



2013 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project

Michigan's AmeriCorps Members "Got Things Done!"

May 16 & 17, 2013: Lansing, Michigan

More than 300 Michigan's AmeriCorps*State, National, and VISTA members gathered in Lansing for the annual Russ Mawby Signature Service Project. AmeriCorps members assisted with various community projects and worked with several organizations to make a significant impact on the Capitol region.



The event began with an inspiring kickoff on the Capitol lawn where AmeriCorps members heard from Paula Kaiser VanDam from the Michigan Community Service Commission, Yvonne Caamal Canul, Lansing School District Superintendent, and Robin Lynn Grinnell, Capital Region Community Foundation Vice President for Donor and Community Relations. Members were then divided into teams and traveled to a variety of project sites where they assisted with community garden projects, school revitalization, food bank distribution, and more.



Throughout the two days of service, AmeriCorps members received encouraging words from other special guests, including Michigan Community Service Commission Chair Carolyn Bloodworth, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, and State Representative Sam Singh. The Russ Mawby Signature Service Project is an annual event that allows Michigan's AmeriCorps members to serve together in one community and demonstrate the impact of their commitment and dedication to getting things done. "Thank you for the countless gifts the Signature Service Project has given Lansing," commented community member Teresa Kasperick-Postellon. "The power of Michigan's AmeriCorps members is clearly visible here in the significant physical changes they accomplished. By improving our neighborhoods AmeriCorps members have improved lives. Through their service

AmeriCorps volunteers are a catalyst for positive change that continues when they have moved on."

This year's Signature Service Project was a partnership between the Michigan Community Service Commission, the Lansing School District, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan, the Lansing City Market, Thinkbox Creative, and several organizations connected to the Power of We Consortium, including Allen Neighborhood Center, Fenner Nature Center, Greater Lansing Food Bank, Ingham County Land Bank, Northwest Initiative, and the South Lansing Community Development Association.

A special thanks to the sponsors of this year's project, without whom the event would not have been possible: the Capital Region Community Foundation, Consumers Energy, Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy, Greater Lansing Labor Foundation, Lansing Board of Water and Light, Lansing School District, and Tomie Raines Realtors, with assistance from Blimpie Subs, Dean Transportation, Great Lakes Potato Chips, Nestle, and Underground Printing.



2013 Signature Service Project Highlights:

On May 16 and 17, more than 300 participants – including AmeriCorps members, alums, and community volunteers – accomplished the following:

- Planted 35 plants, created a 33 foot stepping stump path, wood-chipped 645 feet of trail, and pulled 7,250 pounds (3.6 tons) of invasive garlic mustard at the Fenner Nature Center.
- Reorganized 2,000 square feet of floor space, painted 4,000 square feet of wall space, and removed 500 pounds of scrap metal and 40 cubic yards of unusable items at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.
- Spread 20 yards of wood chips, planted seven flower beds, and collected six bags of trash and weeds at the Lansing City Market.
- Installed 72 feet of eaves trough for rain catchment, built 96 feet of fence, tilled 12 plots of land, covered 150 feet of hoop house poles to prevent chafing, and assembled four raised garden beds at the South Lansing Community Development Association's Webster Farms location.
- Cleared brush from 500 feet of fence line and 30 yards of land, planted 150 raspberry bushes and six fruit trees, and cleaned one storage facility at the Ingham County Land Bank.
- Weeded 30 raised garden beds, planted 10 garden beds with spring crops, and repaired plastic on a 30 x 60 foot hoop house at the Riddle School Garden.
- Constructed a 12 x 12 foot pergola, built 136 feet of fence, and painted a garden shed mural at the Hunter Park GardenHouse.
- Planted ferns, tended to landscape, and painted basketball courts, hopscotch, book cases, walls, murals, and more at Mt. Hope Elementary.
- Contributed more than 2,700 hours of service as a group.

Members also completed projects at Sexton High School, Willow Elementary, Allen Neighborhood Center, Lansing Roots Food Bank, and community gardens at Pine and St. Joe, Prospect Place, Grace Lutheran Church, Lett's Community Center, ARRO, and Lansing Urban Farm Project, among others. For more information on the annual Russ Mawby Signature Service Project, visit www.mi-ssp.com.



The Michigan Community Service Commission builds a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. Michigan's AmeriCorps is similar to a domestic Peace Corps. AmeriCorps programs are housed within nonprofit organizations, schools, and other agencies throughout the state. Individuals, called members, tutor and mentor children, help the homeless, improve health care, protect the environment, and more. In 2012-13, Michigan's AmeriCorps members will provide more than one million hours of service and recruit approximately 19,000 volunteers.