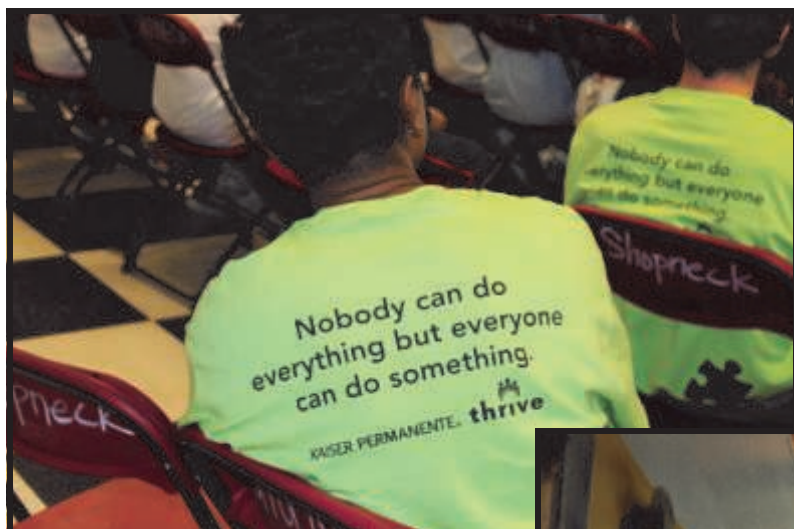




Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service 2012 Project Report

“Building a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in Colorado.”



Report Sponsored by:



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About Serve Colorado

Overview

Serve Colorado strives to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in Colorado. Serve Colorado works under the leadership of a board of 16 commissioners to distribute and **administer Colorado's allocation of AmeriCorps*State funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)**. The current program portfolio consists of 16 programs working to meet a variety of local needs throughout Colorado communities, including environmental stewardship, academic tutoring, youth mentoring, healthy futures, economic opportunity, and more! Additionally, Serve Colorado promotes volunteerism and service as a means to strengthen Colorado communities through days of service, special initiatives, and community partnerships.

Goals

- To effectively distribute AmeriCorps*State resources to address the needs of Colorado communities.
- To advocate for service and volunteerism as essential components in sustaining healthy Colorado communities.
- To create mechanisms which facilitate greater cooperation, communication and partnerships around service.
- To promote service and volunteerism as an integral component of education at all levels.
- To increase public awareness, appreciation, support and participation in service and volunteerism.
- To increase financial and in-kind support for volunteer initiatives from a broad range of public and private sources.

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado

Joseph A. Garcia
Lieutenant Governor of Colorado

Serve Colorado Staff
Toya Nelson, *Executive Director*
Mark Skinner, *Sr. Program Officer*
Terri Jutzi, *Program Officer*
Jenna Hansen, *Program Coordinator*
Heather Kreider, *Administrative and Program Assistant*
Jay Rivera, *VISTA Leader*
Jack O'Dell, *VISTA Disability Inclusion Specialist*

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Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service



“On this day we commemorate Dr. King’s great dream of a vibrant, multiracial nation united in justice, peace and reconciliation; a nation that has a place at the table for children of every race and room at the inn for every needy child. We are called on this holiday, not merely to honor, but to celebrate the values of equality, tolerance, and interracial sister and brotherhood he so compellingly expressed in his great dream for **America.”**

-Coretta Scott King

After a long struggle, legislation was signed in 1983 creating a federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed **as a National Day of Service a “day on, not a day off.”**

On the 2012 MLK Day of Service in Colorado, more than 2,000 people volunteered at more than 65 service projects honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King.

Projects included delivering meals, refurbishing schools and community centers, collecting food and clothing, organizing a statewide book drive, promoting non-violence and much more.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of service shines a spotlight on service as a powerful force to strengthen local communities throughout the country. Without the dedication of the Project Leaders and Volunteers, this impactful day would not be possible.

Highlighted Colorado Martin Luther King Jr.



Colorado hosts one of the largest Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebrations in the Nation. On the morning of January 16, more than 30,000 people came out to Denver's City Park to take part in The Annual Marade, a celebratory two-mile march in honor of Dr. King hosted by the MLK Day Holiday Commission. Prior to the Marade, the Holiday Commission also hosted a concert and awards ceremony.



The 22nd Annual MLK Jr. Humanitarian Awards and Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to:

- Mrs. Marion Veronica Ellerbee (Posthumous)
- The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Officer David Hutchings
- The Abrahamic Initiative
- Dr. Raymond Dean Jones
- Reverend Ronald Wooding
- Salina C. Trahan



The Marade 2012 Honorees were presented to:

- Tamara Rhone
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Epworth Foundation
- Harry Watters and Ottawa Harris (Posthumous)
- **Judi's House**
- Rashawn and Deanna Jackson



The 27th Annual MLK Social Responsibility Awards were presented to:

- Faye Wilson-Tate
- Goodwill Industries
- Hercules Industries
- Jim White
- Venocco Inc
- Dr. Robbie Bean

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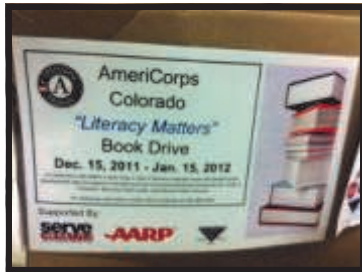
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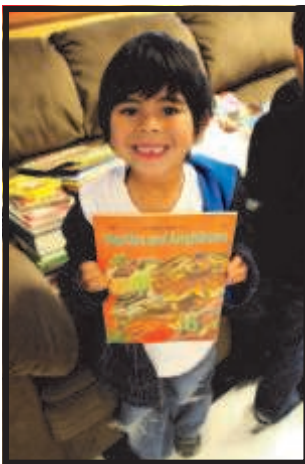
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AmeriCorps Colorado *Literacy Matters* Book Drive



Book drive collection box.

