

United We Serve – Michigan **June 22 – September 11, 2009**

All summer long Michigan has answered President Obama's call to service. Led by the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC), and supported by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and her Cabinet, a different opportunity to promote service and volunteerism in the Great Lakes state was created each week for *United We Serve* from June 22 to September 11.

United We Serve Kick Off in Michigan



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm marked the occasion on June 22 by joining U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Michigan Congressman Mark Schauer at a local YMCA in Battle Creek. While there, they helped assemble energy efficiency kits and educational materials for community members. First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern also participated in *United We Serve's* kick off by volunteering for a day during Saginaw Habitat for Humanity's three-week Blitz Build.

Michigan Cabinet Members Involvement

During the months of July and August several of Governor Granholm's Cabinet members engaged in volunteer and service recognition opportunities to promote *United We Serve*. Highlights include Department of Management and Budget Director Lisa Webb Sharpe visiting Habitat for Humanity of Detroit to assist with building a home in the Morningside Commons Community and Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth Director Stanley "Skip" Pruss stopping by Senior Services, Inc. in Kalamazoo to help conduct an energy-efficient light bulb drive.



Directors Webb Sharpe and Pruss were just two of the many Michigan Cabinet members who participated this summer. Others included:

- Department of Human Services Director Ismael Ahmed
- Department of Agriculture Director Don Koivisto
- Department of Community Health Director Janet Olszewski
- Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard, Major General Thomas G. Cutler
- Department of Information Technology Director Ken Theis
- Michigan State Police Director Col. Peter C. Munoz

While attending the volunteer and service recognition events, all the Cabinet members presented local individuals and/or organizations with President's Volunteer Service Awards.

President's Volunteer Service Awards

As part of this summer's *United We Serve* efforts, the MCSC sought nominations for deserving individuals and/or organizations to receive President's Volunteer Service Awards. The recipients received their honors based on their measured number of service hours over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime.



Over the span of June, July, and August the MCSC distributed 64 President's Volunteer Service Awards. Included in this summer's group of recipients were Betty Noverr and Pauline Vannek, two long-time Mid-Michigan Food Bank volunteers who give four hours of their time every Thursday to the Lansing organization. Department of Human Services Director Ismael Ahmed presented Betty and Pauline with their awards. Other recipients included a group of 29 West Michigan youth who give service to Muskegon's Youth Volunteer Corps. The youth participate in such activities as assisting area seniors, engaging in community renewal projects, participating in mentoring programs for younger children, prepackaging food for senior deliveries, and assisting at a camp for disabled participants. The youth received their awards from MCSC Commissioner Rob Collier.

Support from Our Partners

The *United We Serve* initiative saw much success in Michigan over the summer thanks to the support from the MCSC's various partners in the service sector. The following: Corporation for National and Community Service – Michigan State Office, Michigan Association of United Ways, Michigan Campus Compact, Michigan Nonprofit Association, Michigan State University Extension, The LEAGUE – Michigan, and Volunteer Centers of Michigan encouraged their constituents to create and post volunteer opportunities at www.serve.gov and get involved in *United We Serve*.

September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

To commemorate the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and to conclude this summer's national service initiative, *United We Serve*, citizens from across Michigan joined together last Friday to engage in volunteerism as part of the first-ever National Day of Service and Remembrance.

The MCSC invited all Michiganders to participate in service on September 11 – placing a special emphasis on combating hunger. According to the Food Bank Council of Michigan, more than 1.1 million people in our state use the Michigan food bank network annually. And, so far in 2009 Michigan food banks have distributed nearly 80 million pounds of food. The MCSC encouraged involvement in hunger-related activities in Michigan as part of the National Day of Service and Remembrance. As a result, the MCSC teamed with several Mid-Michigan area high schools by collecting food at area high-school football games on Friday, September 11. Six Mid-Michigan area high schools that hosted home games participated in the effort: Lansing Catholic, East Lansing, Haslett, Williamston, Lansing Sexton, Lansing East, and Eaton Rapids.



Food was donated to area food banks including the Mid-Michigan Food Bank which services Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Isabella, and Shiawassee counties.

Aside from the hunger-related events, more than 55 volunteer opportunities in Michigan were available to citizens on Friday, September 11.

Governor Granholm also issued an official proclamation declaring September 11 as a day of National Service and Remembrance in Michigan and focused her weekly radio address on the momentous occasion.