



## 2012 Michigan's AmeriCorps Week Recap

The 2012 Michigan's AmeriCorps Week, which took place May 12 – 19, was a tremendous success with thousands of individuals participating in events throughout the state. To add to the excitement of the week, Governor Rick Snyder issued an official proclamation declaring it AmeriCorps Week in Michigan.

During the week-long celebration, members took the time to thank their community partners and recruit more Americans into service. Thousands of Michiganders learned about AmeriCorps through presentations, volunteer fairs, service projects, and media coverage during the week. Additionally, the Michigan Community Service Commission hosted the first-ever Michigan's AmeriCorps Week Twitter Chat, which had 15 participants from across the state discussing the significant impact of AmeriCorps.

Members and alums also celebrated AmeriCorps Week by doing what they do best – service! Projects varied from community beautification to a service rally and everything in between.

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### 2012 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project Impacted the Grand Traverse Region

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On Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19, more than 300 Michigan's AmeriCorps members from across the state gathered together in Traverse City for the annual Russ Mawby Signature Service Project. AmeriCorps members assisted with various community projects and served with several organizations to make a significant impact on the Grand Traverse region.

Each year, the Russ Mawby Signature Service Project brings hundreds of AmeriCorps members to one Michigan community 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 2012 project was a partnership with the Michigan Community Service Commission, Conservation Resource Alliance, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Habitat for Humanity Grand Traverse Region, SEEDS, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, United Way of Northwest Michigan, and Elemental Media.



During the two day event, members accomplished many important tasks for the community, including:

- Built, maintained, and improved more than 6,855 feet of new trail at the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area, Grand Traverse Commons, and Optimist Club.
- Planted 100 black willow saplings to prevent soil erosion near a river at the Grand Traverse Commons.
- Prepared a local and organic feast for 350 participants at the *Celebrate Service!* event.
- Stripped and repainted playground equipment at Crystal Lake Elementary School, including seven basketball hoops and more.
- Dug post holes on 450 feet of fence line and set 80 posts in preparation for the arrival of horses at the YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camp.
- Contributed more than 2,700 hours of service as a group.

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## Michigan's AmeriCorps Week Service Projects

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In addition to the Signature Service Project, AmeriCorps members from all across Michigan engaged in various service projects as they aimed to "Get Things Done" for their local communities. 2012 AmeriCorps Week activities were planned for Detroit, Lansing, Marquette, Petoskey, and Saginaw. Examples of specific projects included:



### **Sixth Annual Metro-Detroit AmeriCorps Celebration – Detroit**

On May 14, 128 AmeriCorps members and alumni gathered to serve on Belle Isle in Detroit for the 6th annual Metro-Detroit AmeriCorps Week project. Collectively, members served more than 750 hours removing garbage and invasive species in the Old Belle Isle Zoo to allow native plants to grow and enhance the beauty of the park. Members removed 280 bags of debris, filled one 40-foot dumpster, and removed thousands of pounds of trees, invasive plants, and other overgrown vegetation.

### **Camp Daggett Clean-Up – Petoskey**

Members from the Charlevoix-Emmet ISD AmeriCorps program joined together on May 12 to clean up Camp Daggett, which is a local summer camp for youth. Members served alongside volunteers and program staff to provide 45 hours of service spreading sand on the camp's beach area, splitting firewood, moving mattresses, relocating rocks, and cleaning the Arts and Crafts building.

### **Spring Into Service – Saginaw**

On May 17, members of the Saginaw Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership AmeriCorps program spent the day with 300 area youth and 60 local volunteers as they served at the Saginaw Children's Zoo. The service project involved improving the zoo in a variety of ways, including cleaning, painting, tearing down dilapidated structures, and building new developments to be placed throughout the zoo.



### **U.P. – Wide AmeriCorps Service Project – Marquette**

More than 50 volunteers and AmeriCorps members from the Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA) and Superior AmeriCorps programs came together on May 19 to make an impact on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The programs partnered with the Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Trust to remove more than 50 trash bags filled with invasive species from the beaches outside Marquette on M-28. The group also spent time planting native grasses in trees along the shore.



### **Community and School Garden Clean-Up – Lansing**

On Wednesday, May 16, Power of We Consortium AmeriCorps members teamed up with volunteers and other Lansing-based AmeriCorps members to participate in gardening service projects at two sites: South Lansing Community Development Association and the Ingham County Family Center. The gardens are used as an education tool, as well as by local residents who wish to grow healthy food for their families and/or donate fresh produce to the food pantry.

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### About the MCSC

*The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) builds a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. In 2011-2012, the MCSC is granting nearly \$8 million in federal funds to local communities for volunteer programs and activities. The MCSC is funding 24 AmeriCorps programs and seven Volunteer Michigan grantees. The Governor's Service Awards and Mentor Michigan are also premier programs of the MCSC.*