

2009 Nebraska Global Youth Service Day Projects

Supported with funding from Youth Service America and State Farm

PROJECT LISTING

American Red Cross Prairie Valley Chapter (Columbus) – Special Needs First Aid Training
Burwell GLW Children's Council (Burwell) – Veteran's Park Faire
Diversity Leadership Group (Columbus) – Animal Shelter Clean-up
Dundee Elementary (Omaha) – School Garden Project
Munroe Meyer Institute AmeriCorps (Omaha) – Food Bank Drive
Omaha Healthy Kids (Omaha) – Make Porches Lead-Safe
United Methodist Ministries (Omaha) – Big Garden Project
Volunteer Partners (Lincoln) – Graffiti Abatement

PROJECT DETAILS: DATE, CONTACT INFORMATION & DESCRIPTION

American Red Cross Prairie Valley Chapter (Columbus) – Special Needs First Aid Training

- o Date: Saturday, April 25
- o Location: American Red Cross Prairie Valley Chapter, 2905 23rd St., Columbus
- o Contact: Jenni Moje, (402) 564-8314, exec@pvredcross.org

In the Columbus area, there are 603 special needs children ages 5 - 21 in the public school system. Our plan is to teach a Basic Aid Training on Saturday, April 25th to teach special needs students basic first aid and safety skills showing that all youth can be prepared for emergencies. We also would like to provide each participant with a first aid kit that they can keep and use.

Burwell GLW Children's Council (Burwell) – Veteran's Park faire

- o Date: Friday, April 24
- o Location: Burwell Towne Square, Burwell
- o Contact: Sally Hoepker, (308) 346-4284, dc4@nctc.net

This project will support activities that promote the planned Veteran's Park in Burwell, Nebraska. The youth will be helping to raise funds by selling balloons, selling bricks and they are planning 2 bake sales. The balloons will be red, white and blue and will be sold to individuals who will then be asked to form a circle around the town square and will be released after the "Fly Over" by the Nebraska National Air Guard. We are also planning to have the Color Guard march around the square along with the Burwell High School Marching Band. The bricks that are sold will form a wall at the Veteran's Park. The youth are also planning a "Clean Up" day before the Dedication of the Veteran's Park and are planning to involve the grade school kids by having a poster contest and "Arts in the Park" after the Veteran's Park is finished. Our youth are very dedicated to raising awareness of our Veterans and their service to our country.

Diversity Leadership Group (Columbus) – Animal Shelter Clean-up

- o Date: Sunday, April 26
- o Location: Paws & Claws, Platte Valley Humane Society, 2124 13th St., Columbus
- o Contact: Sara Colford, (402) 563-7000, ext. 1302, sara.colford@cps-ne.org

For the past three years, the Diversity Leadership Group has volunteered in both school and community activities. For the month of April, the Diversity Leadership Group has been asked to help our local animal shelter. Our group will help clean up the grounds to ensure the animals have a safe environment for their daily exercise program. We will also be volunteering our time to complete community clean-up projects for a donation to the animal shelter. The students want to promote animal adoption and proper care of animals. This project will begin the collaboration between the shelter and local youth. The project will also provide an opportunity for our special needs students to work with another school group and pitch in on a community project. The group will help plant flowers and learn about animal care.



2009 Nebraska Global Youth Service Day Project Descriptions (Continued)

Dundee Elementary (Omaha) – School Garden Project

- o Date: Friday, April 24
- o Location: Dundee Elementary School, 310 N. 51st St., Omaha
- o Contact: Jennifer Reed-Bouley, (402) 558-7149, jreedbouley@hotmail.com

The Gardens surrounding Dundee Elementary are a center of education and beauty for children playing on the playground at school and for the urban neighborhood in which the school is located. With their teachers, parents, and PTA, students have for over 9 years participated in planting and maintaining the Gardens, with each grade level being responsible for a particular section. For example, the first grade plants and maintains a "rainbow garden," where students plant flowers in the correct order of the light spectrum. The kindergarteners (with the assistance of their teachers and other volunteers) make a "Peter Rabbit" vegetable garden, where they plant tomatoes and other vegetables, with pictures from Beatrix Potter's famous books and a white perimeter fence. Grades 2-6 also have specific gardens and projects assigned to them, which have become a source of pride.

