as another high point for this campaign. The past year’s promotion of community service and volunteerism was the most successful yet, marked by an increase in both the number of service projects and the number of people participating. This exemplifies the way Ohioans continue to show their commitment to serving others across the state.

This past year, 1,087 service projects were completed in Ohio, an increase of 55 projects from the 1,032 completed in 2006.<sup>1</sup> The total number of volunteers also increased slightly from 29,215 to 29,969. With a continued focus on the importance of volunteerism, the state is positioned to carry on its trend of increasing service in 2008, and maintaining its rank as a national leader in community service, both on Make A Difference Day and throughout the year.

**Volunteer Age Distribution**

Both volunteers and recipients alike feel the impact of Make A Difference Day. One of the most important aspects of this universal involvement lies in the contributions made from Ohio’s youth, as their dedication to helping others will carry the tradition of volunteerism into the future. In 2007, 11,178 individuals between the ages of 0-17 participated in service projects, or about 37% of the total volunteers.

The involvement of volunteers between the ages of 18-34 has shown a significant increase from last year. This age group, which ranks second in outstanding volunteerism, now accounts for about 27% of all volunteers from the 22% participation in 2006.

0 - 17	18 - 34	35 - 54	55 & Over	Total Volunteers
11,178	8,104	6,572	4,115	29,969
37%	27%	22%	14%	

<sup>1</sup> Reports sent in to both the Ohio Community Service Council and USA Weekend provides the data for this summary period. The data was reported by participants and sent through the mail and via the Internet. Where data sets were left blank or information was not available, numbers were pulled from corresponding statewide trends and applied to the project report forms. The summary figures are thus, an extrapolated estimate.

## Number of Projects Per County

In 2007, 71 counties were represented on Make A Difference Day. With 80.7% of Ohio counties actively participating, the projects organized demonstrate the extended awareness of community service participation on Make A Difference Day. New participants this year include, Logan, Marion, and Medina counties. These three added ten projects to the state total.

County	Projects				
		Guernsey*	0	Muskingum	6
Adams	5	Hamilton	27	Noble*	0
Allen	1	Hancock	6	Ottawa	3
Ashland	4	Hardin*	0	Paulding*	0
Ashtabula	3	Harrison*	0	Perry*	0
Athens	6	Henry*	0	Pickaway	16
Auglaize	1	Highland	7	Pike	5
Belmont	3	Hocking	2	Portage	10
Brown	2	Holmes*	0	Preble	0
Butler	12	Huron	2	Putnam*	0
Carroll*	0	Jackson	1	Richland	10
Champaign	1	Jefferson	64	Ross	7
Clark	2	Knox*	0	Sandusky	5
Clermont	2	Lake	11	Scioto	11
Clinton	9	Lawrence	6	Seneca	7
Columbiana	2	Licking	5	Shelby	1
Coshocton*	0	Logan	7	Stark	26
Crawford	1	Lorain	8	Summit	89
Cuyahoga	18	Lucas	3	Trumbull	146
Darke	1	Madison	2	Tuscarawas	1
Defiance	2	Mahoning	4	Union	13
Delaware	66	Marion	1	Van Wert*	0
Erie	8	Medina	2	Vinton	4
Fairfield	26	Meigs	2	Warren	24
Fayette	5	Mercer	9	Washington	31
Franklin	218	Miami	1	Wayne	3
Fulton*	0	Monroe	1	Williams	1
Gallia	8	Montgomery	77	Wood	4
Geauga	2	Morgan*	0	Wyandot	0
Greene	7	Morrow	1		1,087

The number of Ohio's counties participating in Make A Difference Day over the past three years is **86**, or 97.7% of the state. Since 2005 there are only two counties, Preble and Wyandot, which have reported no projects. The counties marked \* above had reported participation in Make A Difference Day 2005 and/or 2006, but did not report projects in 2007.

## Volunteer Grouping

Year after year, youth groups have proven to be the most prevalent of all organizations participating in Make A Difference Day. This year, Ohio's youth groups

dedicated their time and service once again, comprising 32.38% of the contributing groups. Once again, Girl Scouts from around the state put-forth extra effort, completing 240 projects. Ohio businesses have made huge strides this year, nearly doubling their efforts from Make A Difference Day, 2006.

