

## 2010 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in Michigan

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC), together with our partners the Michigan Department of Human Services, Volunteer Centers of Michigan, Michigan Campus Compact, the LEAGUE, the Corporation for National and Community Service – Michigan, and the Michigan Association of United Ways, encouraged organizations and individuals to get involved and plan service projects for the 2010 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

Key highlights of those efforts include:

- 2010 MLK Day projects primarily focused on **education** and **youth development**.
- More than **5,200 citizens** volunteered via **51 service projects** in Michigan for MLK Day.
- Those volunteers served/impacted more than **15,000 individuals**.

Here is a sampling of Michigan's 2010 MLK Day projects:

### **Kalamazoo Youth Engaged through Collaboration**

AmeriCorps\*VISTAs at The Kalamazoo County Poverty Reduction Initiative and Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services collaborated with the Kalamazoo Peace House to host an MLK day event for local preschool, elementary, and middle schools students. Students learned about Dr. King's message of serving others then experienced it by painting a mural celebrating diversity and delivering cookies to area neighbors.



### **MLK Day Read & Lead Project**

Throughout January, volunteers from the U.P. Volunteer Network and Great Lakes Center for Youth Development visited fourth grade classrooms in Marquette and Alger Counties to read and lead discussions on Martin Luther King, Jr. Students participated in activities designed to increase their understanding and knowledge of the man who gave the civil rights struggle a face and a name.

### **Soup for Seniors**

Volunteers at the United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula gathered to make and hand deliver quarts of soup to 96 senior citizens in the Sault Ste. Marie community. Young volunteers on site were also engaged by painting soup container bags and making cards for the soup recipients.

### **Survival Kits for Mid-Michigan Youth**

AmeriCorps\*State members from the Power of We and the American Red Cross and AmeriCorps\*VISTA members from Power of We united to gather donations for the Mid-Michigan Food Bank's Weekend Survival Kits. The kits are distributed to school children whose primary source of healthy and consistent meals is during school hours. The members partnered with Lansing-area L&L Food Stores to collect food items and cash donations from patrons.

*Power of We AmeriCorps members request donations at a Mid-Michigan L&L Food Center.*



### **Engaging Corporate Employees**

The Heart of West Michigan United Way collaborated with 200 employees from the law firm Miller Johnson to engage them in service on MLK Day in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Opportunities were made available to them at 21 different nonprofit agencies; including Habitat for Humanity, Paws with a Cause, Hospice of Grand Rapids, Children's Assessment Center, and YWCA.

## Rally & March for Jobs, Peace, and Justice in Detroit

To honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. individuals came together at Central United Methodist Church in Detroit to participate in a rally, neighborhood march, and cultural program. All participants were asked to bring a donation of warm winter wear items for the church's Homeless Outreach Program.



### Celebrating Diversity Together

American Express, United Way of Southeastern Michigan, and City Year Detroit joined together in the Detroit community to celebrate diversity on MLK Day. Volunteers, AmeriCorps members, and students visited Osborn High School to put together welcome kits for Freedom House Detroit, a temporary home for those seeking legal shelter in the U.S., as well as to participate in school beautification projects; such as painting classrooms, creating hallway murals, and developing a study area for students.

*An AmeriCorps\*VISTA helps paint inspirational messages on the lockers at Osborn High School.*

### Peace Benches Making Their Mark

Members of Superior AmeriCorps in the Upper Peninsula worked hard to implement their 2010 MLK Day project – an effort they launched last year. Their MLK Peace Bench project involved collecting funds and in-kind donations to build and place seven benches at three different schools in Hancock, Michigan. Each bench features an inspirational quote from Dr. King. They will continue their efforts in 2011 – with a projected order of more than 15 benches next year!



*A Superior AmeriCorps member works hard building an MLK Day Peace Bench.*

### Using Service-Learning on MLK Day

Seventh grade students in Romulus Community Schools' social studies classes joined with members of the Romulus High School LEAGUE Club to support families in their community. They conducted an area food distribution where they packed boxes to feed more than 200 local families. Their service-learning effort, called "Hand-to-Hand: Bridging Hunger" encompassed a variety of learning activities to help students discover the problems associated with hunger and food insecurity. The students also visited the Gleaners Food Distribution Center to further understand how their service efforts impacted others.

### Assisting Southeast Michigan on a Day "Off"

Students and staff from Madonna University, University of Michigan Dearborn, Lawrence Tech University, and Henry Ford Community College participated in service on MLK Day for the fourth consecutive year. Participants could be found at Beyond Basics, Bridging Communities, Child Help, Fish and Loaves, Gleaners Community Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, and local schools in Southeast Michigan.

**For more information on the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, visit [www.mlkday.gov](http://www.mlkday.gov).**