In response to the *Literacy Matters* Initiative, AmeriCorps*State programs, VISTA members, Senior Corps and community partners from around the state teamed up with Serve Colorado and AARP Colorado to organize the first annual AmeriCorps Colorado *Literacy Matters* Book Drive. The *Literacy Matters* Initiative is a project of Lt. Gov. Joseph Garcia, Serve Colorado and Mile High United Way for Colorado to work too lead the nation in early reading achievement with an implementation of an integrated literacy initiative that will ensure all Colorado children are reading at grade level or beyond by the end of third grade.



An excited book recipient.

The book drive boasted more than 45 collection sites statewide, with organizations and individuals donating more than 10,000 books! More than 20 agencies received the books such as the Boys & Girls Clubs, Community Building Partnership for Youth in Transition, Reach Out and Read Colorado, Denver Public and Eagle County Schools, and the Bright Future Foundation Buddy Mentors Program. Lt. Gov. Garcia marked the great work of the book drive at the Shopneck Boys & Girls Club by presenting the club with a donation of 100 books. During this special ceremony several community members spoke, including Donna Lynne, Regional President of Kaiser Permanente Colorado.



The Bright Future Foundation Buddy Mentors Program was excited to receive books.



AmeriCorps members sort books on MLK Day.



Lt. Gov. Garcia at the Shopneck Boys & Girls Club.

Hungry for Change Launch Event Brighton Shares The Harvest



Creating “Hungry for Change” plates.



A display of the plates.

More than 150 people, many of them students, came together at The Armory at the Brighton Culture Center to raise awareness about hunger in the community. A nutritious lunch was donated by Platte Valley Medical Center and Silver Aspen Bistro. One hundred and twenty-eight people made a **statement against hunger with a special “I’m Hungry for Change” paper plate.** Retired Denver Nugget Ervin Johnson gave the Keynote address and a moving video was shown on the impacts of food insecurity. Everyone went home with a **canvas bag that read “I’m Fed Up with People Being Hungry,”** which was filled with information about food assistance and other resources in the Brighton area and fresh fruit. The event was organized and presented by Linda Young of Brighton Shares the Harvest, Rita McCusker of Hunger Free Colorado, with sponsorships from The Brighton Urban Renewal Authority, United Power, Harmony Angels, The Greater Brighton Neighborhood Volunteers, Target, King Soopers, Food Bank of The Rockies and Jody Pierce.

San Luis Valley Feeds the Homeless San Luis Valley HIPPY/PAT Program



Four AmeriCorps members from the San Luis Valley Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters/Parents as Teachers (HIPPY/PAT) Program and two local community volunteers celebrated the spirit of the MLK Day of Service by serving meals at the La Puente Homeless Shelter. More than 20 percent of people in the San Luis Valley live in poverty and less than one in every four residents have **medical insurance. This significant proportion of the Valley’s** population lives at high risk for homelessness. La Puente Home is one of the only organizations in Southern Colorado that supplies emergency shelter services. This is the fifth year the San Luis Valley HIPPY/PAT Program has partnered with the La Puente Homeless Shelter. The HIPPY/PAT program donated the food for the meal and served about 50 people. Individuals at the shelter appreciated the meal and time of the volunteers, telling them it was the best meal they had in a long time. The volunteers enjoyed the experience so much they are looking forward to doing the project more than once a year.

Trash Clean-Up on the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership

For the MLK Day of Service, the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership (SCRGP) joined with Bluff Lake Nature Center to clean up trash and remove invasive weeds from the Sand Creek Regional Greenway (SCRG). The SCRG is a 14-mile long urban trail that runs through southern Commerce City, northeast Denver and northwest Aurora. SCRGP relies heavily on volunteers to keep the Greenway clean and safe for all trail users. Twenty AmeriCorps National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC) members along with 25 community volunteers braved the cold and snow to collect more than 50 bags of trash, as well as recycling and removing an entire truck-full of weeds!



Volunteers picking up trash.



Ready for a day of hard work.

Martin Luther King Jr. Skate Day for United Way Pagosa Springs Youth Center



Helping put on others' skates.

The MLK Skate Day for United Way was a big success with 77 kids ranging in age from four-13 in attendance. Even with a large snowstorm blowing through town, the spirit **of the day couldn't be dampened as the** Pagosa Springs Youth Center raised more than \$5,000 for United Way of Southwest Colorado! The money will be given to youth organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Girl Scouts of Colorado, The Archuleta County Education Center and Seeds of Learning. In total, 20 people volunteered for the day cooking a pancake breakfast and a hot dog lunch, helping kids paint a mural, and providing skateboard, skating and a Roller Girl demonstration.



