

# *Lifelong* CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A Guide for Michiganders



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Dear Michiganders:

Welcome to the *Lifelong Civic Engagement: A Guide for Michiganders* digital resource that discusses lifelong engagement of Michigan residents and offers suggestions and resources on how to engage in the community. This resource is divided into sections based on a series of life stages (K-12; College Years; Non-College Bound Youth; Post Graduate; Aging Adults). Each of these sections is designed to act as an independent resource for a specific life stage, as well as function as a cohesive document that lays out ways to civically engage in Michigan throughout a lifetime.

This resource was made possible by an anonymous donor who believes strongly in the concept of lifelong engagement. Through this generous donation to the Michigan Nonprofit Association, a Civic Engagement Fellow was retained. As the Civic Engagement Fellow, I worked directly with leading sector experts at both the state and national level who are committed to lifelong engagement and how engagement impacts local community issues. Through these partnerships I gained perspective on the work of nonprofit organizations, government and other key partners as well as their role in shaping local, state, and national strategies that impact civic engagement and the nonprofit sector.

The knowledge gained has been used to develop this resource that can act as a guide for lifelong engagement in our state. Furthermore, it will provide support for the promotion of engaging citizens to action and allow for a deeper understanding of the nonprofit sector, volunteerism, and civic engagement in the state of Michigan.

Each section in this resource contains an *Action Corner, Where can I Get Started?* and other information boxes containing links and suggestions on "getting engaged." Each section also contains a *Service Spotlight*, which highlights a service activity that has occurred in the state and involves the section's life stage group. The K-12 section differs from the other sections, as it divides up the time spent in K-12 into individual pieces (elementary, middle, and high school). While its' layout and information are similar to the remainder of the resource, this section contains a *Parent/Teacher Corner* and tends to be more focused towards the parents/guardians/teachers of the youth, with a focus on elementary and middle school.

To accompany this resource an activities placemat, *Learning How to Give Activity Mat* for children 5+ has been created. The placemat includes activities and simple word/definition games to provide exposure and knowledge development of terminology such as philanthropy, service, giving. The placemat is linked within the resource in the elementary piece of the K-12 section and can be easily printed for use.

Each section has supplemental information and resources that can be found in the *appendix*. The robust appendix includes active links to web pages of civic organizations, data resources, and relevant publications pertaining to each life stage. A link to the appendix can be found at the bottom of the section narrative. Within the appendix, resources are identified by an icon that distinguishes which life stage it relates to. The research provided in this resource gives rich insights into civic engagement in Michigan. It is an excellent tool for those looking to become engaged for their first time or for those looking for new ways to stay engaged.

In service,

Alyssa Walters

MNA-Civic Engagement Fellow, 2013

# Youth Engagement actions that change the World



## Introduction

Whether you are a parent, youth leader, teacher, or mentor, there are many ways to inform and inspire youth to act for the common good. The literature supports that students engaging in their communities at a young age are more likely to develop *characteristics* such as:

Openness    Meaningful Involvement    Communication  
 Respect    Listening    Initiative/Take a Chance  
 Partnership/Networking    Investment

In the K-12 system, especially K-8 system, exposure to civic engagement will often come from witnessing or participating with a parent, older sibling or through a classroom activity. For 9-12 graders, the list of potential exposures grows to include: academically required service hours, school and community clubs/organizations, and faith groups.

But how do you raise a service minded student? Or how do you become a service minded student? This part of the resource is divided into sections focused on elementary youth, middle school youth, and high school youth. Each includes a "parent/teacher corner" that has information for those living and/or working with the highlighted grade level youth. *See appendix for further resources.*

Terms used to talk about engagement in community are numerous, but when speaking to youth some of the most common and easily understood *terms*, include:

Kindness    Giving    Philanthropy  
 Service-learning    Giving back to Community  
 Nonprofit    Engagement    Leadership  
 Volunteering    SERVICE

Children in early elementary grades are able to express their feelings about fairness, selfishness, sharing and caring, justice, and equity. Listening to them and sharing experiences will help them to strengthen these feelings. Children in the elementary grades are capable of understanding fairly sophisticated ideas about serving others. They're old enough to begin to volunteer more actively, and to handle basic concepts related to giving and sharing. In a school setting getting students involved in service-learning opportunities is an excellent way to introduce service and how they can make an impact. Development of a strong service mentality begins in the home, school and community.

By involving elementary-aged children in activities that demonstrate giving and sharing youth

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and he will not depart from it.”

~ PROVERB 22:6 ~

develop these character traits, as well as build confidence in their own abilities as individuals.

Have discussions focused on the child's strengths... what is their time, talent, and treasure? What can children their age do to make a difference? How can they have an impact?

Just as school provides opportunities for young children to learn to socialize and to

share with other children, many positive lessons can be learned from involvement in social activities, such as youth groups. These groups come in many forms, such as national youth organizations with local clubs (like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and 4-H ), faith based youth groups, and local community clubs.



## The ABCs of Giving

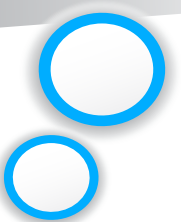
- A. Ask a neighbor if you can rake his/her leaves.
- B. Bake something for a sick friend.
- C. Compliment others around you.
- D. Donate a book to the library.

**It's your turn... Think of small and big things you can give or do for others. How can you help others?** (Fill in the blanks)

- E. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- F. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- G. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- H. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### There are countless ways to get young children involved in volunteering and learning to care...

- ▶ Family Volunteer Vacations
- ▶ Encourage high-quality academic service-learning in schools, check out the LEAGUE Michigan for more information ([www.mnaonline.org/league.aspx](http://www.mnaonline.org/league.aspx))
- ▶ Explore the Learning to Give website ([www.learningtogive.org](http://www.learningtogive.org))
- ▶ Read books with philanthropic content about giving and sharing. View Learning to Give's Annotated Bibliography of Children's Literature (<http://learningtogive.org/resources/K-2AnnotatedBibliography.pdf>)
- ▶ Print the Learning How to Give Activity Mat
- ▶ Check out Cathryn Berger-Kaye's publications at [abcdbooks.org](http://abcdbooks.org).



Middle school youth are very concrete in their thinking and do well at tasks that use their talents and strengths. Because middle school students are developing adult-like capabilities, these are the ideal years to stretch their experiences and thinking through volunteerism. Youth are best heard when adults step back and young people speak up. Students possess unique insights into the tough problems facing their schools and communities.

Encourage youth to become involved in service opportunities related to issues in which they have a passion or deep belief, whether through a service-learning class at school or participating in a day of service with a youth group. Teachers, school counselors, and youth group leaders can be a great resource, as well as local nonprofits and Volunteer Centers, as youth look to become engaged. Not only is the action of engaging important, but strong reflection on experiences is a necessary aspect of any engagement.

### For the Youth:

Do you know of a problem in your community? Do you wish you could change it or make it better? You can transform your creative thinking into actions that make a difference in your neighborhood, your town or city, your state, your country, and your world. But, why should you care? This is your time. The world needs to see you work and to hear your voices. There are many ways to make a difference. Maybe you're not interested in solving big problems. That's okay. There are many ways to make a difference. As a youth it may seem impossible to get your

*“What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.”*

*~Albert Pine~*

voice heard, but there are a shocking number of people who would be willing to help you. Think about it. Start talking to your parents/grandparents, teachers/administrators, and/or local organizations.

