



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008 GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS FINALISTS!!

Governor George Romney Lifetime Achievement Award

This award, the most prestigious of the Governor's Service Awards, honors an individual who has taken his or her volunteer service to the highest level – year after year. It honors an individual, usually a senior citizen, who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community involvement and volunteer service. Individuals nominated in this category have made service a way of life for many, many years.

Leslie Algren of Grand Ledge has always found something in her life that she could tie to volunteering. As a young girl it was getting involved in her country church and assisting neighbors with chores. In high school it was being the township chair of the American Cancer Society's annual Cancer Crusade. Upon moving to Grand Ledge in 1988 Leslie became involved with the Jaycees and their annual Tune Up fundraiser. As her children grew she became an active volunteer in their sports and extra curricular activities. Then, following a breast cancer diagnosis, Leslie began serving on several local, state, and national committees involved with the fight against cancer. She volunteered as a counselor at Camp Catch a Rainbow and transitioned into the Director of the Young Adult Retreats. Leslie also started Grand Ledge's Relay for Life team and in its first year helped raise over \$88,000.



Dr. Karl Gregory of Southfield has volunteered approximately 63,700 hours since 1959. Nearly 49 years ago he became involved with Detroit CORE and other housing desegregation efforts to help eliminate discrimination practices among realtors and policy makers in the community. He is a member of the Community Impact Cabinet making funding recommendations to the United Way for Southeastern Michigan and is active with the membership committee of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. He also devotes his time to several efforts in the Detroit area including One D. He is an active member of the Detroit Repertory Theater, Cultural Alliance, Detroit Work Force Development Board, and Adult Well-Being Services.

Bill Heaton of Livonia has been a volunteer for most of his life, and he significantly increased the time he spends volunteering when he retired from the Ford Motor Company in 1996. For 34 years, he has been involved with Community Opportunity Center, an organization that provides housing and services to nearly 100 men and women with developmental disabilities. This is just

the beginning of his service. With his support and involvement, the Livonia Goodfellows annually raised more than \$100,000 and reached out to nearly 1,000 individuals. He has been heavily involved in his church, Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, and served as the head of the mission department for seven years. He has been the president of the Plymouth Association of Retarded Citizens and volunteered with One Heart Many Hands and Detroit Impact.

Lois Herbage of Saginaw became active in the Zonta Club of Saginaw in 1947 and still devotes most of her volunteer time to Zonta, advancing the status of women within their communities and worldwide. She has been an active member of League of Women Voters for 48 years, helped organize the Saginaw Women's Council, volunteered at the St. Francis Home for 24 years, and is an active member of St. John Lutheran Church in Saginaw. At 90 years old she also works to help others in need in her community by working with the VITA program of Saginaw to assist low-income persons complete their income tax forms, and is involved with community projects through United Way of Saginaw County.

Howard King of Traverse City has demonstrated a high level of professional and personal commitment to his community for many years. In 1959 he began his commitment to community service as a fundraising volunteer with the American Cancer Society. He was ordained as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, Lions Club member in Wooster, Ohio and a member of the Rotary Club, all by 1965. Following a professional relocation to Ann Arbor, Michigan in the 1970s, Howard began volunteering as the "Voice of Michigan Stadium."



For the next 32 years, his voice could be heard over the PA, delighting University of Michigan football fans. He also volunteered as an announcer for the U of M basketball team from 1972 to 1991. Following his retirement, he relocated to Traverse City in 1999 and has become an active volunteer with the Rotary Club, Presbyterian Church, and National Cherry Festival.

Corporate Community Leader Award

Corporations and businesses that excel in community involvement are honored with this award. The commitment to serve is made by employees, both hourly and salaried, and can take many forms including, but not limited to, corporate volunteer programs, monetary contributions, in-kind gifts, and employee-driven volunteer service.

Alticor, Incorporated of Ada has an ongoing supportive relationship with Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan, Inc. Since 2000, the company has donated time, money, product, volunteers, and professional expertise to help the food bank further its mission of feeding the needy in 40 West Michigan counties. The company has made in-kind donations of boxes, assorted grocery items, and hygiene products. Alticor encourages community involvement by all of its employees and in 2007 employees were involved with 90 different nonprofit organizations.



