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STRENGTHENING OHIO'S COMMUNITIES
THROUGH SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM!

OHIO COMMUNITY SERVICE COUNCIL
OHIO'S STATE AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM!



OCSC Grants \$5 Million to Ohio AmeriCorps

The Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC) will support 22 AmeriCorps programs in PY 2008-2009 with initiatives focusing on *education, public health, disaster preparedness, environmental issues, and human needs*. Funding for the programs will exceed \$5 million to support over 600 AmeriCorps members who will be serving in local communities throughout the state.



City Year Columbus members recently took the AmeriCorps Pledge ...*to get things done!*

Programs within the Council's competitive portfolio include: American Red Cross/Central Ohio, City Year/Cleveland, City Year/Columbus, Jumpstart/Akron & Zanesville, Mercy Health Partners/Toledo, Ohio University ComCorps/Athens, Public Allies/Cincinnati, and Urban Appalachian Council/Cincinnati. Competitive funds are awarded by the Corporation for National and Community Service via national competition and supplement a state commission's formula allocation.

Click here to read more ...

Click here for a Statewide AmeriCorps Directory



**Make A Difference on Saturday,
October 25 ...It Starts with YOU!**

Make plans now to participate in a Make A Difference Day Ohio (MDDO) service project on Saturday, October 25. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make A Difference Day is the largest national day of helping others.



MDDO Honorary Co-Chairs
Frances Strickland, First Lady
of Ohio, and Jim Tressel, Head
Football Coach,
The Ohio State University

Ohio has led the nation in the total number of projects planned each year - for 8 consecutive years! The Ohio Community Service Council and the MDDO statewide steering committee support and promote this day of service. In 2007, over 1,000 Ohio projects were reported, involving nearly 40,000 volunteers from every corner of the state.

A Message from our Co-Chairs! “As Honorary Co-Chairs, we are so proud of the many accomplishments and the continued growth of this important initiative. We urge you to make a difference in your community. Volunteering is contagious and we hope that even more Ohioans catch the spirit and take the opportunity to *pay it forward*.”

Visit www.serveohio.org to find a volunteer project in your community. Please join us in making our communities, and our state, a better place to live. **It starts with you!**”

Ohio Citizen Corps



OCSC was responsible for coordinating volunteer efforts at the Ohio Statehouse on 9-11, in honor of National Patriot's Day. A total of 2,999 U.S. Flags, in the shape of the Twin Towers, Pentagon and the open field in PA, covered the Ohio Statehouse lawn in honor of lives lost on September 11, 2001.

CITIZEN CORPS, a national initiative, is implemented at the state level (by OCSC) to engage all citizens in homeland security and preparedness activities. State agency partners include the Departments of Health, (ODH) Public Safety (ODPS), and Emergency Management.

National Preparedness Month: OCSC/Ohio Citizen Corps joined forces with the Ohio Department of Public Safety to promote September as National Preparedness Month. A diverse group of state and local partners led efforts across the state to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promoting community involvement.

Emergency Service Function 6 (ESF6) – Mass Care

(High Wind Damage Efforts)

The Ohio Community Service Council, as *primary agency for ESF6 – Mass Care*, was active during the recent response to the electrical outage caused by the high windstorms. Staff worked at the Emergency Operations Center helping to coordinate mass care activities and provide briefings to response partners and leadership. OCSC also participated on a Basic Needs Task force to address potential issues that pertained to fuel, food, water and special needs including healthcare. No major issues arose as most needs were being met at the local level.

Ohio Citizen Corps volunteers were also active in this response. Medical Reserve Corps and CERT volunteers throughout the state, in the Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus areas, were asked to assist in special needs shelters, Red Cross shelters, EOC operations, feeding and damage assessment. The Ohio Responds system (our statewide database of 12,000+ volunteers ready to respond in the event of a disaster) was used to send alerts to notify people about volunteer opportunities.

Ohio Volunteer License Plate UPDATE:

Senate Bill 259, legislation creating the new Volunteer Specialty License Plate, was an agenda item in the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee meeting in early Spring. Ohio Senator Joy Padgett, legislative sponsor, provided initial testimony. Additional testimony was given by Kitty Burcsu, OCSC, Janet George, City Year Columbus, and Dale Leach, Ohio District of Kiwanis International.



NEXT STEPS: In the fall 2008, the legislation should move out of committee to the full Senate for a vote. Co-sponsor, State Representative Larry Flowers will carry the ball through the remaining legislative process. Proceeds generated from the sale of plates will go to the Ohio Volunteerism & Community Service Support Fund, administered by OCSC. Funds will be used ...

- grants to local organizations for innovative volunteer programs;
- further development of Ohio Citizen Corps (citizen involvement in homeland preparedness);
- support for Make A Difference Day Ohio (Ohio's largest day of service);
- assistance with local matching funds for AmeriCorps programs - and more.

Visit: www.serveohio.org for updates!

ServeOhio.org

The serveohio.org Web site provides a calendar of events, best practices on screening volunteers, tips on finding the right volunteer opportunity, homeland security updates, Ohio's National Service Programs, Ohio Citizen Corps, updates on legislation of interest to the field of volunteer service- and much more!

NEXT Council Meeting: Thursday, November 20

The OCSC Council Board, generally, meets the third Thursday of January, March, May, September, and November, from 10:00 - 3:00, in the Council Office in Columbus. Our office is located at: 51 North High Street (corner of Gay and High) on the 8th floor.

All Council meetings are open to the public. For more information, please call (614) 728-2916.



The Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC) was established in 1994 to administer grants under the federal AmeriCorps program and promote volunteerism throughout the state. OCSC is an Equal opportunity Employer. Council programs provide opportunities for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to serve their communities.