# Service Spotlight

**Location:** Grand Rapids, MI (Harrison Park Middle School)

**Project:** Sharing our legacy of giving

**Involved:** 8th graders (55 students)

Elizabeth Adelman's class of 8th graders at Harrison Park Middle School worked on a service-learning project involving local veterans. The students conducted interviews with the veterans at the Veterans' Home of West Michigan and created lap robes for them. The students wrote letters requesting time to interview the veterans, developed the interview questions, conducted the interviews and wrote a short biography of each of the veterans. The students also accompanied the veterans on a fishing trip, which "was a terrific way for kids to connect with the vets in a nonthreatening, social manner," according to Adelman. Adleman used a lesson plan from Learning to Give ([learningtogive.org](http://learningtogive.org)) to incorporate language arts and social studies concepts into the project. Because of this service-learning project, Adelman saw big improvements in her students. She said, "Academically, this group has made gains in reading and math as evidenced in report cards and MAP test results. These gains MUST be impacted by their sense of value and importance in the world. Attendance for the class as a whole has improved; students come to school every day as responsible students, but also as contributors to the community."

*"Photo of fishing activity pictured to the left"*



**Get the conversation going... Here are a few questions to get kids thinking about their time, talents, and treasures and how they can help their community.**

- ▶ What issues are of interested to you?
- ▶ What issues do you see in your community?
- ▶ Which of your talents can help you address these issues?
- ▶ Who will you help?
- ▶ What issue will you be impacting?
- ▶ How can volunteerism impact your future?
- ▶ How can you further develop your educational goals through volunteerism?

High school students are ready to be introduced to all facets of the philanthropic sector, including concepts related to economics, history, government, and nonprofits, as well as to fund-raising, personal giving and serving on a board. This is the time for direct experience.

During this period, many active teenagers develop leadership skills and take on group responsibilities. To prepare them for civic, activist, and service roles, their leadership skills can be enhanced through seminars, conferences, and workshops. This is also a time when young adults might want to consider career options in the independent/nonprofit sector, either related to an issue of interest to them, or as an area in which they might apply professional skills.

Get Inspired...  
Get Informed...  
Get Engaged!

### For the Young Adult:

It is your time to take action! You have the voice, talents, interests that can be an asset to making a difference in your community. You know your community, so what conditions or problems have you seen, heard, read about, or experienced that sparked your interests or curiosity, concerned you, or made you feel empathetic?

It is up to you to identify your inspiration, define the issue and create a vision for change through engagement. When you identify a need or a problem, you are identifying an opportunity to make a difference.

There are many ways to become involved in your community. It can be difficult and intimidating to get started, but resources are endless. It is a matter of identifying the best resource for you and/or the issue. Talk to your

“Tell me and I'll forget.  
Show me and I might  
remember. Involve me  
and I'll understand.”

~Chinese PROVERB~

parents, teachers, administrators, local Volunteer Centers, and local nonprofits to find out where to start. It can be a great adventure! 🌱



## Be the Change You Want to See

Service has the power to change the world, and when youth like you plan and lead thoughtful, impactful projects, service does change the world!

Are you planning a service project? Could you use some help?

Check out these toolkits and resources to make your project AWESOME!

- ▶ Youth Service America
  - Youth Changing the World: A Service Project
- ▶ Toolkit [www.ysa.org](http://www.ysa.org)  
GenerationOn Teen  
[www.generationon.org/teens](http://www.generationon.org/teens)

### Help high school students get involved in their community and school and expand their leadership skills...

- ▶ Encourage volunteering locally, find opportunities through the Volunteer Michigan web portal ([www.volunteermichigan.org](http://www.volunteermichigan.org))
- ▶ Encourage high-quality academic service-learning in schools
- ▶ Explore internships with local nonprofits
- ▶ Explore careers in philanthropy and with nonprofits
- ▶ When investigating colleges and universities encourage youth to look into service-learning courses and “service-learning” or “Volunteer Centers” on campuses. Is the campus a Michigan Campus Compact member? ([www.micampuscompact.org](http://www.micampuscompact.org))
- ▶ Establish a College Positive Volunteers program in the school ([www.micampuscompact.org/cpvmain.aspx](http://www.micampuscompact.org/cpvmain.aspx))

## THE COLLEGE YEARS:

# Fostering the CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS



## Introduction

Civic engagement returns to the original purpose of American post secondary education: development of *leaders* and civic improvement. From the societal perspective, what could be more important? Every society has systems and pipelines for leadership preparation: the church, the military, and the practice of certain occupations. Civic engagement during the college years suggests that post secondary education is about moving this next generation of college students into the important roles of *improving communities* for the greater good of all, not just for individual benefits. Opposing a more utilitarian and less intellectual, even anti-intellectual, view of the purposes of college, the college years can assist in the development of societal leaders who are *intellectual, rational, philosophical,* and *civic-minded*.

What kind of campus community and institutional culture do students encounter at the institutions they attend? There must be more done to offer courses and programs based around students' civic engagement. A civically engaged environment establishes an ethos for civic engagement. It models individual and organizational commitment. It offers students theory and practice, meaningful application of learning, and the expectation that they reflect deeply on their experiences and life choices. By providing this setting, civic engagement can continue to strengthen the historic and mutually beneficial bonds between campus and community.

The role of colleges and universities in preparing the next generation of citizens is vital if we are to remain a strong democracy. If colleges and universities accept this role, they must begin early, for the work of preparing citizens is not done in a small group of courses or in a single year. *Citizenship preparation*, to be most effective, must become a pervasive commitment of the institution, reflected in the academic programs, student life, and campus culture. Beginning the work of citizenship preparation offers students new worldviews and new ways of thinking of themselves and their contexts, and these new insights and understandings may in turn affect their careers, their lives.

This section of the resource is focused on civic engagement during the college years. While it may benefit any individual within the higher education system the focus of the section is on students during their college years in Michigan.

There are many reasons to embrace the work of citizenship preparation. It is engaging, thoughtful and important work that connects you to a larger world, and helps develop skills that you will use in all dimensions of your life. It may provide explanation for why you are in college and/or for the purpose of your studies. It has the potential to raise profound moral questions about how we live and work together as human beings in a global society. It challenges you to consider not only how the world is, but also how it might be. It offers intellectual and moral complexities that may force

“ The aim [of education] must be the training of independently acting and thinking individuals who, however, see in the service to the community their highest life achievement. ”

~Albert Einstein~

you to confront your own inadequacies, and it inspires you to move beyond yourself to consider others. For college students, such as you, and for our nation, there can be no more important educational outcomes.

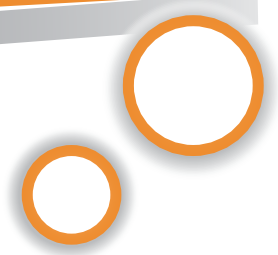
When looking at civic engagement during your college years there are two important times in which exposure to and encouragement of engagement should occur, whether at a four-year university, community college, or trade school. These include, what has been identified as: (1) the first-year experience and (2) post-graduate service opportunities. Though a lot may occur between the beginning and the end of your college years it is often found that engagement within the first year often “sparks” individuals into a continued involvement throughout their college years. This often is a result of identifying with an issue, organization, or individual a student is engaged in or with, whether on or off-campus. While post-graduate service opportunities encourage continued involvement there is no longer a well-supported infrastructure to encourage and support civic engagement.

