



AmeriCorps Week 2007: We Got it Done!

AmeriCorps Week Highlights May 13-20, 2007

Active links to on-line media coverage appear in blue

The first-ever National AmeriCorps Week was a major success. Thanks to the tens of thousands of AmeriCorps members, alums, staff, partners, and friends who joined in celebrating AmeriCorps reaching 500,000 members and recruiting more Americans into service.

From building homes and delivering meals to restoring parks and signing up volunteers, tens of thousands of AmeriCorps members and alums made the first-ever AmeriCorps Week a major success. From Georgia to Guam and Arizona to Alaska, members and alums celebrated AmeriCorps reaching a historic milestone of 500,000 members by doing what they do best – service. They also took time to thank their community partners and to recruit more Americans into service. Millions of Americans learned about AmeriCorps through school presentations, recruitment fairs, service projects, and media coverage during the week. AmeriCorps Week was also a time to say “Thank You” to AmeriCorps members and alums. The President, Congress, Governors, Mayors, sports stars, actors, and people who’ve benefited from the helping hands of an AmeriCorps member all took time to salute the men and women of AmeriCorps for their dedication, accomplishments, and patriotism.

FAST FACTS

- *More than 200 events in all 50 states, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and Washington D.C.*
- *AmeriCorps Week resolution passed by U.S. House of Representatives*
- *Proclamations from 23 Governors and Washington D.C. Mayor*
- *Widespread media coverage including Good Morning America, Fox News, CBS Early Show, and 55+ newspapers*
- *AmeriCorps’ 500,000 members have provided more than 637 million hours of service worth \$11.9 billion dollars*

AmeriCorps Week In Michigan

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm officially declared the week of May 13, 2007 as Michigan’s AmeriCorps Week. All across Michigan, AmeriCorps Week activities and events showcased the power of AmeriCorps members and alumni and educated people about the role, impact, and importance of AmeriCorps in our communities. AmeriCorps Week events took place in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Benton Harbor, Lansing, Muskegon, Holland, Marquette, Charlevoix, Ionia, Williamston, and Houghton. Projects ranged in scope from a children’s book drive to remodeling a women’s shelter to dune restoration. AmeriCorps Week projects engaged Michigan’s AmeriCorps*State and National Direct members, VISTA, Senior Corps, Learn and Serve, AmeriCorps Alums, and other community partners.



In addition to the projects planned by Michigan's AmeriCorps programs, several other initiatives took place:

- MCSC Board Chair and First Gentleman, Daniel G. Mulhern featured AmeriCorps during two nights of his talk radio program. **Article:** [A Day with Michigan's first gentleman](#)
- Representative Steve Tobocman, who is the House Majority Floor Leader and a Michigan's AmeriCorps alum, presented a resolution in honor of AmeriCorps Week
- Time was devoted to educating state legislators about Michigan's AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps programs conducted legislative visits and dropped off information packets to the leadership of the legislature.
- The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) sent out a special edition newsletter highlighting AmeriCorps Week activities.
- Michigan's AmeriCorps Member Council representatives were matched up with Learn-and-Serve grantees to present AmeriCorps as a post-graduate opportunity to high school students.



MCSC Commissioner, Bernard Parker speaks to AmeriCorps members at the Detroit AmeriCorps Week Kickoff on May 14.

Michigan NonProfit SuperConference



The 2007 Michigan Nonprofit SuperConference took place on May 15-16 and featured AmeriCorps Week as one of the conference highlights. The SuperConference has become the major celebration for community volunteers throughout the state. Over 600 nonprofit executive staff, development professionals, Board members, volunteer program managers, national service participants, and leaders from the government, corporate, and faith communities gathered for two days of learning, networking, and renewal.

In honor of AmeriCorps Week, the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) hosted an AmeriCorps Week "100 Hours of Power" service project. All conference participants were asked to volunteer at least 15 minutes to the project with the goal being a total of at least 100 hours of service. The project involved making 50 fleece blankets to be

donated to Haven House, which is a Lansing nonprofit organization that provides emergency housing and support services for single-parent and two-parent families with children. AmeriCorps members wearing their "grays" (the standard AmeriCorps uniform) were stationed at the project tables to speak with participants about AmeriCorps and national service. The opening and closing plenaries featured AmeriCorps members and an AmeriCorps video.