Compuware of Detroit is proud to use their employees' skills and efforts for the greater good in their community. Since 2004, Compuware employees have been active in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Lunch Buddies mentoring program with children at Bunche Elementary and Marcus Gravey Elementary. The company's strong philanthropy program contributes to the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Hilberry Theatre, the Karmanos Cancer Institute, and after school programs such as Think Detroit, Mosaic Youth Theater college tour, and Sphinx music education outreach. Compuware employees are actively involved with several company-led volunteer efforts including Compuware CAN, Volunteer Champions Grant, Edmondson Tutors, Compuware Adult Reading Program, Team Compuware/Race for the Cure, Paint Woodward Pink, St. Al's Pals, Npower Tech Day of Service, Goodfellows Doll Program, Thanksgiving Parade, Junior Achievement Job Shadow Day, and Next Vision Leadership Development Program.



Great Lakes Capital Fund of Lansing encourages its employees to give back to their communities across Michigan and beyond. When GLCF was developed in 1993, one of the focuses was to support the growth of quality affordable housing and other economic and social opportunities for the poor. GLCF is involved with the Art of Leadership (ALF) programs across Michigan and has employees serving on the board of directors and as course leaders, coaches, and assistants. GLCF employees also volunteer with Think Detroit, Habitat for Humanity, American Cancer Society, St. Ignatius Nonprofit Housing Corporation Board, Michigan Avenue Business Association Board, Special Olympics, Kids in the Kitchen, Junior League, FEAST, Relay for Life, American Red Cross, and many more. In 2007, employees of GLCF contributed \$1.1 million through donations and grants towards these efforts. This includes \$2,500 offered to each employee to donate to a charity of his or her choice.



Huntington Bank – West Michigan of Grand Rapids is a “local bank with national resources.” Their four-part business plan includes knowing their customers, making decisions at the point of contact, being flexible when necessary, and being deeply involved in the communities they serve. The community involvement of Huntington Bank and its associates includes partnerships and programs that add value to the quality of community life. Through the Commitment to Community program Huntington Bank developed with NBC affiliate WOOD TV8 and other partners, community programs about diversity, wellness, financial education, and literacy are supported with on-air programming and community events. Huntington Bank also supports the American Cancer Society, Junior Achievement, Heart of West Michigan United



Way, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, and more. In the past five years, Huntington Bank has committed nearly \$5 million to support these organizations and causes.

Panera Bread of Detroit began their Impact Your Neighborhood program in southeastern Michigan in 2007. It encourages Panera staff and community members to volunteer on designated Saturdays throughout the year. In 2008 Panera will expand their Impact Your Neighborhood Program to increase the number of yearly projects to at least six and engage more than 200 volunteers. The company has also sponsored initiatives including Alternative Spring Break Detroit, Make a Difference Day, Days of Caring, and the University of Michigan Dearborn and United Way Immersion program. Panera also sponsors the Community Breadbox and Day-End Dough-Nation programs as they aim to help improve southeastern Michigan in a time when resources are short and nonprofits are in great need.

Mentor of the Year Award

This award honors an individual who has made a significant difference in a child's life over time through mentoring. For the purpose of this award, mentoring is defined as a structured and trusting relationship that brings a young person together with a caring individual who offers guidance, support, and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the mentee.

Nathan Bender of Holland has been mentoring Jose through Barnabas Ministries, Inc. since 2006 and the two of them have made the commitment to see each other at least three times a month throughout 2008. Nathan and Jose participate in a variety of activities including beach visits, racquetball, Frisbee golf, and bowling. Other activities have included playing on a summer and fall softball league, filling out job applications, and volunteering at Barnabas' Girl's foster home in Holland. The two of them have also worked on reaching goals together. One of their most ambitious goals was completing the five miles of the Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Run through the Mentoring: A Running Start initiative of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness. They have also been focusing on getting Jose into college by filling out applications and taking tours of campuses.



Cary Levy of Troy has been mentoring Ryan through Mentor Connection for the past ten years. Mentor Connection is a program of Jewish Family Service of Metropolitan Detroit and Cary and Ryan's relationship is the longest-running match in the program's 20-year history. Cary met Ryan when he was just five. Throughout the years they've enjoyed bowling, movies, hiking, and golf, and in 2006, they participated in the annual Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Run with Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. As Ryan entered high school, their relationship changed as Ryan's problems with substance abuse landed him in a residential treatment facility. Despite the challenge, Cary continues to support and encourage Ryan and helped with his



transition following his February 15th facility graduation. Cary has also shown a strong commitment to Mentor Connection by serving as the mentor liaison for the past four years and participating on the program's advisory board.

