



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

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ServeOhio Announces Grant Awards for 2015 Make A Difference Day

Grants support eight community service projects and over 700 volunteers throughout Ohio

Columbus, OH – ServeOhio, along with their Stewards of Service corporate partners Honda and AEP Ohio, announce mini-grant awards to support community service projects organized for Make A Difference Day on October 24, 2015. Make A Difference Day is the largest national day of community service, where hundreds of Ohioans plan service projects each year involving corporations, communities, nonprofit organizations and individual volunteers.

The ServeOhio mini-grants will support local projects throughout Ohio that commit to bringing volunteers together to create or improve community assets or infrastructure such as parks, schools, senior centers, community gardens or low-income homes. The various projects involve a broad spectrum of community participants, include collaborative partnerships, and benefit entire communities around Ohio.

“We know hundreds of Ohioans provide service to their neighbors every day, but we are especially proud to support them during the largest national day of community service,” says ServeOhio Executive Director William Hall. “We believe there’s no better way to make a lasting impact in local communities than by participating in service projects and volunteering.”

ServeOhio awards these grants with support from their 2015-2016 Stewards of Service corporate partners Honda and AEP Ohio. Each grant totals between \$500 and \$1,000.

The 2015 Make A Difference Day mini-grant recipients:

- ❖ **After School Discovery, Inc., Ashtabula** – 45 youth and community volunteers will create an outdoor classroom at Lakeside Jr. High and High School. Volunteers will construct student seating, plant a garden area, build birdfeeders, and install stepping stones and sculptures.
- ❖ **Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Peninsula** – 250 youth and adult volunteers will improve the Cuyahoga Valley National Park by performing trail maintenance, picking up litter, creating the park’s first off-road mountain bike trail, removing invasive species, and planting native plants.
- ❖ **City of East Liverpool, East Liverpool** – 50 volunteers will conduct a city-wide cleanup. Groups of volunteers will be assigned to specific neighborhoods throughout the city to pick up litter and paint curbs on city streets.

- ❖ **Marysville Exempted Village Schools, Marysville** – 15 students in the Bunsold Afterschool Enrichment Program’s Moving Gears Bike Shop will plan and implement a free bike repair day, offering bicycle tune ups and minor repairs for community members in Marysville.
- ❖ **Otterbein University Center for Community Engagement, Westerville** – 200 student and community volunteers will plant and harvest crops in the Otterbein community garden, run a farmers market for clients at the local food pantry, and engage youth in craft activities.
- ❖ **Rebuilding Together Dayton, Dayton** – 100 volunteers will address community safety and maintenance issues throughout the Westwood neighborhood in Dayton. Volunteers will clear the overgrowth of weeds and vegetation at vacant properties in the neighborhood, as well as provide yard maintenance to over 30 home owners who do not have the means to maintain the exterior of their homes.
- ❖ **RSVP of Washington County, Marietta** – 25 volunteers will improve the safety and beauty of the O’Neill Senior Center garden. Volunteers will refurbish the garden retaining wall and add additional benches, plant evergreen holly bushes, boxwoods, and hydrangeas, and install wooden steps and a safety railing for the seniors.
- ❖ **The University Church, Toledo** – 40 mentors and mentees from The University Church’s LEAD Mentoring Program will conduct a school beautification project at Reynolds Elementary School. Volunteers will transform the entryway ceiling of the school into a student-driven art mosaic.

Nationally, for over 20 years, USA TODAY and Points of Light have joined together to sponsor Make A Difference Day. Millions of volunteers from around the world will unite in a common mission to improve the lives of others.

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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.