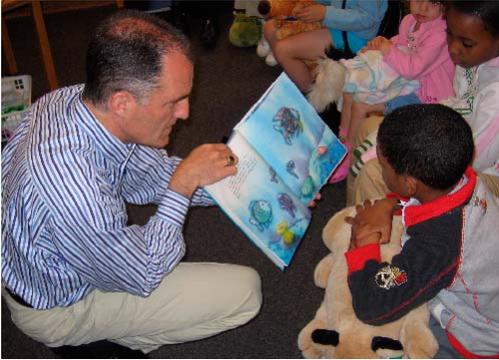
Many thanks to Michigan's AmeriCorps members and alums, AmeriCorps Program Directors, First Gentleman Mulhern, and the MCSC Commissioners for taking part in the week's activities!

See below for additional information about regional projects and activities.

Highlights of Activities Across Michigan

West Michigan

Grand Rapids



First Gentleman Mulhern takes time to read to a child during the 100 Hours of Power event.

Coordinated by *Together We Prepare AmeriCorps* (Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids) and *Neighborhood Youth Development AmeriCorps* (Camp Fire USA West Michigan Council), the Grand Rapids event focused on literacy. During the 100 consecutive hours of the project, AmeriCorps members collected a total of 2,433 books that were distributed to children in Grand Rapids after-school programs. Sixty volunteers logged more than 250 total hours of service, and 19 different AmeriCorps programs were represented. Three additional book drives were run at different locations in the community.

AmeriCorps and this project received publicity in the Grand Rapids Press, as well as on Fox17, Wood Radio 1300, and WGVU Radio. The project also generated an additional 1,500 books from World Wide Books to be donated later this summer.

Article: [100 Hours Promotes Reading](#)

Muskegon

The Volunteer Muskegon AmeriCorps program performed an “Extreme Home Makeover” for a local women’s shelter, in order to make it a more welcoming haven for women in need. They welcomed donations from local businesses, and hosted an open house to view the final results.



Volunteer Muskegon AmeriCorps members are proud of the finished room.

Holland



The *AmeriCorps Faith in Youth Partnership* (Good Samaritan Ministries) project took place on Saturday, May 19, 2007. Twenty people including AmeriCorps members and participating youth from FIYP programs teamed up with Bob Reichel, Park Supervisor for Ottawa County to preserve the dunes at Black Lake Boardwalk near the State Park and at Tunnel Park in Holland.

In preparation for the event, the youth were introduced to the environmental impact of their planned service by a presentation on

ground water at the Bridge Youth Ministry Center in Zeeland. The group then planted dune grass at Black Lake Boardwalk and worked to eradicate the garlic mustard that has been out-competing local plants in the dunes.

Bob Reichel commented, “Any time a volunteer group comes in it is a benefit to the county and the environment. [The group at Black Lake] is helping to stabilize a critical dune area, beautify the park and stop erosion. The garlic mustard in Tunnel Park has been a big problem as well.”

Northern Michigan

Traverse City

The *Michigan Groundwater Stewardship AmeriCorps* program (Michigan Department of Agriculture) is a statewide AmeriCorps based in Lansing. A member serving in the Traverse City area was profiled by the Traverse City Record Eagle. [AmeriCorps volunteers give back to community](#)

Charlevoix

The same article (above) highlighted 9 members from the *Char-Em ISD AmeriCorps Program*. The program’s project (in partnership with the Little Traverse Conservancy) involved 7 total AmeriCorps members, 2 Program Staff, 4 Little Traverse Conservancy Staff, and 14 non-AmeriCorps volunteers, including 7 students. These individuals collectively served 165 hours at the Chip Ransom Nature Preserve. Projects completed include: chipped small trees and limbs and used the chips to create a new ¼ mile trail; installed 160’ of wood fencing as a vehicle barrier; planted 30 white and cedar seedlings, 50 grey and red dogwood seedlings, and grass seeded as needed; removed landscape rocks, debris, trash from the old homestead site, and sticks, logs, and other obstacles along a 1.5 mile woodland trail; and installed 2 water bars to divert run-off and replaced a soil-retaining wall on the woodland trail.

Article: [AmeriCorps Week](#) (Please note that Matt Saunder’s title was mis-published; it should read “AmeriCorps member”).)

