



SERVE **OHIO**

Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



December 2011

2011-12 STEWARDS OF SERVICE

Corporate partners AEP Ohio and Honda support ServeOhio as Stewards of Service for initiatives such as National Days of Service projects and the Conference on Service and Volunteerism.



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INTRODUCTION

Stewards of Service, a ServeOhio program created by the generous support from AEP Ohio and Honda, enables thousands of Ohio volunteers to engage in service. Specifically, ServeOhio and the Stewards of Service supported over 1,200 volunteers during two National Days of Service across nine local communities. The 2011 ServeOhio Awards recognized six outstanding leaders in service and volunteerism. The 2011 Conference on Service and Volunteerism brought 350 volunteer administrators, national service programs and service learning leaders together to enhance skills and advance service. While the true value of the Stewards of Service is immeasurable, this report outlines specific uses and outcomes of the program.

ServeOhio Mission: To strengthen Ohio communities through service and volunteerism.

2011 Conference on Service and Volunteerism – March 16-18, 2011

The purpose of the 2011 Conference on Service and Volunteerism was to build 21st century skills sets and create opportunities for connection that support the continued evolution of Ohio's service and volunteerism professions. Stewards of Service supported 20 participants to attend the conference on scholarship – participants from non-profits who would otherwise be unable to attend. At the end of the conference, participants reported outcomes such as learning of contemporary ideas, gaining of skills that enhance professional development and expansion of professional networks. Scholarships totaled \$5,000.

2011 ServeOhio Awards – March 17, 2011

Stewards of Service provided award trophies and cash awards to six outstanding nonprofits or leaders in the service community. The trophies, designed by an Ohio artist, enhanced the cash award in a special way. Each recipient donated their cash award of \$2,500 back to their nominating organization.



ServeOhio and Stewards of Service presented awards in areas such as Outstanding Volunteer Group, Outstanding National Days of Service Project, Outstanding National Service Program, Lifetime Achievement Award and Outstanding Adult Volunteer.

Make a Difference Day – October 22, 2011

"I think if you teach them [children] at a young age to give back, you're going to mold them to be better people when they're older." Monica, mother of a 3 and 13 year-old who volunteered at the "Kids Helping Kids" Groveport Madison Make a Difference Day event.

Four mini-grants supported Make a Difference Day (MDD) projects that created or improved community assets or infrastructure, such as parks, schools, senior centers and community gardens. The various projects involved a broad spectrum of community participants of all ages and included collaborative partnerships amongst businesses and non-profits.

Stewards of Service projects sponsored events in Ashtabula, Columbus, Groveport and Sciotoville, where organizations reported that nearly 550 people volunteered directly in their communities. Each mini-grant totaled \$1,000.



HandsOn Central Ohio sponsored the biggest Stewards of Service MDD project - 200 volunteers served at six service sites for a community clean-up project in the University District. Specific service included litter clean-up, inventory of surrounding alley conditions and the planting of fall perennials.

MLK Day of Service - January 16, 2012

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service mini-grants support five projects that create or improve community assets or infrastructure. In addition to a service element, projects include an educational component that embraces Dr. King's legacy and empowers citizens to become agents of change and improve economic opportunities. Each mini-grant totals \$500 or \$1,000.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The various projects involve a broad spectrum of community participants, include collaborative partnerships amongst businesses and non-profits, and benefit entire communities. Stewards of Service support events in Bowling Green, Cleveland, Columbus and Findlay. The largest service event is Bowling Green State University's "Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Challenge," which commits teams of 500 volunteers to complete work at 40 sites. Volunteers will paint buildings, work with residents of care facilities and gather food donations for the National MLK, Jr. Food Drive.