The first college year, or “first-year experience,” provides the opportunity to introduce you, the student, to the kinds of thinking and experiences that the institution values — which often includes, civic engagement. The decisions and activities of the first-year often determine success at the beginning of college and build a foundation for success in the remaining years. When considering if your “first-year experience” is assisting you in

## 10 Ways to Serve in College

Here is a list of 10 simple ways you can get involved on your campus, by engaging with...

1. Student Organizations
2. Going Greek
3. Student Life
4. Visit Your Volunteer Center
5. Go on an Alternative Break
6. Campus Ministry
7. Student Government
8. Become a Resident Assistant
9. Visit [www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org), [www.handsonnetwork.org](http://www.handsonnetwork.org), and/or [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org).
10. Event Fundraiser





developing meaningful skills and values that will aid you in your studies and further develop you as a civically engaged graduate consider these three critical characteristics: institutional intention (leadership, culture, policies); programs and activities (curriculum and co-curriculum); and measuring results (institutional and course/program results, using local and national tools).

While the “first-year experience” has been found to have a meaningful impact on students, it is a process in which you get out what you put in, and every student will have a different experience. This is an opportune time to find out what your institution has to offer you, to get involved, and meet new people. Taking advantage of pre-orientation programs allows for exposure to opportunities that you might not otherwise find on your own. Take the steps to get oriented to the community you will be living in, the organizations that support that community, and meet those

“One is not BORN into the world to Do everything but to Do something.”

~Henry David~

who work and support the community and those organizations, as well as how you and your campus can be of assistance.

The second occurrence within a student’s college years is post-graduate service opportunities. Graduation should not mark the end of your community involvement and civic engagement. College is meant to be a gateway to the rest of life. The period of time immediately after graduation is unlike any another. Very few times in your life will you be able to make the kind of commitment and impact that you can make in a one- or two-year


### Here are some ways in which to get engaged NOW...

- ▶ Visit your Campus “Volunteer Centers,” “Service-Learning Departments,” “Service Departments”
- ▶ Ask your advisor about enrolling in a service learning course
- ▶ Find out if there are service trips offered during vacations (Alternative Break or Alternative Spring Break)
- ▶ Enroll in a service internship
- ▶ Participate in OR organize a Day of Service Project ([http://www.michigan.gov/mcsc/0,4608,7-137-6115\\_23690---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mcsc/0,4608,7-137-6115_23690---,00.html))
- ▶ Visit your local United Way
- ▶ Find a local nonprofit organization to volunteer with ([www.handsonnetwork.org](http://www.handsonnetwork.org))
- ▶ Check out the post-graduate service questionnaire produced by the Loyola Marymount University: <http://studentaffairs.lmu.edu/activiesservice/centerforserviceaction/serviceopportunities/post-graduateservice/>

volunteer opportunity. It is the hope of post-grad volunteering that you can do something that you are truly passionate about. So ask yourself: are you motivated by a desire to serve others, broaden your experience and knowledge of the world, or to make a difference in the lives of others? If you are interested in serving post graduation there are many opportunities to check out *see appendix for further resources*.

### Where Can I Get Started?

Getting started is often one of the most difficult and frustrating barriers to becoming engaged on your campus and/or in your community. Here is a brief listing of a few places you can start looking for opportunities to get involved and get engaged...

- ▶ Campus “Volunteer Centers,” “Service-Learning Departments,” “Service Departments”
- ▶ Campus Ministry/Faith Based Groups (Jesuit Volunteers [www.jesuitvolunteers.org](http://www.jesuitvolunteers.org); Mercy Volunteer Corps [www.mercyvolunteers.org](http://www.mercyvolunteers.org))
- ▶ Campus Service Organizations (Students United Way and website [www.unitedway.org/take-action/campus-engagement](http://www.unitedway.org/take-action/campus-engagement))
- ▶ Service Clubs (Jaycee - MI Junior Chamber and website; Kiwanis Club and website [www.mi.kiwanisone.org/public\\_district/index.aspx](http://www.mi.kiwanisone.org/public_district/index.aspx))
- ▶ Peace Corps/Atlas Corp ([www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)) ([www.atlascorps.org](http://www.atlascorps.org))
- ▶ AmeriCorps ([www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps](http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps))
- ▶ National Service Corp Network ([www.corpsnetwork.org](http://www.corpsnetwork.org))
- ▶ City Year ([www.cityyear.org/detroit.aspx](http://www.cityyear.org/detroit.aspx))
- ▶ Public Allies ([www.publicallies.org/](http://www.publicallies.org/))
- ▶ Turn to your local United Way for local volunteer opportunities ([www.uwmich.org](http://www.uwmich.org)) 

## Service Spotlight

**Location:** Mt. Pleasant, MI (Central Michigan University Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center)

**Project:** Alternative Breaks program

**Involved:** 600+

The Central Michigan University Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center Alternative Breaks program will be celebrating its 20 year anniversary this upcoming academic year. This program allows students the opportunity to develop into life-long active citizens in local, national and global communities through diverse, direct-service experiences dedicated to social justice. The picture is from a 2011 Alternative Spring Break where CMU volunteers served a week with the Association House of Chicago and their Out of School Time program. This program mentors children and teens ages 6 to 18 to be healthy and improve their academic, artistic, social, emotional, and leadership skills while helping them face the challenges of an overburdened public school system and violence in the community. Next year, the CMU Alternative Breaks program will send 600 student volunteers on 50 week and weekend long breaks connected to a variety of social justice issues to serve local, domestic, and international communities.

# NON-COLLEGE BOUND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

Making Community

A BETTER PLACE  
TO LIVE



## Introduction

### Non-College-Bound Youth: A Definition

Non-College-Bound Youth (NCBY) are individuals between the ages of 15 and 29 who have never attended college and are not currently on a course to do so. It is estimated that non-college-bound youth represent about 50 percent of the youth population in the United States.

Today, most programs and strategies continue to overlook or only cursorily involve the NCBY population. Efforts for service and volunteering are often focused on college campuses where youth already tend to be civically engaged. For many reasons it is true that it can be challenging to *engage* NCBY in political and civic life. There is no consistent framework used by those in the civic engagement field to describe, analyze, and address the complex needs of NCBY as they pertain to *civic and political engagement*, making it even more challenging to target this population in the most effective ways.

NCBY have many great attributes that are of use to organizations and projects working in communities. NCBY, unlike post secondary youth, are often or will be invested in the community in which they reside at a younger age. Many NCBY are located in or near the community that they grew up in, therefore, their *knowledge and understanding* of the people, places, and things in the community are much greater than implants within the community or visiting volunteers. It may be that NCBY are more inclined to serve in the community they live in than they are to serve in another town, county or state. By living in the community they serve often times those volunteers are more *aware of the issues* and are affected by community and/or know of someone who is affected by the issues. NCBY are an excellent volunteer because they live and they work in the communities that they are asked to serve, and are aware of the issues affecting the community and/or will have a *strong investment* once informed and exposed to a community challenge.

