



2011 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project Michigan's AmeriCorps Members "Got Things Done!"

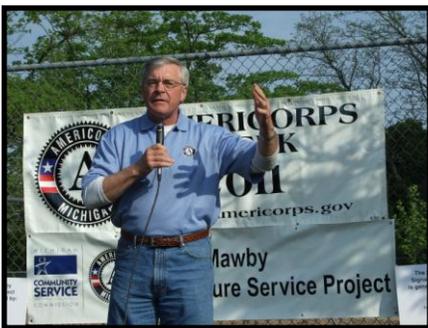
May 20 & 21, 2011
Grand Rapids, Michigan

More than 350 Michigan's AmeriCorps*State, National, and VISTA members gathered together to serve in Grand Rapids for the annual Russ Mawby Signature Service Project. AmeriCorps members assisted with various community projects and worked with several organizations to make a significant impact on the Grand Rapids community.

The event began with an inspiring kickoff at Aquinas College where AmeriCorps members had the opportunity to hear from the project's namesake, Dr. Russell Mawby, Paula Kaiser VanDam from the Michigan Community Service Commission, Steve Faber from Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, and Mary Buikema from Habitat for Humanity of Kent County. Members were then divided into various project teams and dispersed throughout Grand Rapids where they assisted with city park clean-up and landscaping projects and served in Habitat for Humanity's Wealthy Heights neighborhood.



The 2011 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project also served as an official closing event for Michigan's 2011 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.

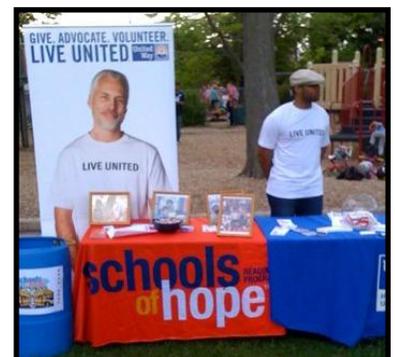


Throughout the two days of service, Michigan's AmeriCorps members received encouraging words from other special guests, including Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell and Director of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Jay Steffen.

This year's Signature Service Project was a partnership between the Michigan Community Service Commission, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids, and Elemental Media. The Signature Service Project is an annual event that serves a different community each year.

CINEMA & SERVICE NIGHT

This year's project included a special Friday evening event that was open to the community. Festivities included a volunteer fair, family-friendly activities and games for kids, live music, and an outdoor screening of the hit movie *Megamind*. It was a great way to kick off the summer and celebrate service and volunteerism!



Fun 2011 Signature Service Project Facts!

On May 20 and 21, more than 400 participants – including AmeriCorps members, alums, and community volunteers – accomplished the following:

- Scraped and painted two separate houses in the Wealthy Heights neighborhood.
- Completed various landscaping projects in the Wealthy Heights neighborhood.
- Removed invasive species, planted flowers, and painted the public building in Wilcox Park.
- Resurfaced multiple basketball courts at MLK Park.
- Re-landscaped an entire playground at Oakdale Park.
- Prepped a community pool for the summer at Richmond Park.
- Contributed more than 3,200 hours of service as a group.

For more information on the annual Russ Mawby Signature Service Project, visit www.michigan.gov/mcsc.



Thank you to the sponsors for this year's project:



Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services, Consumers Energy, Meijer, Heart of West Michigan United Way, and City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation.