



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



**Global Youth
Service Day**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth from Five Ohio Cities Lead Community Change on Global Youth Service Day

ServeOhio grants support six service projects that invest in the betterment of Ohio local communities

Columbus, OH – On April 11-13, nearly 500 Ohio youth ages 5-18 will participate in service projects organized for Global Youth Service Day and supported by ServeOhio mini-grants. Established in 1988, Global Youth Service Day is the largest service event in the world, and the only day of service dedicated to children and youth. Six youth volunteer projects will take place in five Ohio cities – Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Tiffin and Whitehouse.

The grants, made possible through ServeOhio's Stewards of Service corporate partners Honda of America MFG., Inc. and AEP Ohio, total between \$500 and \$1,000 each. The recipients will organize the following service projects:

- **Cincinnati Youth Collaborative – Cincinnati** – Students, staff, and families will join Project REACH AmeriCorps members and the Westwood Civic Association to beautify the auditorium of Gamble Montessori High School. Over 50 volunteers will repair broken seats and remove graffiti from approximately 500 seat backs. The GYSD project will create a link for volunteerism between students and the Westwood community.
- **ESC of Central Ohio– Columbus** – Students, staff, and parents will join AmeriCorps members from the Ohio Reading Corps to beautify Stiles Elementary School. Volunteers will plant flowers and bushes and will spread mulch on the grounds surrounding the school. The project will beautify the school and strengthen the partnership between the ESC of Central Ohio and South-Western City Schools.
- **J. Jireh Ministries Church, Inc. – Columbus** – In collaboration with the South of Main Civic Association and Mid-Ohio Food Bank, J. Jireh Ministries will engage the students of Columbus Collegiate Academy to create a community garden on the grounds of the school. The students will create the garden space on GYSD which will serve as learning tool throughout the school year.
- **Rebuilding Together Dayton – Dayton** – In partnership with East End Community Services, Rebuilding Together Dayton will engage over 300 youth from local high schools to beautify three buildings in the Twin Towers neighborhood in east Dayton. Youth will paint the interior and exterior of the buildings and landscape around the properties.

- **Franciscan Earth Literacy Center – Tiffin** – Youth volunteers from Boy Scouts of America, FFA, and local high schools will come together on GYSD to replace the film cover on a high tunnel system at the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center (FELC). The high tunnel repairs will allow FELC to grow food which will be donated to the Sisters of St. Francis Canticle Café and local food pantries.
- **Village of Whitehouse, Ohio– Whitehouse** – Volunteers from the Whitehouse community will come together on GYSD to expand the Village’s gardening space. This project will double the number of public gardening plots for residents to engage in community gardening.

Visit www.serveohio.org/events for specific project times and locations.

“Involved youth do so much to make our communities stronger,” said William Hall, Executive Director of ServeOhio, Ohio’s Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism. “Research demonstrates that youth volunteers become civically engaged adults. This is an investment in Ohio’s future.”

Now in its 26th year, Global Youth Service Day recognizes the positive impact that young people have on their communities 365 days a year. GYSD is celebrated in more than 100 countries with youth-led service projects.

“Congratulations and thanks to the young people of Ohio for their work to improve their community,” said Steven A. Culbertson, president of YSA (Youth Service America), the founder and chief convener of GYSD. “On Global Youth Service Day, the world stands in awe as we see what’s possible when kids take the lead as change-makers.”

According to the [Volunteering and Civic Life in America report](#) released in December, 2.46 million Ohioans contributed \$6.1 billion through 276.6 million hours of service in 2012. Find out more about volunteer engagement in Ohio at www.serveohio.org.

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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.