



## 2009 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project AmeriCorps Members “Got Things Done!”

**May 15 & 16, 2009  
Flint, Michigan**



*Michigan's AmeriCorps members prepare to kick off the 2009 SSP.*

More than 250 Michigan's AmeriCorps\*State, National, VISTA, and NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) members gathered together to help restore Flint's Grand Traverse neighborhood as part of the 2009 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project (SSP). Each year AmeriCorps members from across Michigan join together for two days of training, teambuilding, and service. By the end of the second day, several projects are completed, visibly demonstrating the power of Michigan's AmeriCorps members in action.

The event began with an inspiring kickoff at Flint's Northbank Center where AmeriCorps members had the opportunity to hear from the project's namesake, Dr. Russell Mawby. Members were then divided into several project teams and dispersed throughout the community where they assisted with building and landscaping projects and helped construct a new play structure for area children in Memorial Park.

"We greatly appreciate Michigan's AmeriCorps for choosing the City of Flint as the site for this year's Signature Service Project. This service project reenergized the community and is another example of how Flint remains a 'City of Promise'," said Margaret Kato, executive director of Genesee County Habitat for Humanity. "This project is an excellent display of the wonderful things we can do when we all work together."

The 2009 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project also served as an official closing event for this year's AmeriCorps Week. AmeriCorps Week is a nationwide recruitment and recognition event designed to bring more Americans into service, salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their powerful impact, and thank the community partners who make AmeriCorps possible.

Throughout the two days of service, Michigan's AmeriCorps members received encouraging words from other special guests, including Corporation for National and Community Service Board Member, Julie Fisher Cummings; Habitat for Humanity of

Michigan CEO and President, Dr. Kenneth Bensen; and Michigan Community Service Commission Executive Director, Paula Kaiser VanDam.

This year's Signature Service Project was a partnership between Michigan's AmeriCorps, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan, and Genesee County Habitat for Humanity. The Signature Service Project is an annual event that serves a different community each year.



*CNCS Board Member Julie Fisher Cummings thanks the crowd with the help of some local youth volunteers.*

### **Fun 2009 Signature Service Project Facts!**

On May 15 and 16, more than 300 participants – including AmeriCorps members, alums, and community volunteers – accomplished the following:



- Contributed more than 3,300 hours of service to the Flint community.
- Installed a large play structure and two picnic tables, painted a storage building, and completed landscaping and planting at Memorial Park.
- Filled nearly 1,700 bags with trash and/or yard waste.
- Removed more than 200 heavy items, including carpet, tires, and car parts from various locations throughout the neighborhood.
- Completed two deck floors, three sheds, and two fences at current Habitat for Humanity sites.
- Cleared brush and garbage from a vacant lot to prepare for a future Habitat for Humanity build.
- Disposed of all brush, debris, and trash from the area around the city's vacant Oak School.
- Removed graffiti, planted flowers, and performed general cleanup at Flint's Riverbank Park.
- Created a community garden at Spring Grove (a site that previously contained 250 tons of trash!).