Kent and Laura Maurer of Jackson have been actively involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County, Inc. for the past six years. They were first matched with their "Little," Jesse, when he was only six years old. The couple meets with Jesse every Wednesday so they can have dinner together, work on homework, participate in special activities, or just hang out. One of Kent and Laura's goals for Jesse is to improve his reading skills and instill the importance of doing well in school. They both have worked with Jesse on social skills, manners, and reading. Special outings are particularly important to the trio as they've visited Lake Michigan, the Jackson Balloon festival, sporting events, and more. Since 2002, Kent and Laura have devoted more than 1,400 hours of mentoring to Jesse.

Cory Rowe of Negaunee has been a mentor through the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marquette County's community-based mentoring program for almost four years. At the beginning Cory was matched with David. The two of them enjoyed baseball, bike riding, mountain climbing, snowshoeing, and attending local events. As David got older Cory got involved in another child's life and about two years ago became JoJo's mentor. Cory's match with JoJo has grown into a strong friendship that includes JoJo's older brother and mom. Cory has worked hard to incorporate the entire family in his mentoring activities and has continued to be a dedicated volunteer with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marquette County.



Merianne Tappan of Comins was one of the first people to join the Michigan State University Extension Oscoda County Friend-to-Friend 4-H Mentoring program in January 2006. Since then she has mentored Harlie and they have spent more than 300 hours together. The two of them enjoy swimming and sharing crazy hairstyles. They often compose poems, create drawings, and write letters as ways to express their friendship. During this past year Merianne also became Harlie's weekly school lunch buddy. Merianne gives to the community in other ways, too. She has been vice president of the Mio Co-Op Nursery School for the past three years where she volunteers a significant amount of time. Merianne is also a registered Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program counselor and helped area seniors save over \$10,000 in 2007.



Outstanding Mentoring Program Award

Mentoring programs are responsible for developing and maintaining high-quality experiences for both the mentor and mentee. Outstanding programs have systems in place for recruitment, retention, background checks, ongoing support, evaluation, and more as recommended by the Mentor Michigan Quality Program Standards.

The Art of Leadership Foundation (ALF) of Detroit inspires vision and leadership in young people, giving them the skills to succeed in their lives and to be community leaders. ALF was developed by PMP, Inc., a team of professional leadership coaches, who believe leadership is a gift each person, young and old, has been given and thus should utilize. The program currently provides mentoring to over 150 young people from pre-teen years through high school and has reached over 300 young people since it was created eight years ago. The program, which begins in middle school, includes orientation, leadership development retreat, coaching sessions, and a community service project. Once these steps are completed and mentees advance to high school, they take on their own leadership roles by mentoring the newer ALF participants.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit has positively changed the lives of at-risk children in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties for more than 70 years. The program creates structured and trusting relationships that bring young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support, and encouragement. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit focuses on community-based and site-based mentoring. Their community-based model matches volunteer mentors and mentees who meet once a week to share time, experiences, and enriching activities. Their site-based program partners with area schools, businesses, and community centers to provide adult and youth match activities that take place on-site. Together, these programs have served more than 6,470 children since 2002.



The Carson City-Crystal Mentoring Program in Montcalm County connects at-risk students in need of guidance with caring adults. The program was founded over ten years ago and currently engages 55 mentors and 65 mentees. Volunteers meet with their students for one-hour each week to assist with schoolwork, offer friendship, and share their wisdom around social issues. In 2006, the Carson City-Crystal Mentoring Program expanded and formed a partnership with Kids Hope USA and the Crystal Congregational Church to go beyond the traditional adult-child matching. Now, two new programs focus on high school students mentoring younger children in the district. These new programs have reached 250 youth since it began two years ago.



The Michigan State University Extension Journey 4-H Youth Mentoring Program in Grand Haven has been focusing on positive youth development since 1992. They pair Ottawa County youth exhibiting delinquent behavior with caring adult mentors in an effort to reduce criminal behavior. Youth participate in the program voluntarily and are referred by probation officers, therapists, and other community agencies through the Journey Program's partnership with the 20th Judicial Circuit Court, Juvenile Services Division. The adult-youth matches spend at least two hours a week in a variety of community activities and matches traditionally last at least 18 months. In 2007, 32 youth and 26 volunteers were involved with the program and mentee court records document the program's effectiveness. During the 2006-07 program year, 53 percent of mentored youth did not commit delinquent offenses during their match.



