

2013 Nebraska Global Youth Service Day Projects

INITIATIVES PROVIDED BY SUPPORT TO SERVENEBRASKA FROM STATE FARM

Freeman Future Farmers of America (FFA)



On MLK day, high school FFA members presented fire safety and prevention information to all Freeman Public Schools fifth and sixth grade students. Students were given a fire safety trivia quiz to peak interest in the topic. FFA members went through the presentation and then answered any questions students had.



Fire Safety surveys have been distributed throughout the community and community members have signed up for free smoke detectors through this program. Presentations include how-to information about smoke detector installation along with a student-created video on smoke detector installation.

Southeast Nebraska Community Action (SENCA)

Global Youth Service Day efforts kicked off on January 11t at Nebraska City Middle School. A handout focused on the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and the importance Dr. King and his father placed on financial literacy. Dr. King's father



[L-R] Matt Mullins, ServeNebraska Executive Director
Cathy Plager, Reba Burgett and David VonBehren

had emphasized this by telling each member of his congregation the importance of having a savings account and owning their own home. In addition to the 100 students in attendance, approximately 10 members of the Nebraska City Middle School staff and 18 volunteers from the Nebraska City community including a representative from the Nebraska City Newspress and a reporter from KNCY radio station in Nebraska City were in attendance.

Project partners include: University of Nebraska Cooperative Education, The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Omaha Branch, Wells Fargo Hands on Banking, as well as local and area schools and community volunteers.

Efforts culminate with SENCA announcing the recipients of the SENCA SMART Scholarship program to six eligible Southeast Nebraska seniors who will each be awarded a \$250 scholarship. A key criteria heavily is community service with a belief in helping others.

INITIATIVES PROVIDED BY YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT OF SERVENEBRASKA

Blue Valley Community Action

BVCA AmeriCorps members and the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) met on MLK Day to plan a regional Stand for the Silent anti-bullying media campaign. Features of this campaign are April 23 presentations by all 4 schools with Mike Smith of Mike Smith Live and Skate for Change at four areas schools and an April 26 reflection at Central and Jefferson schools led by the AmeriCorps members and the school counselors. BVCA AmeriCorps members guide reflection with K- 6th graders to help younger students more fully process the week's events. 393 high school students and 492 K - 6th graders attending the April 23rd event. Throughout April social media informs and involves youth in the anti-bullying discussion.



In order to continue the anti-bullying conversation beyond that week, a media campaign runs through June 30, 2013. The YLC designed and planned all of the picture media and the AmeriCorps members designed and planned all of the radio ads. The media campaign has the potential to reach over 4,000 Jefferson County residents.

**TAKE A
STAND
AGAINST
BULLYING**

Creighton University Talent Search Program



Student and staff volunteers received service-learning training on MLK Day to discuss and address the issues of hunger locally and nationally. Plans for developing, implementing and marketing the initiative were refined through committees and monthly meetings.

Students recruited partners such as Creighton University Open Door Mission, Urban League Central High, South High School, Bryan High School, North High School, and Northwest High School. These partners served as donation sites for food distributed to select Omaha food pantries with the greatest need.



Not knowing where or how the next meal may come is a major issue, so understanding how this issue can be alleviated in the short and long terms is of high interest to all youth. Most of the students have themselves or know someone close that has been a product of a food insufficient household and as a result the purpose of this service project hit home for a majority of youth.

United Methodist Ministries



United Methodist Ministries kicked off its initiative on MLK Day of Service with close to 70 participants focused on the idea of continuing to meet the challenges issued by Rev. Dr. King regarding service, community and justice. Prior to volunteering at various shelters, food pantries and emergency relief agencies, youth listened to spoken-word artists perform works about Rev. Dr. King, racism, justice and meeting the challenge to serve in our communities. These artists were courtesy of the Nebraska Humanities Council. A significant success of the day was that the youth were able to connect the life of Rev. Dr. King with the service that they did at the agencies - beginning to see how

they are part of that lineage in community building. Partnering organizations were Together Inc., Hanscom Park United Methodist Church and the Big Garden (multiple garden sites), and the Blue Flamingo.

The Global Youth Service Day event built off of the groundwork laid on the MLK Day of Service. While partnering with some of the same agencies as MLK Day, organizers add to the continuum of service by including some creative approaches to addressing systemic issues of food and poverty. Approaches include community gardens, non-profit thrift stores and community meals. The idea is that the youth experience these things and then have time post-service to debrief with their peers on the impact it made in how they view different communities, ways to serve and opportunities to meet need.

The project has grown into a two state (Nebraska and Kansas) initiative with the United Methodist Church encouraging churches to serve in the communities. This additional partnership will increase the reach in a way that is pre-planned and easy for churches to utilize as a service project that weekend.

YWCA of Adams County



YWCA Adams County

Before the MLK Day event, youth participating in services at the Zone started signing up to take part in the kick-off of discussing Hunger in Our Community and create placemats to use in the educational campaign. The majority of youth who attend the Zone are at-risk. They reside in an area where they attend Lincoln Elementary School which has a free and reduce lunch rate of about 86%.

Youth worked with African Awareness Committee to kick off the event and displayed the placemats at the African American Awareness Banquet the end of February. Two YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps members discussed Global Youth Service Day at this banquet. This initiative is collaborating with the following community organizations who feed the hungry; Crossroads, Food Pantry, Catholic Social Services, Zone, and Salvation Army.