This section of the resource is focused on the civic engagement of non-college bound youth (NCBY). While it is often difficult to reach this group of individuals they have a great deal to offer organizations, individuals, and their communities. This section focuses on how NCBY can overcome the barriers that often bar them from taking part in volunteerism and engaging in their communities.

There are many reasons why people take the time to volunteer. Why are you interested in volunteering? Have you volunteered in the past? Why? Volunteering is engaging, thoughtful and important work which connects you to a larger world and helps develop skills that you will use in all dimensions of your life. It may provide a gateway into an organization or position that you might not have otherwise known about. It has the potential to raise profound moral questions about how we live and work on a local scale, as well as a global scale. It challenges you to consider the issues that are facing your community, your state, and even your world. It offers intellectual and moral complexities that may force you to confront your own inadequacies. And it encourages you to move beyond yourself to consider others.

“Never Doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

~Margaret Mead~

There are many ways to become engaged as a NCBY, some very simple ways such as through work, church, or with a group of friends. When looking for opportunities to get involved in your community check out local organizations/nonprofits, schools, political/advocacy organizations, work, etc. Barriers to volunteerism in your life are often seemingly numerous as your family, social life, work, etc. all take priority in life as they should. While these things are all priorities it is also possible to include volunteer time into your daily, weekly, or monthly routine. Common frustrations often heard are: I do not have the extra time to volunteer. I do not know where to get started. I do not know anyone who volunteers.

## Ten Ways to Find Time to Volunteer

Here is a list of 10 simple ways you can get involved on your community...

1. Know Your Interests and Capabilities
2. Be Realistic about Your Time and be Flexible
3. Think Local
4. Do Your Research
5. Volunteer on Vacation
6. Take Advantage of Employee Volunteer Programs
7. Keep it Simple
8. Make an Impact When You Truly Can
9. Volunteer to Meet More People
10. Checkout Virtual Volunteering Opportunities



### How Do I Find an Opportunity to Volunteer that is Right for Me?

Many people find the unknown to be a strong barrier to their getting involved in their communities. Here is a list of a few simple questions to help you decide what types of opportunities would work well for you.

- ▶ How much time do I really have?
- ▶ Am I super social or want to be alone, or both?
- ▶ Stay local or travel?
- ▶ Do I want to work offsite, at home, or both?
- ▶ Who do I want to serve and why?
- ▶ Will I create my own opportunity or volunteer with an established group?
- ▶ What do I want to get in return from the experience? (The answer might be simple: it just feels good.)



Technology is a great starting point when looking for opportunities to get involved in your community. There are multiple websites that will allow you to find the most interesting and appropriate volunteer opportunities and agencies for you. Some of these sites include: [www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org), [www.volunteermichigan.org](http://www.volunteermichigan.org), and [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org).

One such opportunity is through national service in a program such as AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps engages more than 80,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps programs serve their members by creating service opportunities and providing for young people entering the workforce, as well as working to move communities forward through national service. AmeriCorps places thousands of young adults into intensive service positions where they learn valuable work skills, earn money for education, and develop an appreciation for citizenship. Three AmeriCorps programs have been developed to provide these opportunities for communities and citizens – AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps\*VISTA, and AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. These programs are a great way to immerse oneself in the service experience.

You, as an individual resident, are an excellent attribute to your community. You are familiar with issues and will have a greater investment when you are informed and work with the issue that surrounds you in your community. While you are young and may feel that your skill set is not robust enough to be of assistance, it is important to understand that skills will develop

over time. Time and investment in the issues affecting the communities you care about is the first step towards making your community a better place to live.

### Where Can I Get Started?

Getting started is often one of the most difficult and frustrating barriers to becoming engaged on your campus and/or in your community. Here is a brief listing of a few places you can start looking for opportunities to get involved and get engaged...

- ▶ Faith Based Groups (church, synagogue, mosque)
- ▶ Service Organizations
- ▶ Neighborhood Associations
- ▶ Employee Volunteer Programs
- ▶ AmeriCorps ([www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps](http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps))
- ▶ Turn to your local United Way for local volunteer opportunities ([www.uwmich.org](http://www.uwmich.org))
- ▶ National Service Corp Network ([www.corpsnetwork.org](http://www.corpsnetwork.org))
- ▶ Youthbuild ([youthbuild.org](http://youthbuild.org))
- ▶ City Year ([www.cityyear.org/detroit.aspx](http://www.cityyear.org/detroit.aspx))

“You’ve got to think about ‘big things’ while you’re doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction.”

~Alvin Toffler~

## Service Spotlight

**Location:** Lansing, MI

**Project:** 2013 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project

**Involved:** Michigan’s AmeriCorps (350 members)

More than 350 of Michigan’s AmeriCorps members from across the state came together 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 multiple Lansing communities. Members worked with local nonprofits to plant community gardens, removing invasive species, building benches and many more activities. Each year, the Russ Mawby Signature Service Project brings hundreds of AmeriCorps members to one Michigan community for two days of intensive service. By the end of the second day, several projects are completed, visibly demonstrating the power of Michigan’s AmeriCorps members in action. The 2013 project is a partnership with the Michigan Community Service Commission, the Power of We Consortium, the Lansing School District, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan, Thinkbox Creative, and other local nonprofit organizations.



POST GRADUATES:

# Professional Development

through Engagement

## Introduction

Committing to full time service and/or public service fellowships after graduating from college has grown increasingly popular in the past 40 years. In fact, many of today's distinguished leaders in fields including politics, business, and journalism have completed such terms of service through *national and international programs*. As critical needs become more pervasive and apparent, young idealists armed with their college educations are joining these programs to meet these needs, gain real-world experiences, and hone their own skills. Alumni of these programs not only gain the satisfaction of having *contributed to the public good*, but may leave with that edge needed to attain acceptance into lucrative graduate programs and professional positions in their fields.

*Employee volunteer programs* are another way in which to engage post graduation. These opportunities have emerged as an important component of the corporate social responsibility initiatives of American companies. Studies suggest that slightly more than *80% of large companies in the United States* have employee volunteer programs.

Gains to employers include improving public image and community relations, increasing ability to recruit and retain valuable employees, *fostering team spirit and company pride among employees*, and enhancing the quality of life in the communities in which they operate. Employees view volunteer programs as an opportunity to develop leadership skills, raise self-confidence and feelings of self-worth for making a contribution, and *to build friendships and social relations in the workplace*. Nonprofit organizations and communities benefit from employee volunteer programs through their ability to garner much needed resources, serve a broader constituency, and create healthy communities.

Given these successes and benefits, the continued expansion of employee volunteer programs is likely. In fact, there is a move to *broaden and deepen the employee stakeholder role* by better integrating and aligning employee volunteer programs into the larger corporate citizenship strategies of corporations.

This section of the resource is focused on the civic engagement of post-graduates. While it is often challenging to engage these individuals there are many ways to involve this group immediately following their completion of their college years and through their professional lives.