The Oscoda County Michigan State University Extension Mentoring Program has been helping disadvantaged youth since it was created in September 2005. Its Friend-to-Friend Mentoring program screened and trained adult volunteers to serve as mentors to youths ages nine to 15. Over time the program has grown to impact the lives of over 52 youths—which is more than 5% of the students in the Mio AuSable and Fairview Area school districts. Key activities include a community Blood Drive, field trips, and area clean-ups. Thanks to a 2007 grant, the program has developed a peer-mentoring program. This expansion trains mature teens, ages 13 through 19, as peer mentors for elementary age youth to provide these younger students with positive role models.

Outstanding Volunteer Program Award

This award acknowledges the importance an organization or club makes in community life. The nominees in this category strive to make communities better places to live through a variety of activities or by focusing on one issue of primary importance in their community. Schools, faith-based organizations, national service programs, nonprofit organizations, and service clubs are potential nominees.

Brother Dan's Food Pantry of Petoskey is a ministry of St. Francis Xavier Church and has been serving nutritional food to the needy since 2003. The program provides clients with three full days of balanced meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The clients receive a planned menu, choose groceries from the pantry shelves, and prepare their own meals at home. The pantry is totally staffed by more than 180 volunteers who keep things running smoothly. They stock and clean the pantry, pick up gleaned food from local merchants, grocery shop, fund raise, deliver food to the homebound, plan menus, weigh and measure ingredients, and serve pantry clients. In 2007, the pantry served more than 101,550 meals and created two new programs. The Soup Kitchen provides lunch to hungry families and the St.



Francis' Outreach Program helps homeless families find homes and pay their utility/mortgage bills.

City Mission of Detroit opened in 1998 as a neighborhood-based private school and nonprofit organization offering educational enhancement, tutoring, mentoring, and enrichment programs to children and their families. City Mission's first program was an after school-tutoring course comprised of seven students. Now the organization has over 100 students in the after school programs and engages 70 dedicated adult volunteers. These volunteers tutor, mentor, develop curriculum, teach character development, and build relationships. Each volunteer commits to two hours each week for a minimum of 23 weeks. Most volunteers work with at least two students, creating an opportunity for relationships to develop peer to peer as well as peer to adult.



Detroit Executive Service Corps' (DESC) enhances the effectiveness of nonprofit, educational, and governmental organizations in southeastern Michigan by sharing the knowledge, skills, and expertise of retired and working executives. Through DESC's Management Assistance Program, it strengthens and improves the effectiveness and leadership of these organizations. DESC was established in 1982 through a joint effort by the General Motors Corporation and the United Way. The organization's volunteers devoted more than 6,400 service hours in 2007 and because of their success, services are in high demand. Last year, DESC completed 295 projects and impacted 1,018,000 people in metropolitan Detroit.



Medical Care Access Coalition of Marquette responds to the medical needs of uninsured families and individuals in three counties in Marquette, Schoolcraft, and Alger Counties in the Upper Peninsula. The program engages volunteer physicians and pharmacy services to provide health care and medications to those in need. Each year, the program reaches approximately 1,000 uninsured low-income adults. In 2006, volunteer providers gave more than \$790,000 in donated services for lab tests, primary and specialty care, prescriptions, and other health services. The MCAC has helped establish four Local Access Coalitions in all corners of the U.P. through its innovative model.



The Third Street Transition Center of Muskegon is a special education classroom that has developed a volunteer shopping program for the residents of Jefferson Towers, a Senior Citizen Public Housing Complex. Students at the Third Street Transition Center are taught daily living skills, such as cooking, cleaning, and using public transportation. They are also taught the importance of contributing to their community. What better way to tie all of those skills together than through their shopping program? Every week Third Street Transition Center students pick up shopping lists from Jefferson Tower residents, conduct their purchasing, and deliver their groceries. Student and volunteers spend an average of 56 hours collectively each week accomplishing all of these tasks.



Senior Volunteer of the Year

This category honors individuals who are age 65 or older. These nominees may be involved with many activities or given significant time to one particular cause.

Sarah Brooks of Grand Rapids has dedicated her life to veterans and their families. Because of her family military background, including her late husband, three brothers, and a granddaughter, Sarah has been involved with serving veterans in the Grand Rapids community since the late 1940s. She joined the Crispus Attuck Unit #59 of the American Legion Auxiliary, 62 years ago and has held all offices and chairmanships in that Unit. She belongs to the Fifth District Association and the Eight et Forty, both initiatives of the American Legion Auxiliary. Nearly 50 years ago she became involved with the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans where she has given more than 27,000 volunteer hours. Sarah works hard to combat homelessness by providing materials to local shelters including Guiding Light, Dwelling Place, Ferguson Apartments, YWCA, Herkimer Hotel, Wellness House, and Liz's House.