<b>Volunteer Base</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
K-12	38	3.50%
College/University	133	12.24%
Youth Clubs	352	32.38%
Service/Civic	136	12.51%
Local/State Government	13	1.20%
Social Services	7	0.75%
Faith Based	28	2.58%
Business	153	14.08%
Individual/Family	52	4.78%
Collaboration <sup>2</sup>	121	11.13%
National Service	4	0.05%
Other Group	50	4.60%
	1,087	

## **Project Type Statistics**

Collection and distribution projects continue to be the most popular among Ohio's volunteers. The donated items serve a variety of needs and are used to provide comfort and aid to many. Some outstanding MDDO participants completed multiple projects in which they dedicated their time for the good of the community.

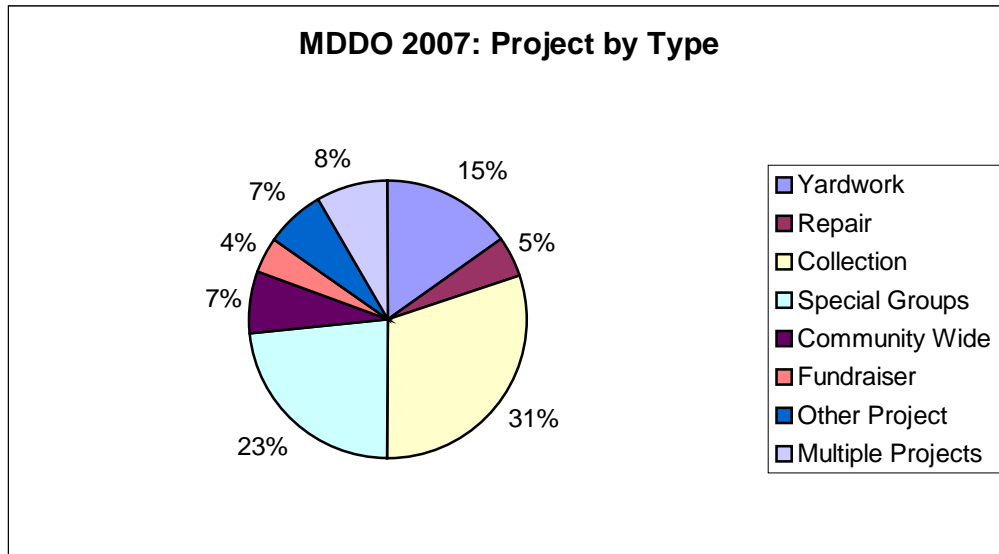
<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Number of Project Reports</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yardwork	102	15.29%
Repair	31	4.64%
Collection	201	30.13%
Special Groups	156	23.38%
Community Wide	48	7.19%
Fundraiser	28	4.19%
Other Project	46	6.89%
Multiple Projects <sup>3</sup>	55	8.24%

667

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<sup>2</sup> These projects were completed by the combined efforts of two or more groups. This may account for the appearance of under-representation of certain groups such as National Service and Social Services.

<sup>3</sup> Only one report was filed for each of the 55 groups who reported multiple projects, thus accounting for the difference between the 667 projects reported and the total 1087 projects completed.



This chart is a representation of the wide variety of projects performed by Ohio volunteers in the two-day span of October 26-27, thus making Make A Difference Day 2007 another record-setting year for volunteerism in the state of Ohio.

## Conclusion

Year after year, Ohio's commitment to community service has gained momentum and has thus propelled Make A Difference Day Ohio into a noted and effective statewide movement. Despite inclement weather, 29,969 citizens came together to complete 1087 different service projects to benefit communities and individuals throughout the state and beyond. These numbers, both of which top those of last year, exemplify the continued growth and dedication to volunteerism statewide.

Of the participating volunteers, Ohio's youth, between the ages of 0-17 were the most active demographic. This age group accounted for 37% of the total participants on this year's Make A Difference Day. Efforts to improve turnout in other age categories need to be pursued more aggressively. Nine fewer counties participated this year than last. Special attention should be focused on these counties, increasing publicity and, therefore, increasing awareness of the importance of volunteering.

Fifty projects as opposed to only 19 last year, took advantage of Friday as an optional day of volunteering. This has proven to be a effective way to get businesses, schools and after-school groups more involved in Make A Difference Day. Increased publicity in workplaces and throughout communities statewide provides the prospect of garnering a more diverse pool of volunteers. Besides increased volunteer recruitment, additional publicity may prompt the participation of Preble and Wyandot counties, which are currently the only two that have not reported participation in Make A Difference Day in recent years.

Overall, citizens of Ohio, the United States, and others around the world have benefited from the service efforts put forth by Ohio's strong volunteer core. By increasing publicity and awareness, Ohio can continue its tradition of exemplary service and maintain its status as the country's forerunner in commitment to helping others.