



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

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ServeOhio Announces Grant Awards for 2016 Make A Difference Day

Grants support eight community service projects and over 1,400 volunteers throughout Ohio

Columbus, OH – ServeOhio, along with their Stewards of Service corporate partners Honda and AEP Ohio, announce volunteer project grant awards to support community service projects organized for Make A Difference Day on October 22, 2016. 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 project 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 2016-2017 Stewards of Service corporate partners Honda and AEP Ohio. Each grant totals between \$400 and \$1,000, for a total of \$6,890.

The 2016 Make A Difference Day mini-grant recipients:

- ❖ **Scholarship Central at the Muskingum County Community Foundation, Zanesville** – 20 AmeriCorps members and volunteers will partner with Eastside Community Ministry, a local community center providing educational programs, a clothing bank, and a food pantry. Volunteers will build 10 raised garden beds which will provide fresh produce for food pantry clients.
- ❖ **Clinton County Youth Council, Wilmington** – 45 volunteers will complete improvement projects at a community disc golf course. Volunteers will install a new sign and provide general landscaping, brush clearing, and tee pad construction. Additionally, volunteers will complete a litter cleanup of an adjacent bicycle/walking trail.

- ❖ **Ohio Wesleyan, Delaware** – 300 first-year students from Ohio Wesleyan and Columbus State Community College- Delaware Campus will plant daffodil bulbs at 22 nonprofit organizations in Delaware County.
- ❖ **Columbus State Community College, Columbus** – 30 students will install a pollinator garden in the Linden neighborhood that will attract butterflies and honeybees and serve as a place of refuge for local residents. The garden will include a self-service mini-library, seating where visitors may relax or read to themselves and/or their children, a tree that attracts Monarch butterflies, and artistic signage.
- ❖ **Finneytown Elementary PTA, Cincinnati** – 30 students, administrators, and parents will perform a cleanup of the Whitaker Courtyard Garden. Volunteers will clean up the path and garden beds, build and install a rain barrel, add soil to raised garden beds, create garden supply kits, and install a commercial umbrella into one of three picnic tables.
- ❖ **Village of Lakemore, Lakemore** – 30 volunteers will beautify and improve the safety of public parks by painting fences, replacing swings, and replacing the playground base with better materials. The improved parks will increase health, recreation, community relations, and community pride in Lakemore.
- ❖ **The University of Akron, Akron** – 900 students will address community needs at 40 local nonprofit organizations in Akron. Students will participate in a variety of projects including painting, organizing, meeting with clientele, landscaping, and helping with general facility maintenance.
- ❖ **The University Church, Toledo** – 55 student volunteers will create a community resource room at Rogers High School. Students will paint the room, create an anti-bullying mural, and assemble bookshelves and other equipment meant for long-term use in the room.

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 AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement 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.