Children share their own dream.

Martin Luther King Jr. March for Peace and Celebration City of Lafayette and The University of Colorado at Boulder



A boy and his mom march for peace.

The City of Lafayette hosted its seventh annual Martin Luther King Jr. March for Peace and Celebration on January 16, convening approximately 450 community members in celebration and service. The march was planned by the Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee and sponsored by the City of Lafayette, the Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement and INVST Community Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder. The event was supported by numerous organizations in the Boulder area. After an afternoon celebration at the Escuela Bilingue Pioneer School, community members participated in several service projects and collected nonperishable food on behalf of the Sister Carmen Community Center. Projects ranged from making **“no-sew” blankets for local homeless youth, creating peace wreaths and dream catchers for returning soldiers and their families and developing a community-wide mural to illustrate Dr. King’s legacy.** Approximately \$800 in food was donated to area non-profits including the Denver Rescue Mission.

Youth Service Day

Greater Arkansas River Nature Association and Southwest Conservation Corps

The Greater Arkansas River Nature Association and 13 volunteers worked with youth from the Boys & Girls Club of Chaffee County, Chaffee County Mentors and SOS outreach to build 23 Mountain Bluebird Houses with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Because of changing land use patterns and introduction of aggressive European species, native birds have fewer natural cavity nesting sites, so bird boxes supply much-needed additional habitat. After building the boxes, participants moved to the library for pizza and educational activities and games. Students learned about the MLK Day of Service and had a chance to reflect on and discuss their own ideas of community service. Glen Dwyer, **age 10, wrote “Community service is important because that little help could save the world.”**



Volunteers building bluebird houses.

3rd Annual Kids' Pasta Project Building Bridges Service Awards Dinner Kid's Pasta Project



Reviewing orders for the pasta meal.

The mission of the Kids' Pasta Project (KPP) is for youth to serve their local community by preparing and selling freshly made healthy meals, with the profit going to local causes. In 2011, KPP logged 1,395 youth service-learning hours at 32 fundraising dinners, serving 1,431 guests and donating \$10,690 to community organizations! On MLK Day, KPP hosted a special dinner for the Annual Building Bridges Award. The award goes to an organization that strengthens the community, works to empower individuals and builds bridges between different groups. After serving homemade pasta dinners, kids presented the \$500 award to Helping Hands of the North Fork, an organization that took an idea to provide holiday food baskets to kids in need and enlarged it to help more than 70 children in the North Fork area weekly. The bags of food are prepared by volunteers and are given to elementary and middle schools in the North Fork Valley. Twelve organizations nominated for the award were also recognized at the dinner.

Dove Creek High School Students Taking Action Against Underage Drinking MLK Day of Service Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners

Eighteen members of the Dove Creek High School Students Taking Action Against Underage Drinking (STUD) group volunteered at the Cahone Senior Center for the MLK Day of Service. The group gave a technology presentation to twelve senior citizens on how to browse the Internet and print and save a document. The group also prepared and delivered 22 meals to homebound senior citizens with the staff of the Senior Center. Each student ate lunch with one of the seniors who was at the Center and helped clean-up the lunch.



The Dove Creek STUD Group.



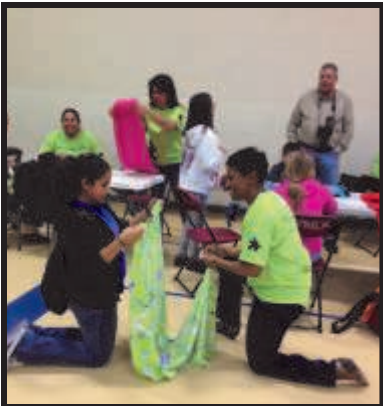
Teaching seniors how to use technology.



“A Day ON, Not a Day Off!”



Preparing food at Project Angel Heart.



Serving at a Boys & Girls Club.



Making crafts at the Shopneck Boys & Girls Club.

More than 500 Kaiser Permanente employees volunteered more than 3,100 hours of service on the 2012 MLK Day of Service. Kaiser Permanente participated in 31 projects benefitting 22 non-profits in 11 cities around Colorado including: Aurora, Arvada, Brighton, Centennial, Colorado Springs, Denver, Englewood, Fort Collins, Lakewood, Littleton and Wheat Ridge.

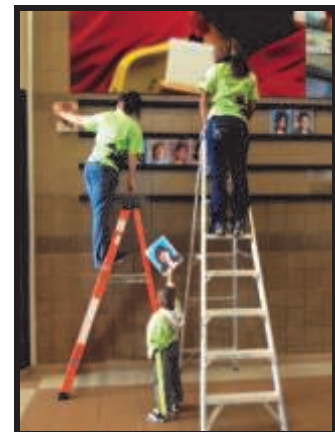
Highlighted Service Projects:

- Addressed food security
- Assisted Colorado youth
- Assisted seniors
- Supported safety net medical clinics
- Supported disaster relief efforts
- Provided healthcare and disability support-related activities
- Supported Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL)
- Assisted low-income and homeless families and veterans

More than 18,000 people throughout Colorado were positively impacted by Kaiser Permanente’s day of service.



Cleaning at the MLK Jr. Early College.



Hanging pictures at the MLK Jr. Early College.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver Brighton and Denver



The Spartans worked hard on service projects.

Sixty-eight Kaiser Permanente volunteers served at the Denver Broncos and Brighton Shopneck Boys & Girls Clubs. At both sites volunteers scrubbed the Club in the morning and took part in service projects with the kids. They made care packages for military members, flower pots for seniors and blankets for children **in women's shelters**. The Lieutenant Governor spent the afternoon at the Shopneck Club participating in the service projects as well as presenting the Club with books collected from the *Literacy Matters* book drive. Volunteers also engaged the youth by playing table tennis, pool, games and creating art projects. After enjoying a healthy taco bar lunch, the day ended with the Club members putting on a talent show for their peers and volunteers.



Showing off their art projects.

Bessie's Hope Denver



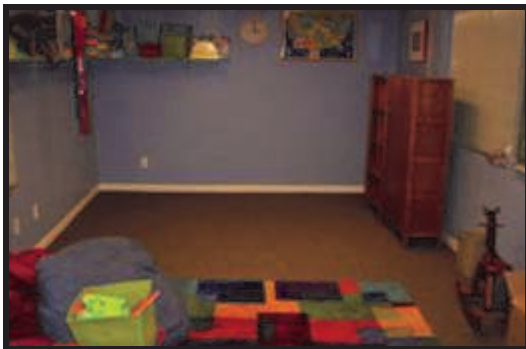
Bessie's Hope enhances the quality of life for nursing home and assisted living elders by bringing generations together in mutually rewarding relationships to honor the human spirit. More than **60% of seniors in nursing homes receive no personal visitors**. Bessie's Hope creates life-enriching volunteer opportunities for youths, families, individuals, community organizations and businesses. **The loneliness of the elders is replaced by the caring presence and continued support of Bessie's Hope** volunteers. The volunteer is rewarded by the one-on-one relationship that is cultivated with the elder. On MLK Day, Kaiser Permanente volunteers spent time with seniors at six nursing homes. Kaiser Permanente donated more than 120 goodie bags to seniors in these nursing homes.

Clothes to Kids of Denver Denver

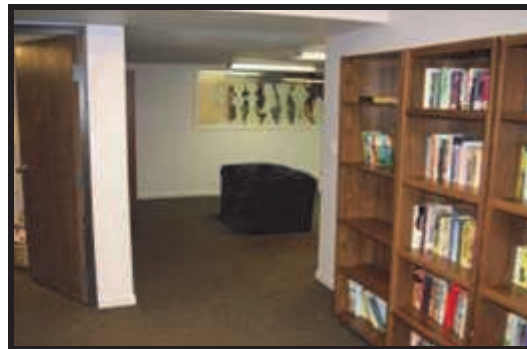


The mission of Clothes to Kids of Denver is to provide, at no cost, new and quality used clothing to low-income, school-aged children in Denver County. The need is great as two-thirds of the Denver Public School population lives at the poverty level or below. On the MLK Day of Service, approximately 21 Kaiser Permanente volunteers assisted low-income families with their shopping needs. The volunteers sorted clothing donations and restocked shelves and racks. Volunteers left **that day inspired by the look of joy on the children's faces when they were able to leave with a new favorite pink outfit or with a perfect pair of jeans. Because of the volunteers' time and hard work, 42 additional Denver kids now have clothing for school.**

Family Tree at House of Hope and Women in Crisis Englewood and Arvada



Refurbished room.



A reading room for families.

Twenty-five Kaiser Permanente volunteers supported Family Tree at the House of Hope and Women in Crisis locations by assisting with refurbishment work, including tearing out carpets, cleaning the facilities inside and out, sorting donations, organizing merchandise and setting up **displays. Jaclyn Wilmot, Director of Volunteer Service for Family Tree said "With the volunteers' assistance and generous donations towards the supplies for the projects, Kaiser Permanente volunteers have helped offset the operational expenses of the organization, therefore allowing important funds to help youth and families overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness. Everything turned out fabulous and we could not have done it without the volunteers!"**

Habitat for Humanity ReStore Outlet Stores Denver, Wheat Ridge and Littleton



Rearranging windows at the store.



Unpacking wood at the store.

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore outlet stores sell reusable and surplus building materials to the public. ReStore outlets provide an environmentally and socially responsible way to keep good, reusable materials out of the waste stream while providing funding for Habitat's community improvement work. Twenty-two Kaiser Permanente volunteers worked at three locations to organize the stores, merchandise materials and rearrange furniture and displays. Alice Goble, Volunteer Manager for Habitat for Humanity said, "Kaiser volunteers are always such a treat for the stores and always do a spectacular job!"

Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College School Denver



Rearranging office supplies.

Twenty Kaiser Permanente volunteers performed refurbishment work at the Martin Luther King Jr. Early College School on the MLK Day of Service. The refurbishment work included cleaning carpets, building cubicles, replacing ceiling tiles, hanging curtains and painting and installing picture tracks. Kaiser Permanente has a long, collaborative history with the school as it is part of their School Partners Program. Helen Romano, Broker Sales and Support Liaison with Kaiser Permanente said about the volunteer experience, "My granddaughter and I had a great time it was a wonderful way to show our love to all people." Thank you to all the volunteers!



Painting a planter.

Project Angel Heart Denver



Prepping food for the meals.



