



2010 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project Michigan's AmeriCorps Members "Got Things Done!"

**May 14 & 15, 2010
Kalamazoo, Michigan**

More than 250 Michigan's AmeriCorps*State, National, and VISTA members gathered together to serve Kalamazoo's Northside Neighborhood and riverfront corridor on May 14 and 15 as part of the 2010 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project (SSP). Members assisted with various community projects and engaged in a large-scale clean-up of the Kalamazoo River. Each year AmeriCorps members from across Michigan join together 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 event began with an inspiring kickoff at Counting To One Ministries where AmeriCorps members had the opportunity to hear from the project's namesake, Dr. Russell Mawby. Members were then divided into various project teams and dispersed throughout the Northside Neighborhood where they assisted with clean-up and landscaping projects and helped install a large playground unit at New Genesis Education Center.

"We are honored to host the Signature Service Project and excited to have the opportunity to showcase the rich assets of our strong and vibrant community," said Don Jones, executive director of the Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity. "Habitat thrives through community partnerships. Our AmeriCorps visitors will expand our partnerships with agencies, volunteers, and neighbors to make a positive impact on our northside community."

The 2010 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project also served as an official closing event for Michigan's 2010 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 Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell and Michigan Community Service Commission Executive Director Paula Kaiser VanDam.



This year's Signature Service Project was a partnership between Michigan's AmeriCorps, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan, and Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity. The Signature Service Project is an annual event that serves a different community each year.

Fun 2010 Signature Service Project Facts!

On May 14 and 15, more than 350 participants – including AmeriCorps members, alums, and community volunteers – accomplished the following:

- Cleaned a one-mile stretch of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail of trash and invasive plants.
- Installed a large playground unit at New Genesis Education Center.
- Fenced and tilled two community gardens at New Genesis Education Center.
- Completed grounds-beautification projects at five area nonprofits.
- Constructed three new planter boxes and weeded and maintained 10 pre-existing planter boxes.
- Moved nearly 2.5 tons of mulch, gravel, and top soil to assist local landscaping projects.
- Contributed more than 3,500 hours of service as a group.

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

