

2015 Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Projects



WEST MICHIGAN

AmeriCorps members in West Michigan convened in Grand Rapids to perform service at local elementary and middle schools. Through the support of Community School Coordinators with the Kent School Services Network, 87 total participants tackled outdoor school beautification projects, academic support tasks, and assistance with student recognition events throughout the day.

Project Outcomes:

- 980 students served during field day activities
- 879 students served during academic and enrichment periods
- 12 rooms/classrooms cleaned or organized
- 19 bags of trash and yard waste removed from school grounds
- 25 yards of mulch spread on grounds and in garden beds
- 9 garden beds planted
- 95 windows washed



MID-MICHIGAN

The Mid-Michigan Signature Service Project included six service project locations. A total of 65 AmeriCorps members and 11 additional volunteers removed 417 bags of trash, weeded 8,500 square feet, mulched 5,700 square feet, and placed 30 plants. Lt. Governor Brian Calley and his wife, MCSC co-chair Julie Calley, also participated in the project.

One AmeriCorps member said, "I liked being able to work with the kids at the elementary school. Most of the kids at the elementary school had some sort of disability, but it did not stop them from working hard and being positive during the whole service project. It was awesome to be able to see that and brought a lot of joy to doing the service project!"



NORTHERN MICHIGAN

The Northern Michigan project took place at the Otsego Environmental Learning Site located behind Gaylord Middle School and connected to Aspen Park. This site was developed 15 years ago by a large group of community businesses and supporters but has since not had any improvements or upkeep done on the property. A total of 85 AmeriCorps members and volunteers come out in the rain to volunteer their time.

Project Outcomes:

- Installed an accessible 900-foot gravel path to the pond and nature center
- Built and installed 13 bird houses
- Constructed a hibernaculum for reptiles and other wildlife
- Cut and placed 8 cover boards as an educational tool to study prairie wildlife
- Trimmed and cleared the educational forest trail and disc golf course
- Pulled 13 bags of invasive spotted knapweed
- Collected and disposed of 5 bags of trash from the site
- Improved pond habitat by planting approximately 400 plants





SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

AmeriCorps members and volunteers completed 23 projects at nine different service sites at the Detroit Public Schools. Project participants removed 200 garbage bags of weeds, tree branches, debris, and trash from garden beds at service locations. They also refilled garden beds with approximately 50 wheel barrels of mulch and planted approximately 50 trees, 30 shrubs, and 100 flowers in the garden beds. Participants also planted approximately 250 vegetable and herb plants.

“This was the best experience I have participated in to date,” said one AmeriCorps Urban Safety Project AmeriCorps member. “When I arrived this morning, this courtyard was full of overgrown trees and shrubbery. After a few hours of hard work and sweat, the trees have been trimmed, new flowers and shrubs have been planted, and the children that attend this school can now see how beautiful this courtyard really is.”



UPPER PENINSULA

The U.P. Wide Signature Service Project engaged 30 AmeriCorps members and volunteers in cleaning two sections of the Whetstone River, pulling invasive garlic mustard plants in several nearby vicinities, and beautifying two local elementary schools. A total of 38 bags of trash and invasive species were collected.

One student said, “My main favorite part was that I got to clean up the schools and help out the community. I learned that it is always good to step out of your comfort zone and help someone in your community when you get the chance.”



AmeriCorps VISTA member Diane Jarvi, said “Students from the Marquette-Alger Technical Middle College are required to perform 100 hours of community service during their three years in the program. The UP Wide Service Project gave us the opportunity to volunteer as a group to serve in the local community. The students appreciated the chance to spend time together away from school. Participation in the project provided a wonderful teambuilding and bonding experience. We will definitely participate again next year.”



FLINT / TRI-CITIES

In Flint, 75 AmeriCorps members and community volunteers helped clean up the city’s eastside neighborhood. This is an area that has been disproportionately hit by blight, crime, and disrepair.

Project Outcomes:

- 50 boards painted
- 6 picnic tables painted
- 5 garden sites prepared
- 1 garage torn down and rebuilt
- 12 eight-foot sections of fence painted
- 1 dumpster & 18 small trash bags filled
- 6,000 lbs. of portable bike racks moved for the HealthPlus Tour de Crim bicycle ride



“At the Flint Signature Service Project, I learned once again just how important it is for volunteers and programs like AmeriCorps to collaborate with each other and community partners to achieve a common goal,” said AmeriCorps member Keshara Mumford.