Cooking up a healthy meal.

Project Angel Heart delivers nutritious meals to improve quality of life at no cost for those coping with life-threatening illness. For more than 800 clients served each week, Project Angel Heart provides life-saving nutrition necessary for physical, emotional and financial health. A team of professional chefs and dedicated volunteers freshly prepare each Project Angel Heart meal with healthy ingredients. On the MLK Day of Service, 16 Kaiser Permanente volunteers assisted Project Angel Heart in preparing 820 meals. Project Angel Heart meals will ensure those in need do not have to go hungry.

PROJECT C.U.R.E. Centennial



Volunteers sort medical supplies.

PROJECT C.U.R.E. (Commission on Urgent Relief & Equipment) was founded in 1987 to help meet the need for medical supplies, equipment and services around the world. Since its inception, PROJECT C.U.R.E. has delivered medical relief to needy people in more than 120 countries. From June through December 2011, PROJECT C.U.R.E. provided approximately \$31 million worth of medical supplies and equipment to medical facilities in 29 countries. On the MLK Day of Service, approximately 40 Kaiser Permanente volunteers sorted 393 cartons of medical supplies, which will serve more than 16,000 people in third-world countries. Volunteers also painted a warehouse wall, built shelving and organized a biomedical area.

Veteran's Green Jobs

Denver



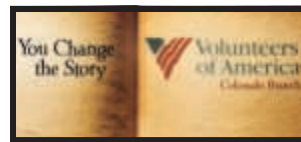
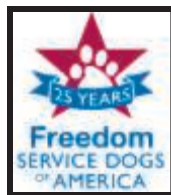
Volunteers pose after a rewarding day.

Twenty-five Kaiser Permanente volunteers made a huge impact at **Veteran's Green Jobs** by performing home audits and weatherization, in addition to sorting donations in the Go Green Warehouse. The many Kaiser Permanente nurses that participated found being a part of the health and safety crews performing the inspections very rewarding. Volunteers inspected homes for energy efficiency, as well as provided services to increase the health and safety of the homes of low-income residents. The volunteers learned that through weatherization, air leaks are closed and asthma and air quality are improved.

Additional MLK Day of Service Projects were completed by

Kaiser Permanente

volunteers at the following organizations:



Mile High Youth Corps MLK Day of Service at Fairview Elementary Mile High Youth Corps



Helping a student make a clay tile.

Mile High Youth Corps partnered with Fairview Elementary School in Denver to work on much-needed indoor repairs. The school is located in Sun Valley, one of the poorest communities in Denver. Almost 100 percent of the students at the school are on the free lunch plan. Fifty volunteers repainted a classroom, two walls of the cafeteria, the baseboards of a **hallway, a boy's bathroom and one wall of the auditorium**. Inspirational quotes were painted throughout the school. To bring color to the previously plain walls, clay tiles were made to be decorated by children and hung in the school.



Stenciling the cafeteria.

Martin Luther King Neighborhood Energy Action Groundwork Denver



Changing out a light bulb to a CFL bulb.



Reviewing the energy resources.

One hundred and fifty-one volunteers came out on MLK Day to canvass the Montbello Neighborhood in Denver for the Porch Bulb Project, a project that provides energy outreach services to low-income individuals. For low-income families, home energy costs can be especially burdensome in the winter months. The Porch Bulb Project educates volunteers about matters of home energy consumption, then sends them door-to-door to offer residents a free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) and other energy efficiency resources. Included in the distributed materials is information on services such as home energy audits, recycling and trees that households can receive for free. Through the Porch Bulb Project, Groundwork Denver is also able to assist low-income residents in accessing government-funded efficiency upgrades. The ultimate goal is to offset the home energy costs for low-income families while reducing the total amount of energy consumption. On this day, volunteers knocked on more than 2,400 doors and distributed 670 CFL light bulbs which will cut around 45,000 kilowatt hours of electricity usage and 80,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions each year. These light bulbs will save residents an estimated \$4,020 per year.

Challenge Day Challenge Denver



The VISTAS at Challenge Day at Denver West High School.

The Colorado Nonprofit Development Center AmeriCorps VISTAS participated in Challenge Day at Denver West High School. Challenge Day's mission is to build connection and empathy and to make sure every child feels safe, loved and celebrated. Challenge Day addresses some common issues seen at most schools including cliques, gossip, rumors, negative judgments, teasing, harassment, isolation, stereotypes, racism, bullying, homophobia, apathy and hidden pressures to create an image or live up to expectations of others. Challenge Day is more than a one-day program-it sparks compassion and positive change that will last long afterwards. The VISTAS helped facilitate the day at the school.

The Action Center and Grant Avenue Street Reach Boomers Leading Change in Health

AmeriCorps members and volunteers from Boomers Leading Change in Health and The Center for African American Health spent MLK Day at the Denver Marade, The Action Center and the Grant Avenue Street Reach. A committee of Boomers Leading Change in Health members selected these projects because they offered hands-on, basic needs assistance that benefitted a large number of people. Volunteers at The Denver Marade both marched in the event and collected trash along the route. Volunteers at the Action Center packed food boxes for homeless teens and re-arranged the packing section of the warehouse so that it would operate more efficiently for the next group of volunteers. At the Grant Avenue Street Reach, volunteers donned aprons and caps and served many of the thousands of homeless people that arrived for hot meals.