Jai Jaglan of Okemos has worked and volunteered to help the poor in his homeland of India and in Michigan. A resident of Okemos since 1984, Jai was elected Secretary of the India Cultural Society (ICS) of Greater Lansing in 1994. He'd always been concerned about feeding the hungry and helping the homeless in the Lansing area and once he was an integral part of ICS he began promoting the concept of serving others. Since 1994, Jai has spent several hundred hours contacting ICS members for their donations. Total donations to-date are more than \$138,000, helping the Greater Lansing Food Bank feed over 1,660 families per month. Jai has also arranged blood drives at Bharatiya Temple for the local American Red Cross and participates in Meals on Wheels with his fellow State of Michigan co-workers.



Gerard Perry of Ionia is 94 years old and has no intention of slowing down. Gerard's volunteer efforts began in 1926 when he became involved with Boy Scouts. Now, many years later and 28 years after his retirement, he volunteers with the Ionia Theatre; Ionia Historical Society; Saints Peter and Paul Church; American Red Cross; and the Gerald R. Ford Boy Scout Council. At the Ionia Theatre alone, Gerard's volunteer service hours total 1,300 each year.



Bill Sanford of Milan says he has been very fortunate his entire life so he looks for ways to give back. In 1998, he began training with Hospice of Washtenaw and gave about 75 patient hours each year through 2005 when he began volunteering with Arbor Hospice. There he was introduced to the By Your Side volunteer program that provides bedside comfort for patients in the Residence of Arbor Hospice. Since June 2006, Bill has volunteered for the 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. shift every Thursday to sit with patients who are actively dying, restless, and/or experiencing high anxiety. Bill has clocked more than 400 volunteer hours with Arbor Hospice.



Robert Spencer of Battle Creek retired in 1993 from General Motors but wasn't quite ready to relax and take it easy. Instead, he began volunteering with his church and driving for Meals on Wheels. That same year he also got involved with the Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity. Robert is now their construction manager and volunteers between 30 and 50 hours per week. He also donates his own money for project materials. In September, he participated in Eurobuild 2007, which was the largest European Habitat event in history. Since 1993, Robert has donated approximately 27,300 hours and helped build more than 100 houses in the Battle Creek area.



Volunteer of the Year Award

This award is reserved for an individual who strives to improve the lives of neighbors, friends, community, or congregation. Individuals nominated for this award could be adults, national service members, educators, and more.

Jonathan Adams of Southfield decided three years ago that there was a need for an all-volunteer, citywide organization to help beautify his community. On that fateful day in 2005, Jonathan created The Southfield Parks and Garden Club. Thanks to his previous work experience with English Gardens, a local garden center and landscape company, Jonathan began planning, organizing, and directing the Club. Projects have included planting more than 300 native trees in city green spaces, the donation of fully decorated Christmas trees to needy families, the clearance, mapping, and chipping of four miles of City Park trails, and beautifying the yards of nearly 40 qualified residents. Since the inception of the Southfield Parks and Garden Club, Jonathan has donated more than 4000 hours towards its activities.

Dr. James Fahner of Grand Rapids knows that 75 percent of his pediatric hematology/oncology patients at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital are curable, while nearly 25 percent are not. Already active as a volunteer on the Hospice of Michigan Foundation's board of trustees, James decided to create a pediatric hospice program. The Hospice of Michigan Pediatric Program is the only one of its kind in West Michigan and one of the only pediatric hospice programs in the Midwest.



Since its inception, it has cared for more than 400 patients. James continues to devote his time at Hospice of Michigan to ensure the pediatric program remains financially secure. Over the years he has helped raise more than \$1 million through the Big Picture Project, telling the stories of families who used the pediatric hospice program. James has also helped raise more than \$21 million for Hospice of Michigan's open access program, which provides care for anyone who seeks it.

Leon Judd of Northville became a volunteer with the Oakwood Healthcare System in 1987 when he was vice president of human resources at National Steel Corporation. Because the majority of his National Steel coworkers lived in the Oakwood service community, Leon felt compelled to get involved in optimizing the health system servicing those people. After Leon's son was stricken with mental illness, he became involved with the National Service Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) in 1995. In this capacity, Leon has been involved with the Alliance for the Mentally



Ill Oakland County and been president of the NAMI Metro affiliate serving Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. He has also been active in family-oriented instructional and support opportunities. These are just a few of the ways Leon has devoted over 3,600 hours of his time to healthcare efforts.