Munroe Meyer Institute AmeriCorps (Omaha) – Food Bank Drive

- o Date: Friday & Saturday, April 24 & 25
- o Location: coordinated from Munroe-Meyer Institute, 444 S 44th Street, Omaha, NE.
The Omaha Food Bank address is 6824 J Street, Omaha NE.
- o Contact: Stacy Bliss-Fudge, (402) 559-4409, sblissfudge@unmc.edu

The MMI AmeriCorps program, in partnership with Girl Scout Troop # 45, the Spina Bifida Foundation, Eastern Nebraska Wheelchair Athletic Association, and the Ollie Webb Foundation, will conduct a city-wide food drive to benefit the Omaha Food Bank. Donations will be collected on Friday, April 24th. Local grocery stores will provide a place for donations to be collected. On Saturday, April 25th, donations will be picked up and brought to the Omaha Food Bank. Donations will then be sorted and placed on the shelves and in the warehouse. Volunteers will be used in two primary ways. On Friday, April 24th, volunteers will be asked to monitor food collection sites at the grocery stores. On Saturday, April 25th, volunteers will be asked to collection all donations and then sort donations at the Food Bank site. Older youth volunteers will be placed in the role of "group leader." Each group, with the assistance of MMI AmeriCorps members, will be responsible for one grocery store, including all collection, transportation, and sorting of donations.

Omaha Healthy Kids (Omaha) – Make Porches Lead-Safe

- o Date: April 17 - 19
- o Location: 3 homes within the 68111 (Omaha) zip code – contact for central meeting place
- o Contact: Clare Watson, LaFonda McGhee, Morghan Price (402) 216-5983, americorpsmembersohka@gmail.com

Lead Poisoning is one of the most serious environmental threats in the Omaha community. This is especially true for children who are highly susceptible to its effects due to rapid development and their frequent hand to mouth activity. These effects are taken through life and can appear in the form of learning disabilities, aggressive behavior, and damage to the nervous system and organs. Though the effects of childhood lead poisoning are serious, lead poisoning is entirely preventable.

The Make Porches Lead-Safe project will help the Omaha community become lead-safe by eliminating the risk of lead exposure from (3) three porches in the 68111 zip code neighborhood. The message that "YOUth Can!" makes a difference for others by making porches lead-safe will engage volunteers and signifies that every child has the right to live safe from lead.

United Methodist Ministries (Omaha) – Big Garden Project

- o Date: Saturday, April 25
- o Location: Various – Starting at Dietz Memorial Church, 1423 S. 10th St., Omaha
- o Contact: Lisa Maupin, (402) 898-9862, lmaupin@bigmuddyumc.org

United Methodist Ministries Global Youth Service Day participants will be working with projects and agencies that focus on the justice issue of food security. The spectrum of agencies will include community garden projects, food pantries and banks, homeless feeding programs and emergency relief agencies that serve immigrant and diverse populations.



2009 Nebraska Global Youth Service Day Project Descriptions (Continued)

United Way of the Midlands (Omaha) – Read and Craft Event

- o Date: Saturday, April 25
- o Location: Westroads Mall, 10000 California Ave., Omaha, NE 68114
- o Contact: Raeanna Kuzma, (402) 522-7933, rkuzma@uwmidlands.org

The "Read and Craft Event" will be held on April 25, 2009 from 10:00am - 1:00pm at the Westroads Mall in Omaha, Nebraska. The Youth Leadership Committee members will have a reading area and a craft making area for three different age groups (toddlers; K-3; and 4-6 grades). All toddlers and elementary youth in the community are invited to participate. Six youth from partner organization, Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, will also participate in this community event.

Volunteer Partners (Lincoln) – Graffiti Abatement

- o Date: Saturday, April 25
- o Location: Initially meeting at StarTran, 710 "J" Street, Lincoln to get directions and supplies
- o Contact: Nancy Engel, (402) 435-2100, programcoord@volunteerpartners.org

The youth will paint out graffiti at six or more designated sites around the city of Lincoln, Nebraska. Murals will be painted at two sites. The graffiti sites will be selected from the list of graffiti cases that are reported to the Lincoln Police Department. Preference will be given to addresses that are located in lower to low-middle income areas. These areas have been especially hard-hit by graffiti, and the residents in these areas can least afford to clean it up by themselves.