Getting ready to march and pick up trash at Denver's Annual MLK Day Marade.

“Get to Cleanin’: Remembering Memphis” Denver’s Dr. MLK Jr Marade Service Committee



Participants march in the Marade after it has been cleaned by the volunteers.

In 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. went to Memphis, Tennessee, to assist the Memphis Sanitation Workers in a labor dispute for union rights and better working conditions. It was during this trip that he was assassinated on his motel room balcony. Since 2007, The “*Get to Cleanin’-Remembering Memphis*” project has been the official service project of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Colorado Holiday Commission Denver Marade. Participants joined in this annual remembrance honoring the Memphis sanitation workers who fought for their civil rights while they fought for their union rights—by walking the Marade route and picking up trash to beautify the route for the Monday event.

Renovation of Zion Senior Center Rebuilding Together Metro Denver



Main Room - Before



Main Room - During



Main Room - After

Rebuilding Together Metro Denver (RTMD), the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) and the Rocky Mountain Business Travel Association (RMBTA) joined together to complete updates at the Zion Senior Center. The Senior Center has not been updated since its opening in 1978! The Zion Senior Center provides a place where older persons can meet together, participate in activities that enhances their dignity, supports their independence and encourages their involvement in and with the Denver community. The project for MLK Day involved pulling up 5,000 square feet of carpet to make way for brand new carpet and painting many interior walls. What a great facelift!

Service at The Action Center Organizing for America



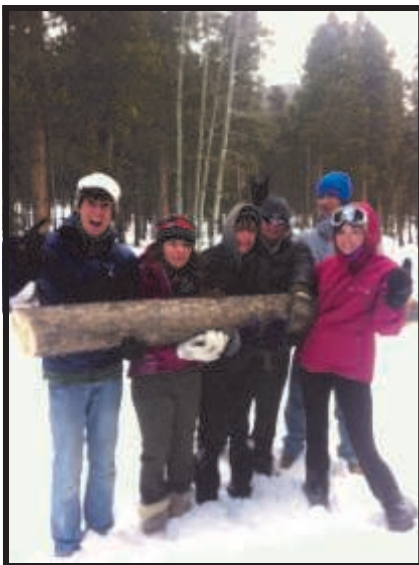
Sorting Clothes in the clothing bank.



Sorting food for distribution to hungry families.

Ninety-eight people from Organizing for America spent the day at The Action Center sorting and re-stocking the clothing bank, restocking the food bank, distributing food to clients, packing several hundred food boxes with non-perishable food and loading and transporting heavy materials between the warehouse and The Center. The Action Center provides the community with a food bank, clothing bank, family shelter and client counseling services. The client need has dramatically increased in recent years and the need for volunteer services continues to increase as well.

Golden Gate Canyon State Park Maintenance Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado



Removing a fallen tree from the site.

The Golden Gate Canyon State Park overnight project is **part of the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado's Cairn Youth Program**. The overnight project addresses the need to get youth outdoors and exposed to new outdoor spaces close to the metro area. Participants were educated in safety and leadership pertaining to winter camping skills, survival and teamwork. During the 36-hour excursion, participants also removed eight trees which had fallen during a recent windstorm in the area. Forty-five volunteers contributed to the success of this project. The project in total produced 1,345 volunteer service hours, all contributing to the growth of youth as productive citizens and stewards of Colorado lands. **"I really enjoyed the service project Sunday morning. While everyone was strong-willed and uncomplaining, the situation allowed me to step out and try out some leadership" said one of the students.**

Multigenerational March and Activities Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners

AmeriCorps members from La Plata County, the Prejudice, Elimination, Action Team (PEAT) of local youth, and the Embracing Diversity Initiatives group partnered with Fort Lewis College to participate and help facilitate many activities that were held at Fort Lewis College in honor of MLK Day. PEAT students prepared and organized MLK Day presentations and shared their presentations at an open microphone event at the college. The PEAT students also led groups of college students and staff through diversity workshops with their adult partners. Students, faculty and staff also participated in a MLK Peace March. **“It was so empowering for the kids to be a part of the college’s events by walking in the march and listening and sharing their experiences. It was amazing to watch as students led adults through diversity training workshops. I could not be more proud of these remarkable kids!”** said Nicole Schnee, AmeriCorps Community Prevention Organizer.



Students, faculty, community members & staff march.



A PEAT member shares her thoughts.

Del Alma Family Dinner and Literacy Night Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners



A family enjoys the dinner.

The Del Alma Youth organization’s mission is to help kids grow up healthy, caring and responsible. On MLK Day, Del Alma partnered with Park Elementary School and an AmeriCorps member from Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners for a Family Dinner and Literacy Night. More than 100 people attended the event which included dinner and literacy games such as Go Fish and Memory. Door prizes were also handed out. Volunteers oversaw the games and shared reading tips and resources with parents and children. This dinner created awareness for education and literacy across socioeconomic and cultural boundaries.