In today's society there are a growing number of young professionals -- Generation Y and beyond -- taking time to volunteer. Volunteering is engaging, thoughtful, and important work which connects you to a larger world and helps develop skills that you will use in all dimensions of your lives. The benefits of volunteering are numerous and there are a number of reasons why it is important to make commitments to nonprofits and volunteer as a young professional.

Establishing and/or expanding your network. People talk a lot about networking and expanding your professional Rolodex. There are many individuals who leverage their volunteer experiences into full-time positions, or people who have used their volunteer coordinators as references when applying for jobs. Volunteering not only gives you the opportunity to make contacts in the business world, but also an opportunity to

*“The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.”*

*~Albert Einstein~*

meet contacts to add to your personal circle of friends as well. For example, after college, many young professionals find themselves starting a new job in a new city. Sometimes making this transition is easy, other times it's a challenge. Volunteering is a great way to meet a variety of people with similar interests.

Build your resume. Your resume -- an ever-evolving document -- has the potential to be improved through each activity or volunteer

opportunity. By choosing the right opportunity you can gain experience and refine your skills in any desired field. For example, an advertising professional who volunteers their time coming up with a campaign for a nonprofit fundraiser could reference that activity in interviews, using the materials as a portfolio piece. On the flip side, volunteering also gives you the opportunity to gain experience in areas you're interested in outside of your "day job." An accountant with a passion for photography could volunteer their time taking and developing images for nonprofits -- possibly opening new career avenues. Volunteering your professional skills is good for nonprofits as well -- skills-based volunteering allows these organizations to stretch their budgets by leveraging the professional skills of their volunteers.

Find balance. It's very easy to get caught up in work and not pay attention to or make time for other equally important parts of life. Time spent

## 10 Ways to Serve After College

Here is a list of 10 ways you can get involved after college...

1. Join the Peace Corps
2. Join the AmeriCorps
3. Consider Volunteering Abroad or taking a Volunteer Vacation
4. Visit a local Volunteer Center
5. Find local Nonprofits are in your community
6. Checkout Virtual Volunteering Opportunities
7. Think long term... become a Mentor
8. Teach a Class
9. Consider Coaching
10. Support a Political Group/Candidate



### Here are some ways in which to get engaged NOW...

- ▶ Visit your local Volunteer Center, Community Foundation, Public Schools, etc. for local volunteer opportunities
- ▶ Ministry/Faith Based Groups (church, synagogue, mosque)
- ▶ Neighborhood Associations
- ▶ Service Organizations/Service Clubs
- ▶ Employee Volunteer Programs
- ▶ Peace Corps/Atlas Corp ([www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov))([www.atlascorps.org](http://www.atlascorps.org))
- ▶ AmeriCorps ([www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps](http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps))
- ▶ Turn to your local United Way for local volunteer opportunities ([www.uwmich.org](http://www.uwmich.org))
- ▶ Go Online and visit [www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org), [www.volunteermichigan.org](http://www.volunteermichigan.org), and/or [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)

in your 20s and early 30s is a good time to evaluate who and what these important elements of life are to you. Work, family, friends, and so on -- this balancing act can include different things for different people. Volunteering can be added to your well-rounded list. How you choose to volunteer may change as you get older, but by making giving back a priority early on, you set a precedent for yourself that giving time to worthwhile organizations and causes is a vital part of your own personal development.

The rewards of volunteering are endless, far too lengthy to try and list here. But as a young professional -- whether you volunteer for personal reasons, some of the points mentioned here, or a combination of these and other factors -- getting out and making a difference has a great personal return on investment! *See appendix for further resources.*

### Where Can I Get Started?

Getting started is often one of the most difficult and frustrating barriers to becoming engaged in your community, but there are a number of reasons that it's important to make commitments to nonprofits and volunteer as a young professional.

- ▶ Establish and expand your network
- ▶ Build your resume
- ▶ Make use of and strengthen skills through skill-based volunteering
- ▶ Learn to lead
- ▶ Find something you are genuinely passionate about 🌱



## Service Spotlight

**Location:** Comstock Park, Michigan

**Project:** Altria Believes in Sharing

**Involved:** Altria Employees

Sharing is one of Altria's core values. Their employees partnered with the Volunteer Center at Heart of West Michigan United Way on June 27, 2013, to activate their vision for giving back to the community. Altria provided a \$15,000 grant and a full day of volunteer service to The Salvation Army's Little Pine Island Camp. Flood waters this spring had made camp recreational areas and trails unusable for the nearly 900 kids who will use the camp this year. Through their grant and Day of Sharing, Altria and twenty-five employees from throughout the district pitched in to support and restore the camp.

The volunteers worked (1) indoors to lend artistic skill to create backdrops for a castle themed education unit for the kids; (2) worked to develop a shooting range; and (3) put their efforts towards the ropes course and trails that were filled with mud and pools of water. The camp was not able to use this important part of the property yet this year for camp, so it was a major accomplishment to have the area in usable condition once again. To close the event the volunteers celebrated by doing a traditional camp activity out on the course.

Thanks, Altria, for significant improvements to the quality of the camp experience and a great Day of Sharing!

AGING ADULTS (55+):

# Impacting Communities in the Second Half of Life



## Introduction

Aging Americans (55 and over) volunteer more time (96 hours/year) than any other segment of the population (U.S. Department of Labor 2002). Referred to as “**Super Volunteers**” by some volunteer coordinators, these adults, when successfully placed and supported, are often the **most reliable and committed of all volunteers**. However, only 22 percent of aging adults volunteer, less than any other segment of the American population. Reasons for this low level of engagement can be significantly attributed to the “spotty” landscape of volunteer opportunities and incentives tailored specifically to this population. Though volunteering by aging adults 55 and over has been on the lower end for the overall American population it has been on an upward path in recent years. A report by The Corporation for National and Community Service notes that the number of aging adults 55 plus who volunteer has risen from 7.7 million in 2002 to **9.1 million in 2009**.

Why has the number of aging volunteers continued to increase over the past decades? **Generational changes**, connections between health and volunteering and improved education and income levels among aging adults may be factors that explain the increase of volunteering by aging adults. Research indicates that volunteering can improve physical and mental health. Aging adults may have experienced a boost in their health through volunteering and this health benefit could have motivated them to continue volunteering. Also, today’s aging adults have more resources than in the past. They are more educated and financially secure. Volunteering has been found to help aging adults **stay active and connected to their communities**; it’s a good opportunity for both aging volunteers and the organizations that reap the benefits of their service.

One of the greatest obstacles preventing aging adults from ushering in a renaissance of civic life in America is that the articulation of a new vision for later life, at least at the national level, is outpacing the construction of programs and institutions needed to realize this vision. Though the promotion of the civic engagement of aging adults must continue, without additional resources directed towards building the capacity of community-based organizations to utilize this potential tidal wave of volunteers, aging adults may find themselves **ready and willing** with nowhere to go. To the extent that this is already happening throughout the nation, federal and local governments, foundations, and corporations must quickly direct significant resources towards developing model programs and initiatives that support the civic engagement of aging adults. To date, findings indicate that the number of volunteer opportunities available to aging Americans does not reflect **the diversity, skills, and needs of this burgeoning group**. Aging adults volunteer for many different types of organizations. Religious institutions are the most popular organizations through which they volunteer their time and skills. They also volunteer at social service organizations, hospitals, educational organizations and civic and arts organizations.