Eleanor Miller of Cedar has tied her love of horses with volunteering for many years. In 1979, she began running the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Proud Equestrian Program and drew people from five counties into the therapeutic riding program. After seven years, funding cuts led to the dissolution of the program; yet Eleanor continued to remain involved in 4-H over the years. She started the 4-H Horse Club, which includes a Horse Day Camp, trips to horse shows, clinics, fairs, and other opportunities for members to socialize. Eleanor is active in coaching 4-H horse bowl teams and was instrumental in the re-development of the Proud Equestrian Program.



Terri Thomas of Kalamazoo devotes her time to volunteering because it has helped heal her own life. Nearly 20 years ago Terri's days were led by alcoholism, addiction, prostitution, sexual assault, abuse, and motherhood. Since then, her path has changed and her life has turned around. In 1995 she became the director for Kalamazoo's Deacon Conference. Terri has been a mentor and course leader for the Art of Leadership Foundation, the host for Testimony TV, and ministers to the needs of those involved with Forgotten Man's Ministry at the Kalamazoo County Jail. She is a founding and active member of COMM-UNITY Responders, volunteers with her church group Hurts, Habits, and Hang-ups, and recently became involved in her neighborhood through Arcadia Community. Terri has volunteered 1,965 hours, served more than 30,000 people, and has raised funds for many of the organizations she is involved with.



Youth Volunteer of the Year Award

This category honors individuals who are 21 or younger. These nominees may be involved with many activities or given significant time to one particular cause.

Jeanette DeVito of Crystal got involved with American Cancer Society's Relay for Life during her freshman year at Carson City-Crystal High School. Now, as a senior, she has been instrumental in getting her fellow classmates and members of her community involved in a variety of ways. In December 2007 she conducted a Penny War raising more than \$1,065. She has participated in bottle drives and car washes throughout Crystal and Carson City and planned a March 2008 pancake supper. Most recently she designed a t-shirt to support her Relay for Life team. Since 2004, Jeanette has volunteered approximately 450 hours.



Kelly Doughman of Kingsford began volunteering when she was seven—a time when other kids were enjoying their cartoons. For the past eight years she has devoted every Sunday to the Spring Lake Animal Shelter, changing the lives of the animals there and, in return, the people who adopt them. Kelly, a sophomore at Kingsford High School, spends countless hours beautifying the shelter and making the animals comfortable. She extends her volunteer time outside of the shelter by fostering animals in need of extra attention, care, and socializing before they are ready for adoption. Kelly's efforts have impacted the future of the Spring Lake Animal Shelter as a clean shelter brings in more visitors, which leads to more donations.



Adam Harris of Lathrup Village used a November 2007 Alternative Spring Break trip to Lake Charles, Louisiana to propel himself into volunteering. Following 10 days of hurricane recovery relief Adam, who is now 21, returned to the University of Michigan Dearborn, where he developed a student organization called SWOT. This organization offers U of M students an opportunity to get involved in volunteering in southeast Michigan. This year for the first time, 50 students from across the U.S. will convene in southeast Michigan for a local Alternative Spring Break – all thanks to Adam’s passion and leadership.



Katherine Johnson of Lake Orion used to have issues fitting in at school and finding close friends. Following a summer of volunteering at Orion Neighborhood Television that isn’t a problem anymore. By developing her technical and creative skills, Katherine has been instrumental in creating media materials that help teach her peers the skills she has learned and has helped preserve a local schoolhouse as a historical site. Katherine, who is a senior at Lake Orion High School, has been involved with X-TEND, where she mentors middle school students every Monday after school. In 2007, Katherine also helped set up and run a tutoring program allowing students and adults to assist elementary school students with their homework. This fall she plans to attend Oakland University and study Broadcasting and Secondary Education.



Olivia Thomas of Kalamazoo was introduced to volunteering when she was just 11 years old and has not looked back. For the past four years she has participated in the Art of Leadership Foundation’s (ALF) leadership program. Through this program, an intense, six year program, Olivia has developed her natural gift for leadership. Over the years she’s been actively engaged in planning and executing a local park clean up, a paint-by-number mural for the city of Kalamazoo, a community block party, and hurricane relief work in Florida. Olivia also volunteers with the Kalamazoo Deacon’s Conference and their Roundball Classic, Back to School Bash, and Summer Gatherings. Olivia is a 15-year-old sophomore at Kalamazoo Central High School and has devoted more than 556 hours to community service.