Teaching Tree Early Childhood Center Painting and Clean-up United Way of Larimer County



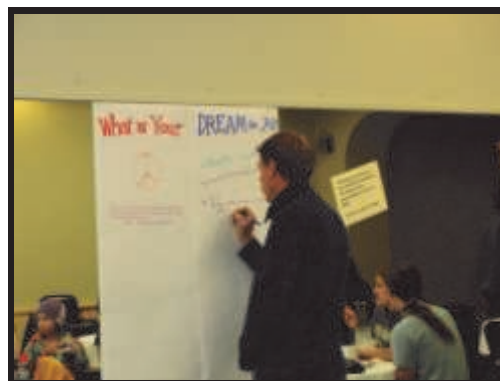
The United Way of Larimer County AmeriCorps team of 10 members, along with the Program Manager, painted two classrooms and organized the book closet for the Teaching Tree non-profit early childcare center in honor of the MLK Day of Service. The project took eight hours, six cans of paint and **included a civic reflection on MLK's sermon "The Drum Major Instinct."** Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center's goal is to provide a childcare facility for the children of low-income families in the Fort Collins area. Teaching Tree is unique in that they offer a sliding fee based on income to qualifying parents who work or attend school. This assistance allows these children to receive quality childcare that they may not otherwise been able to access.

MLK Day Community Breakfast

Mancos Community and Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners



Volunteers preparing breakfast.



A Mancos community member writes about his dream.

Twenty-three volunteers from the Mancos community served a free pancake breakfast on the MLK Day of Service to 120 people in the community. Everyone was invited to attend breakfast, and connect and discuss Martin Luther King Jr. There was a blank poster for community members to **voice their "dreams" and many participated. Food for the breakfast was donated by local farmers** and businesses. Mancos, Colorado is in southeast Colorado and is surrounded by the La Plata Mountains on one side and the spectacular cliffs of Mesa Verde on the other. Community members enjoyed discussing their dreams with others and felt the event allowed them to experience how much they have in common.

Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest Cortez Middle School



Creating the “I Have a Dream” collage.



Students proudly show off their work!

Seventeen students from Cortez Middle School wrote essays on “I Have A Dream,” what this meant to them and what they could do in the community to achieve their dreams. The students created a collage of their essays and hung it up in their classroom so they could be reminded of **what their dreams are.** “**The children in our community are our future leaders. It is wise to look to them; to know what is in their hearts and minds, to know what they want to see for their world. Dr. King has a strong vision of equality, and we believe that the youth in our community have just as equal a voice,**” said Catherine Goraj, AmeriCorps member at Cortez Middle School.

Feeding the Hungry at Hope’s Kitchen Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners



Volunteers take a break.



Preparing a healthy salad for lunch.

Cortez is the county seat for Montezuma County and serves as a hub for outlying communities and the Navajo and Ute Mountain Ute tribes. It has the largest population of the three major communities in the County and is the town in which homelessness is the most prevalent. AmeriCorps members from the Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners partnered with volunteers from the United Methodist Church of Dolores to serve lunch. Six volunteers served lunch to sixty-seven people. **Hope’s Kitchen is a soup kitchen that is run through the United Methodist Church of Dolores and Cortez and operates out of the church building in Cortez. Hope’s Kitchen shares the soup kitchen program with St. Barnabas Episcopal Church of Cortez in order to meet the needs of providing food to homeless and poverty-stricken families.**

The Bridge Emergency Shelter Supply Drive Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners



The mission of the Bridge Emergency Shelter is to provide or arrange overnight shelter and a hot meal for homeless men and women in Cortez. Homelessness in the community has been a concern for many years. It was not uncommon to have community members perish or become seriously injured during the harsh winter months. Following the death of a community member in 2005, a sustainable shelter was planned. This was done with the cooperation of a variety of stakeholders including churches, law enforcement, city and county governments, the hospital, the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. In 2011, the shelter served 225 individuals during the 185 nights the shelter was open with an average of fifteen clients a night. The supply drive collected such items as Gatorade Mix, toiletries, sweatpants and shirts and non-perishable food. Donations were collected in Cortez and in Mancos.

Por Dia Preschool Weatherization

4CORE, Southwest Conservations Corps, Colorado Youth Conservation Corps



Insulating the water heater.

Nineteen volunteers from the Southwest Conservation Corps and 4CORE teamed up for a weatherization and energy efficiency demonstration at the Por Dia Preschool and Learning Center. The preschool was in serious need of weatherization services. The facility has four heat sources and together, none of them efficiently heated the facility. The upgrades to the facility will help cut the costs of heating and cooling the building. Volunteers passed out 36 energy efficiency kits to families who attend the preschool, installed two carbon monoxide detectors, installed weather stripping on doors and door sweeps, sealed air leaks in windows and air sealed chimney vents, insulated two hot water heaters, pipes and water lines and installed CFL bulbs.



Installing weather stripping.

MLK Day “Tolerance Chain”

The School Based Mentoring Program (Partners in Routt County)

AmeriCorps members from Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, The Boys & Girls Club of Steamboat Springs and Partners in Routt County came together to address the issue of kids using words as insults and to teach kids in kindergarten–8th about tolerance. A tolerance lesson was taught at all three Routt County Middle Schools (Steamboat Springs, Hayden and Sorocco) and at the Boys & Girls Club of Steamboat Springs. Three hundred and eighty-three children were reached with the tolerance lesson and made links for the tolerance chain. The chain was hung in the teen section of the Bud Werner Memorial Library in Steamboat Springs where it will remain for a month. Many community members will see the chain.