Upper Peninsula

Marquette

MARESA AmeriCorps members coordinated individual events at their host sites, focusing on disaster awareness/preparedness in order to build on training received earlier in their service year.

Houghton

Superior AmeriCorps members worked with area school children from 7 counties to write letters of encouragement to our soldiers serving in Iraq. A local church donated goods to be sent out with the National Guard members when they are deployed, along with the 1,048 letters and pictures created by children. Six individual care packets were created for local soldiers serving in Iraq.

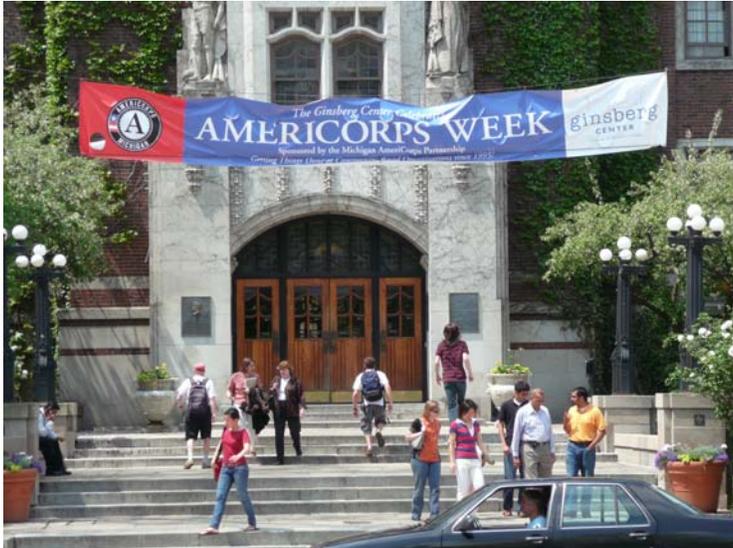


Letters and pictures by U.P. school children.

Southeast Michigan

Detroit Area

Four Michigan's AmeriCorps programs and two National Direct AmeriCorps programs planned and coordinated various projects throughout southeast Michigan. Programs involved included:



A 24-foot AmeriCorps Week banner was displayed on the University of Michigan Union (Ann Arbor campus) for two weeks, May 7-20, 2007.

- *Arab American-Resource Corps*
- *City Year Detroit*
- *CLEARCorps/Detroit*
- *Downriver CARES AmeriCorps*
- *Jumpstart - Michigan*
- *Michigan AmeriCorps Partnership*
- *The readetroit corps*

Individual members from several statewide programs and VISTAs also participated.

An opening rally was held at Campus Martius in downtown Detroit on Monday, May 14, and was attended by MCSC Commissioners Parker and Pardoe, in addition to MCSC AmeriCorps staff.

After the rally, members participated in a variety of projects. To name a few, some served in demolition and clean-ups project

in Northwest Detroit. The Michigan's AmeriCorps Partnership program collaborated with the Southfield Public Schools Learn & Serve Program to conduct canned food drive for Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit. The drive involved three schools and netted over 2,500 canned goods. The readetroit corps hosted "IHOP for Reading", where children received free books and a free meal at IHOP restaurants.

Central Michigan

Ionia

On Saturday, May 19, Ionia ISD AmeriCorps members held a Dog Expo for children and families in conjunction with their F.R.E.E. (Families Reading Every Evening) Movie program. The event ran concurrently with several other community events (historic home tours, quilt show, women's art show, model train exhibit, antique car show, garden club, March of Dimes



Walk for Life") so that community members could go from one event to the other. Members created buttons that said "I'm Involved", "100 Hours of Power", "AmeriCorps Week 2007" and "AmeriCorps joins the community in celebrating everyone who is involved!". Buttons were distributed to all

participants. The Dog Expo featured demonstrations from different kinds of helper dogs (search and rescue, therapy, Paws With A Cause) and agility dogs. It also had a dog parade, service providers (health, neuter & spaying, grooming, rescue and shelter), and a craft area where children could turn themselves into a dog of their choosing with face paints, fabric and yarn for ears and tails, and dog tags of their own design.

Williamston

The *Michigan Habitat's AmeriCorps* program started the string of AmeriCorps Week service projects with a park beautification project.

Articles: [Habitat supplies '100 hours of power' to park](#) and [Kiwanis Tot Lot gets makeover](#)