This section focuses on how aging adults can take part in volunteerism and engage in their communities.



Volunteer activities give you the opportunities to share your experience, wisdom, and skills with youth, adults, and other aging adults. The long-held notion that aging people lack interest and willingness to serve as volunteers has changed. Today, aging adults are actively sought to serve as volunteers.

You have led change in every phase of your lives – from the revolutionary social changes during your teens and young adulthood in the 1960's and 1970's to the unprecedented career mobility and the ongoing presence of women in the workforce that marked professional lives of the 1980's and 1990's. Just as concern for society's well being was the root of the social movement of the 1960's and 1970's, a desire to take care of individuals, the community, and the earth has propelled

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.”

~Erma Bombeck~

you to revolutionize nonprofits in the twenty-first century. You desire and know how to positively impact a nonprofit's capacity more significantly than any cohort of volunteers that has preceded you. You have and will

redefine retirement and will demand changes in the very nature of volunteerism.

There are many ways to become engaged as an aging adult, some are very simple: start with former employers, your church, or your group of friends. When looking for opportunities to get involved in your community check out local organizations/nonprofits, schools, political/advocacy organizations, and/or programs such as Encore and/or AARP – Experience Corps. Technology is also a great starting point when looking for opportunities to get involved. There are multiple websites that will allow you to find the most interesting and appropriate volunteer opportunities, agencies, and/or programs for you. Some of these sites include: [www.aarp.org/experience-corps](http://www.aarp.org/experience-corps), [www.handsonnetwork.org](http://www.handsonnetwork.org), and/or [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org).

## 10 Ways to Serve

Here is a list of 10 ways you can get involved...

1. Become a Senior Corp Member
2. Explore the AARP - Experience Corp
3. Build Your Encore Career at [Encore.org](http://Encore.org)
4. Corporate Retiree Volunteer Programs within your Company
5. Become a Mentor
6. Support a Political Group/ Candidate
7. Teach a Class through the Local Lifelong Learning Program
8. Visit the local Senior Center, Commission on Aging, etc.
9. Visit the local Volunteer Center
10. Consider volunteering abroad or taking a volunteer vacation

### Here are some ways in which to get engaged NOW...

- ▶ Visit your local Volunteer Center, Community Foundation, and/or Senior Center for local volunteer opportunities
- ▶ Ministry/Faith Based Groups (church, synagogue, mosque)
- ▶ Neighborhood Associations
- ▶ Take part in AARP – Experience Corps ([www.aarp.org/experience-corps](http://www.aarp.org/experience-corps))
- ▶ Visit [Encore.org](http://Encore.org) ([www.encore.org](http://www.encore.org))
- ▶ Take part in Corporate Volunteer Programs offered to current and/or retired employees
- ▶ Service Organizations/Service Clubs (Rotary Club [www.rotary.org/en/Pages/ridefault.aspx](http://www.rotary.org/en/Pages/ridefault.aspx); Lions Club [www.lionsofmi.com](http://www.lionsofmi.com))
- ▶ SeniorCorps ([www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps](http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps))
- ▶ Turn to your local United Way for local volunteer opportunities ([www.uwmich.org](http://www.uwmich.org))
- ▶ Go Online and visit [www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org), [www.volunteermichigan.org](http://www.volunteermichigan.org), and/or [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)
- ▶ Visit your local Office on Aging ([www.michigan.gov/osa](http://www.michigan.gov/osa))



# Service Spotlight



**Location:** Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Project:** Kalamazoo County Senior Companion Program

**Involved:** Kalamazoo County Senior Companions

What bothered her was that she didn't answer the phone.

For 7 years now, Esther, a volunteer with the Senior Companion Program (SCP), one of the National Service Senior Corps Programs, has been matched with Linda, a woman who was homebound and in need of companionship. Over the years, this original 'match' grew into something much more, a wonderful friendship. Each looked forward to their weekly visit and outing together, come rain or shine.

As had been their routine, Esther called prior to going over to Linda's, just to make sure that the visit was on. Sometimes they would go shopping, sometimes Esther would take Linda to a M.D.'s appointment, and sometimes they just visited. But this time when Esther called, Linda did not answer the phone and this worried her.

Esther kept calling, but to no avail. After several unanswered calls, Esther called the Senior Companion Program staff expressing her concern. Linda's only relative and emergency contact lives out of town, quite a distance. Rather than worry her unnecessarily, the SCP called the local hospitals to ensure that Linda had not been admitted, which she had not. Their next call was to Linda's apartment complex manager, who although reluctant at first agreed to check Linda's apartment, once the situation had been described to her.

The apartment manager found Linda lying on her living room floor. Unable to get up or reach a phone, Linda had been on the floor since the night before. Linda was taken to the hospital by ambulance, admitted, and stayed there a week before being released to a nursing home for rehabilitation. Of course, Esther continued their weekly visits through it all. Linda credits, Esther for saving her life twice now. Once when she became her friend and once when she didn't ignore an unanswered phone call.

Because of Esther's perseverance, their companionship and visits get to continue.

You as an individual are an excellent attribute to your community. As a generation, aging adults are well informed on local, state, national, and international news and issues. Your well-developed skills can be a great asset to the nonprofit sector, and volunteering with these organizations will allow you to continue use of these skills and engage in your passions and interests. Time and investment in the issues affecting the communities you care about are the first steps towards making your community a better place to live. *See appendix for further resources.*

## Where Can I Get Started?

Getting started is often one of the most difficult and frustrating barriers to becoming engaged in your community. There are a lot of ways to

get this process started. You can start talking to your friends and family and/or look for opportunities in the newspaper and online. A great place to start is by finding out what you are looking for in an engagement opportunity, here are some basic questions to start with:






- ▶ How would you like to spend the next five or ten or twenty years?
- ▶ What community or national or global problems motivate you to act?
- ▶ Do you need to get paid for your time?
- ▶ Do you have a specific field of interest or something new you want to explore?
- ▶ Do you want to start your own organization or engage in an existing one?
- ▶ Are you willing and able to go back to school or get other training? 🧠



# Appendix

## LIFELONG ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

**Key**

-  K-12
-  College Years
-  Non-College Bound Youth
-  Post Graduates
-  Aging Adults

## ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES

### AARP Experience Corps

[www.aarp.org/experience-corps](http://www.aarp.org/experience-corps)

The AARP Experience Corps works to create powerful opportunities for 50-plus adults to meet society's greatest challenges. AARP Experience Corps volunteer members tutor and mentor in 19 cities across the country, providing literacy coaching, homework help, consistent role models and committed, caring attention. Through this generational exchange, children succeed, 50-plus adults thrive and communities are made stronger.

### AmeriCorps

<http://www.americorps.gov>

AmeriCorps is a national service program that supports a wide range of local service programs that engage thousands of Americans in intensive community service each year, providing grants to a network of local and national organizations and agencies committed to using national service to address critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps programs include: AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC, and FEMA Corps.