“It was a cool experience because you could learn a lot about what you can do to help your community be more tolerant. I wrote ‘Don’t give up!’ because you should never give up on what you’re trying to achieve,” said Megan, a Sorocco Middle School student.



Students hold a part of the tolerance chain they created.

Silverton Youth Center Helping Hands Silverton Youth Center



Ready for a day of hard work in the community.

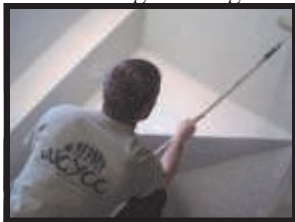
Ten youth volunteers and two adult volunteers with Silverton Helping Hands took a mission for MLK Day to help an assortment of business and community members in the small community. The group cleaned the Silverton Learning Center Preschool, the high school room at the Silverton Youth Center, the future X-ray room of the San Juan County Public Health building, and the downstairs of the library. The last project of the day was to clean up three graves that the group adopted this past summer. At the end of the day, the group came together and read an excerpt from Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech and answered the question “What is Your Dream?” One child answered, “My dream is world peace and that we would help each other.” Another child said her dream was “to have no living thing go unfed, unloved or uncared for.” A high school student answered “My dream is to help people around the world.”

MLK Day Renovation Project 2012

AmeriCorps VISTA (United Way of Weld County) and Weld County Youth Conservation Corps



Sanding a railing.

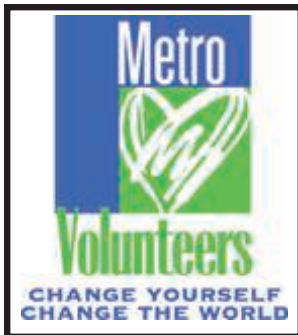


Painting one of the rooms.

Twenty-three volunteers including AmeriCorps VISTAS from Weld County United Way, Weld County Youth Conservation Corps, Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps, and Pi Sigma Phi went to the **Loved-Ones Against Meth (L.A.M.) Ministries' new location at the Lincoln Plaza Apartments** in Greeley to paint, clean and perform other tasks. Methamphetamine addiction is sweeping across Colorado, destroying lives and families along the way. L.A.M. is working to combat this crisis. With the tremendous hard work from the volunteers, a total of eight rooms were cleaned, spackled and painted. Volunteers also removed carpet and wood paneling and vacuumed. **"The combined efforts of The Weld County United Way VISTAS, the Weld County Youth Conservation Corps and the many other volunteers on MLK Day who worked to renovate the new L.A.M. Ministries Sober Living Center at Lincoln Plaza was above and beyond all expectations. It was a great blessing for this Ministry, the City of Greeley, and those in the community who are in need of emergency housing and guidance in overcoming their addiction."** said L.A.M. Building Supervisor, Steve Black.

Partners and Sponsors

Serve Colorado would like to offer a huge thank you to sponsors of the 2012 MLK Day of Service in Colorado! Without your in-kind and financial support, the scale of the MLK Day of Service would not be possible!



**Biomations
Phoebe
Coleman**



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Weld County

AmeriCorps*State Programs

Interested in learning more about AmeriCorps or becoming an AmeriCorps*State Member? AmeriCorps*State programs funded by Serve Colorado span a wide array of geographic areas and service categories. The following are 2011-2012 AmeriCorps*State programs:

Boomers Leading Change in Health AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Barbara Raynor *Website:* BLCIH.org

Boys & Girls Club Outreach and Enrichment Initiative

Contact: Julie Mordecai *Website:* ColoradoBoysandGirlsClubs.org

City/DPS Collaborative – Urban Education Service Corps

Contact: Roxanne Nice *Website:* DPSAmeriCorps.wordpress.com

Colorado HIPPYCorps

Contact: David Tisdale *Website:* CPFCONline.org

Colorado Mesa University AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Angie Bertrand *Website:* ColoradoMesa.edu/AmeriCorps

Colorado Youth Corps Association Education Award Program

Contact: Jennifer Freeman *Website:* CYCA.org

Community Building Partnership for Youth in Transition

Contact: Nicole Vera *Website:* CBYTAMeriCorps.org

Energize La Plata

Contact: Peter Tregillus *Website:* SUCAP.org

Frontier Asset Building AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Shawn Young *Website:* FrontierAssetBuilding.org

Job Training Environmental and Conservation Initiative

Contact: Ellen Piangerelli *Website:* MileHighYouthCorps.org

Pueblo Community College AmeriCorps Project

Contact: Cristina Guerra *Website:* PuebloCC.edu

United Way AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Adam Molzer *Website:* UWayLC.org

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners (RSAPP)

Contact: Cathy Cowles *Website:* RSAPP.org

Saguache United Methodist Church AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Yvonne Morfitt

The School-Based Mentoring Program

Contact: Libby Foster *Website:* PartnersRouttCounty.org

Weld County Youth Conservation Corps

Contact: Tami Grant *Website:* CO.Weld.CO.US





Serve Colorado - **Governor's Commission on Community Service**

Office of Lieutenant Governor Joseph Garcia

225 East 16th Avenue, Suite B-52

Denver, Colorado 80203

Phone: 303.866.6426 Fax: 303.866.2525

www.colorado.gov/servecolorado

