

## 2009 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Summary of Projects

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) encouraged organizations and individuals to register service projects for the 2009 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Through partnerships with the Corporation for National and Community Service – Michigan Office, the Volunteer Centers of Michigan, Michigan Campus Compact, the LEAGUE – Michigan, and Michigan Association of United Ways, Michigan registered 366 service projects in 2009. Many of the projects were of a collaborative nature with more than one organization involved in the planning.

Here is a sampling of 2009 MLK Day projects:

### **AmeriCorps Programs Partner for Fire Safety**

To reduce fires and fire-related injuries, AmeriCorps members from American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids and Camp Fire USA programs traveled to 11 different locations in the Greater Grand Rapids area and distributed 1,000 free smoke alarms, 652 coloring books, and 1,635 pieces of fire safety literature to interested community members. Members began their MLK Day of service at 6:00 a.m. and followed up with a late afternoon reception at the Red Cross to celebrate the day's accomplishments and the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



*AmeriCorps members offer community members free smoke alarms.*

### **Jackson Public Schools Embrace MLK Day**

Several school buildings in the Jackson Public Schools District completed their own projects in honor of the 2009 Martin Luther King Day.

"These projects," said LEAGUE AmeriCorps VISTA member Aimee Potts, "included the Giving Game, a food drive, a coin collection for a local non-profit, a peace march, and Challenge Day participation. Hundreds of students participated and commemorated Dr. King's dream!"



*Savannah Zednicek and Lincoln Elementary School students show off their completed blankets.*

### **Giving Up Recess**

Eighty students came together from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades at Lincoln Elementary School in Petoskey, Michigan to make fleece blankets.

"Most impressive...my 4th grade participants gave up their lunch recess to lend a hand. I found the numbers of boys and girls willing to give up their play time to help, amazing,"

said Char-Em ISD Michigan's AmeriCorps Member Council Representative Savannah Zednicek, who coordinated the service-learning project.

The blankets created were donated to the local safe-home.

### **United Way Promotes Service on MLK Day**

United Way for Southeastern Michigan is dedicated to creating long-lasting changes by addressing the underlying causes of problems within our society. United Way believes the "Live United" credo and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message of giving back to communities lives on by strengthening communities, empowering individuals, and bridging barriers. United Way for Southeastern Michigan is committed to strengthening its communities and listed partnership opportunities for MLK Day with local agencies and colleges and universities.

### **Setting an Example as a Day On**

Several employees of the Michigan Community Service Commission created or participated in service opportunities throughout Michigan on MLK Day. Six employees helped paint at a North Lansing homeless shelter called Loaves and Fishes. One employee participated at an annual blood drive held in the Jackson community. And another employee attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mentoring Inspiration Breakfast held by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint. This year's program featured a "Big for a Day" component, which paired interested community members with unmatched children at the event.



*MCSC employee Angelia Salas helps paint Loaves and Fishes.*

## **Bright Colors, Bright Futures**

In response to Michigan Campus Compact's MLK Challenge, a team of Schoolcraft College students gathered with elementary students, instructors, parents, and staff to brighten up Fisher Elementary School in Redford, Michigan. The volunteers prepared and painted the upper floor of the school. The three-day redecoration effort concentrated on bright colors and words to inspire students' Bright Futures.



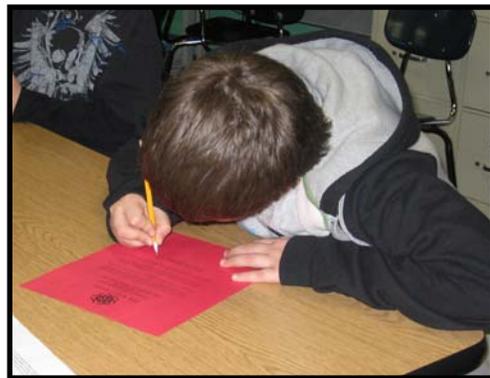
## **Martin Luther King Reading Project**

As part of Martin Luther King Day *and* the beginning of Black History Month, the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development offered the Martin Luther King Day Initiative to 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes in all elementary schools in Marquette and Alger counties January 19 - February 6, 2009.

Volunteers were and are available to come to classes and participate in reading and facilitating discussion about Martin Luther King, Jr. Volunteers were prepared to discuss the book *Heroes of America: Martin Luther King, Jr.* Copies of this book were provided to the schools three years ago and the Center is assisting with the replacement of books as needed.

## **Creating Civically Engaged Students**

Members of Volunteer Muskegon's AmeriCorps program visited two area schools: Reeths Puffer Intermediate and Waypoint Academy to teach students about civic engagement. Fifth and sixth grade students learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement. They also participated in a variety of learning activities and signed a pledge of nonviolence.



*A young student signs a pledge of nonviolence.*

## **At the National Level**

Americans in all 50 states made it a "day on, not a day off" by signing up mentors, reading to children, planting trees, refurbishing schools, delivering meals, and much more. More than 13,000 service projects were registered across the country for the 2009 MLK Day.

President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe and Dr. Jill Biden, Cabinet Secretaries, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Members of Congress, Governors, and Mayors participated in planned projects within their respective communities and have committed themselves to future service.