### Atlas Corps

[www.atlascorps.org/index.php](http://www.atlascorps.org/index.php)

Atlas Service Corps, Inc. (Atlas Corps) is an international network of nonprofit leaders and organizations that promotes innovation, cooperation, and solutions to address the world's 21st century challenges. The network's mission is to address critical social issues by developing leaders, strengthening organizations, and promoting innovation through an overseas fellowship of skilled nonprofit professionals. Atlas Corps engages leaders committed to the nonprofit sector in 12 to 18 month, professional fellowships at organizations to learn best practices, build organizational capacity, and return home to create a network of global change makers.

### City Year

[www.cityyear.org/detroit.aspx](http://www.cityyear.org/detroit.aspx)

City Year's mission is to build democracy through citizen service, civic leadership and social entrepreneurship. The organization is wholly focused on fighting the national dropout crisis. City Year has a group of corps members focusing on three early warning indicators that have been defined through research: attendance, behavior and course performance in math and english. City Year's work in schools is strengthened by its deep history in community service. Since 1988, City Year has been a leader in the growing national service movement, leading to the establishment of AmeriCorps, the passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, and the creation of Voices for National Service.

### **DoSomething.Org**

[www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)

This civic engagement site encourages young people to create their own vision for making a difference in their community and provides them with the resources and support needed. The website contains “cause” suggestions for issues to get involved in, each containing “act now” action tips and “resources” with up-to-date information on those issues. The above website also highlights the organizations campaigns and offers internships, scholarships, and grant opportunities to support youth.

### **Encore**

[www.encore.org](http://www.encore.org)

[Encore.org](http://Encore.org) is building a movement to make it easier for millions of people to pursue second acts for the greater good. The opportunities through [Encore.org](http://Encore.org) are called “encore careers” – jobs that combine personal meaning, continued income and social impact – in the second half of life. While [Encore.org](http://Encore.org) is not a job placement service, it provides free, comprehensive information that helps people transition to jobs in the nonprofit world and the public sector. Check out the opportunities available on their website.

### **Generations United**

[www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org)

Generations United is the national membership organization focused solely on improving the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies. The organizations act as a catalyst for stimulating collaboration among aging, children, and youth organizations, providing a forum to explore areas of common ground while celebrating the richness of each generation. They work to improve the lives of children youth and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs for the enduring benefit for all.

### **The Giraffe Project**

[giraffe.org](http://giraffe.org)

The central theme of the Giraffe Project is that our society’s problems will truly be solved only when enough ordinary citizens are willing and able to stick their necks out and take responsibility for working on the solutions. The website offers materials for teachers related to developing courage and caring in students and information on how to put those qualities to work by doing service.

### **GenerationOn**

[www.generationon.org](http://www.generationon.org)

GenerationOn is the global youth service movement igniting the power of all kids to make their mark on the world. With service-learning and volunteer action at its core, generationOn mobilizes young people, starting at an early age, to discover their power and potential to solve real world problems through service.

### **HandsOn Connect**

[www.handsonnetwork.org/actioncenters/handsonconnect](http://www.handsonnetwork.org/actioncenters/handsonconnect)

HandsOn Connect is an online resource focused on connecting individuals with agencies and projects that are meaningful to them. The website includes volunteer profiles and service history management which allows for you to enter your skills and availability to more quickly match needs and interests that connect with the opportunity search engine.

### **HandsOn Network**

[www.handsonnetwork.org](http://www.handsonnetwork.org)

HandsOn Network is the largest network of local volunteer centers around the world, with 250 Volunteer Action Centers or Volunteer Centers that engage 21st century volunteers to use their time, talent, voice and money to create change in their communities. In 2007, HandsOn Network merged with the Points of Light to offer an unmatched blend of ideas, innovation, and expertise, and a powerful commitment to helping citizens to engage, take action, and solve community problems through volunteer service. The organization’s mission to inspire, equip and mobilize people to take action that changes the world; HandsOn Action Centers foster meaningful service opportunities in countless communities around the globe.

### **Idealist.org**

[www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)

Idealist is an online resource focused on connecting people, organizations, and resources to help build a world where all people can live free and dignified lives. This is done through helping individuals find volunteer opportunities, nonprofit jobs, internships, and organizations working to enact change in the world.

### **Jaycees – MI Junior Chamber**

[www.mijaycees.org](http://www.mijaycees.org)

The Michigan Jaycees give young adults between the ages of 21 and 40 the tools they need to build the bridges of success for themselves and their communities in the areas of business development, individual development, community involvement and international connections. This is done through partnerships with state and local governments, Michigan based businesses and other community organizations.

## Junior Achievement

[michigan.ja.org](http://michigan.ja.org)

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. Junior Achievement programs help prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, how to create jobs which make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. Students put these lessons into action and learn the value of contributing to their communities.

## Learning to Give

[www.learningtogive.org](http://www.learningtogive.org)

Learning to Give, the curriculum division of generationOn, is the world's leading developer of lessons and resources that teach giving and volunteerism, civic engagement, and character through service-learning. The Learning to Give website offers over 1,600 K-12 lessons and educational resources for teachers, parents, youth workers, faith groups and community leaders free of charge.

## The LEAGUE Michigan

[www.mnaonline.org/league.aspx](http://www.mnaonline.org/league.aspx)

The LEAGUE Michigan is a program for service, service-learning and philanthropy education that builds character and empowers young people to "do good" in their community, the nation and the world. This is done through the implementation of a series of dynamic components that prepare youth and educators with the right tools to make a positive impact in their communities.

These dynamic components include: (1) use of the Learning to Give curriculum - composed of lessons on service, service-learning and philanthropy education aligned to state and national standards. (2) Fisher Training (I & II) – an immersion experience where teachers learn how to implement service, service-learning, and philanthropy education curriculum in their classroom, through developing a project to be implemented in their classroom with support of a mini-grant. (3) service and leadership camp - an opportunity for 8-12th graders to engage in service, service-learning and philanthropy education projects, interactive sessions, develop leadership skills and lay out plans for the upcoming school year. (4) National service through a partnership with the Michigan Nonprofit Association Civic Engagement AmeriCorps VISTA program places AmeriCorps\*VISTA members throughout the state to support teachers and students in integrating service, service-learning and philanthropy education throughout the year. (5) Projects - LEAGUE Michigan staff is available to support teachers and students in integrating service, service-learning and philanthropy education projects in the classroom.

## Michigan Campus Compact

[www.micampuscompact.org](http://www.micampuscompact.org)

Michigan Campus Compact (MiCC) is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purposes of higher education. Campus Compact member presidents are joined together in their commitment to the development of personal and social responsibility as integral to the educational mission of their campuses. Currently MiCC has 40+ member campuses and Michigan members are part of national Campus Compact, a coalition of more than 1,10000 college and university presidents, representing some 6 million students.

## Mobilize.org

[Mobilize.org](http://Mobilize.org) empowers and invests in Millennials to create and implement solutions to social problems. It is an organization that believes that in order to create long-term, sustainable and community based solutions to the challenges facing the Millennial generation (young adults born between the years 1976 and 1996) they must authentically engage their peers in identifying problems, proposing solutions, and most importantly, must work together to implement these solutions on their campuses and in their communities. They do this by offering summits, leadership development programs, and meetups for the Millennial generation. Check out the website for dates and locations.

## National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC)

[www.nylc.org/resources](http://www.nylc.org/resources)

The NYLC provides training and technical assistance related to service-learning. Their resource library allows instant access to the best resources on popular topics. This extensive, searchable library offers a collection of articles, downloads, project examples, and links that can help you get started with service-learning and delve deeper into areas of interest.

## Peace Corps

[www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. From that inspiration grew an agency of the federal government devoted to world peace and friendship. Since that time, 200,000+ Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation.

### Points of Light

[www.pointsoflight.org](http://www.pointsoflight.org)

The Points of Light is the world's leading volunteer organization with more than 20 years of history and a bipartisan legacy. Points of Light connects people to their power to create positive change and address the critical needs of our communities. Their organizational vision is that one day, every person will discover their power to make a difference, creating healthy communities in vibrant, participatory societies. This vision comes to fruition through action networks including HandsOn Network, GenerationOn, AmeriCorps Alums, and Points of Light Corporate Service Institute, that all actively engage individuals as change agents in local communities.

### Public Allies

[www.publicallies.org](http://www.publicallies.org)

Public Allies' mission is to advance new leadership to strengthen communities, nonprofits and civic participation. Public Allies is changing the face and practice of leadership in communities across the country by demonstrating their conviction that everyone can lead, and that lasting social change results when citizens of all backgrounds step up, take responsibility, and work together. Public Allies employs integrated strategies to develop the next generation of leaders and re-define leadership. This is done through their two programs (1) Public Allies AmeriCorps Ally Program identifies diverse young adults and prepares them for leadership through paid full-time nonprofit apprenticeships and rigorous leadership training and (2) Alumni Programs connect and engage the growing Public Allies network of diverse leaders and invests in those positioned to make the greatest impact.

### Senior Corp

[www.seniorcorps.gov/Default.asp](http://www.seniorcorps.gov/Default.asp)

Senior Corps connects today's 55+ with the people and organizations that need them most. Volunteers become mentors, coaches or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Volunteers receive guidance and training so they can make a contribution that suits their talents, interests, and availability. Through grants and other resources—including the energy and efforts of citizens age 55 and over—Senior Corps helps meet the needs and challenges of America's communities. Grants administered through Senior Corps provide funding for the following programs: foster grandparents, RSVP, and senior companions.

### SERVEnet

[www.servenet.org/](http://www.servenet.org/)

A program of Youth Service America, SERVENet users can enter their zip code, city, state, skills, interests, and availability and be matched with organizations needing help.

### Volunteer Centers of Michigan (VCM)

[www.mivolunteers.org/](http://www.mivolunteers.org/)

Volunteer Centers of Michigan (VCM) is a statewide network of over 30 Volunteer Centers serving 59 Michigan counties. Volunteer Centers mobilize people and resources to deliver creative solutions to community problems. Through the convening of organizations, the promotion of community service, and the matching of volunteers to nonprofit programs and events, Volunteer Centers take a leadership role in addressing key community issues. The website contains a local volunteer opportunities search engine for volunteers interested in volunteering within the network, listed under "volunteers."

### Volunteer Match

[www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)

Volunteer Match is an online resource developed to allow individuals interested in volunteering to search opportunities that fit their interests. This site offers volunteer opportunities that match volunteers with nonprofits, corporate volunteer opportunities and/or allow for online donations to nonprofits of your choice.

### YouthAction Net

[www.youthactionnet.org/](http://www.youthactionnet.org/)

YouthAction works with youth and community-based organizations, primarily in communities of color and low-income communities. It provides trainings, events, technical assistance and networking opportunities to strengthen youth organizing and create change for local communities.

### YouthBuild

[youthbuild.org/](http://youthbuild.org/)

In YouthBuild programs, low-income young people ages 16 to 24 work full-time for 6 to 24 months toward their GEDs or high school diplomas while learning job skills by building affordable housing in their communities. Emphasis is placed on leadership development, community service, and the creation of a positive mini-community of adults and youth committed to each other's success. Students may earn AmeriCorps education awards through their homebuilding and other community service. At exit, they are placed in college, jobs, or both. Today, there are 273 YouthBuild programs in 46 states, Washington, D.C., and the Virgin Islands engaging approximately 10,000 young adults per year.

### Youth Service America (YSA)

[www.ysa.org/resources](http://www.ysa.org/resources)

YSA's mission is to build healthy towns and cities and foster citizenship, knowledge and personal development through a powerful network of service opportunities for young Americans. YSA provides training and technical assistance around youth leadership, including youth entrepreneurship, offering young people, educators, and adult mentors the tool kits and guides to help make a difference. Written by YSA field experts, YSA Resources equip youth to lead high-quality, high-impact service and service-learning projects. Download free resources by clicking on the above website for tips and tricks on starting a service project, tools to keep your project on track, and real life examples.

## COMMUNITY DATA RESOURCES

### Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP)

[www.campuselect.org](http://www.campuselect.org)

Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) is a non-partisan project that helps America's colleges and universities get as many of their 20 million students as possible to register, volunteer in campaigns, educate themselves, and turn out at the polls. They work primarily through the state offices of the major higher education service learning organization Campus Compact, and with other allied higher education organizations and networks. Their goals are to help schools use their extensive resources to assist their students in registering to vote, getting educated on the issues, volunteering in the campaigns, and showing up at the polls.

### The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE)

[www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org)

CIRCLE conducts research on civic education in schools, colleges, and community settings and on young Americans' voting and political participation, service, activism, media use, and other forms of civic engagement. It is based at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University.

### Constitutional Rights Foundation

[www.crf-usa.org](http://www.crf-usa.org)

CRF is a non-profit, non-partisan, community-based organization dedicated to educating America's young people about the importance of civic participation in a democratic society. They offer programs, curricula, and training opportunities designed to engage K-12 youth and teachers in civic participation through service learning activities. The foundation also publishes a free quarterly national newsletter, Service-Learning Network, and administers the Robinson Mini-Grant Program from service learning projects.

### Energize, Inc.

[www.energizeinc.com](http://www.energizeinc.com)

Energize, Inc. is an international training, consulting and publishing firm specializing in volunteerism. Energize has assisted organizations of all types with their volunteer efforts. This firm is focused on connecting leaders of volunteers with resources, information and ideas generated from around the world. They provide a location for the exchange of views on critical issues in the field, browse pertinent articles and purchase books on volunteer management.

### National Service-Learning Clearinghouse

[www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org)

This is a national clearinghouse established by the federal government to provide information on service-learning. In order to keep current on the many ways service-learning is being implemented, the clearinghouse has partners who are experts in different types of service-learning: community-based, school-to-work, higher education, etc.

### Pew Partnership for Civic Change

[www.pew-partnership.org](http://www.pew-partnership.org)

The partnerships' research explores how innovative partnerships, citizen participation, and accessible technology catalyze civic solutions in these areas. The web site has links to its publications and other resources. It also provides information on topics such as thriving neighborhoods, living-wage jobs, viable economics, healthy families and children, and collaborative leadership.

### Youth Vote

[www.youthvote.org](http://www.youthvote.org)

Youth Vote is a national, nonpartisan coalition of organizations working to increase political and civic participation among young people, build an inclusive, accountable and responsive government, and increase public awareness about the value of participating in the electoral process.

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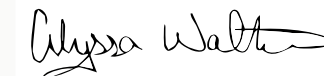
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