



MLK Day 2012 Project Initiative Grantee Summaries

Organization: Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod

Project Name: AmeriCorps Cape Cod MLK Day 2012

Location: Barnstable County

Project Summary: AmeriCorps Cape Cod will provide a leadership development opportunity for their members that also benefits local nonprofits on MLK Day. Members will be responsible for the projects' development and execution including identifying the local needs of the community, selecting projects that engage up to 200 volunteers, addressing a community need while including information on Dr. King's message.

Organization: Boston Cares

Project Name: MLK Day 2012 - A Day On, Not a Day Off

Location: Boston

Project Summary: Boston Cares will recruit 500 volunteers to participate in portable volunteering projects at the Curley K-8 School in Jamaica Plain that will impact numerous Boston area agencies. Action stations for volunteers will produce 420 fleece blankets for Room to Grow, 600 fleece scarves for homeless clients at the New England Center for Homeless Veterans, decorate 480 quilt squares for 60 baby quilts for Room to Grow, create and assemble 720 arts and crafts kits for after-school programs, write 480 letters of appreciation to local service men and women through Guard Support, produce 120 checkerboards for after-school programs, produce and assemble 240 indoor recess kits for after-school programs and produce 4 inspirational murals to brighten the halls of the Curley School.

Organization: Community Teamwork, Inc.

Project Name: Family Shelter Improvement Project

Location: Lowell

Project Summary: CTI's volunteer center will recruit 35 volunteers to assist in refurbishing rooms and play spaces in homeless shelters through painting, building shelves and cabinets, sorting and cleaning donated items, sewing and hanging curtains and blinds and painting a mural at each shelter.

Organization: Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries

Project Name: Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Location: Waltham

Project Summary: CMM will recruit 400 volunteers to serve at 18 service sites across Waltham and Boston including projects at the Homes Suites Inn Family Shelter, MIRA, Sudanese Education Fund, Haitian American nonprofits, Haley House and the Boys and Girls Club of Waltham. Service will include direct service work with Waltham area youth programs, clearing neighborhood parks and playgrounds, rehabbing facilities of new immigrant agencies and service meals to homeless persons. The Day of Service will also include a community meal where volunteers participate in reflection on the life and teachings of Dr. King.

Organization: Mass Mentoring Partnership

Project Name: Backpack Mentors/Self Esteem Kits

Location: Worcester/Lawrence/North Shore

Project Summary: Mass Mentoring Partnership will recruit 120 volunteers including current mentors and mentees to gather at both the Worcester Youth Center and Family Service Inc. in Lawrence to participate in 2 separate Back Pack Mentors/Self-Esteem Kit drives for homeless and poverty-stricken youth. Ambassadors of Mentoring will host drives from November through January to collect items for the kits with volunteers gathering on MLK day to package and distribute them to local agencies.

Organization: Mass Promise Fellowship - Northeastern University's Center of Community Service

Project Name: The King Day of Service and Leadership

Location: Boston

Project Summary: Northeastern University's Center of Community Service will recruit 300 volunteers to be engaged on MLK Day on campus to participate in remote projects benefiting Boston area nonprofits in addition to reflection activities on MLK and leadership development workshops.

Organization: Northern Berkshire Community Coalition

Project Name: North Berkshire County MLK Day of Service

Location: Berkshires

Project Summary: On MLK Day, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition will engage 200 participants in their MLK Day of Service at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Center where volunteers will partner with the local Habitat for Humanity to work on current construction projects, partner with the Northern Berkshire Friendship Center to coordinate a food/toiletries drive to support the local food pantry and prepare bags of trail and soup mix. Volunteers will also make blankets and mittens to be distributed at local clothing outlets and participate in community betterment projects in partnership with the City of North Adams.

Organization: Sociedad Latina

Project Name: A Healthy Meal for Homeless Children

Location: Boston

Project Summary: Sociedad Latina will engage 20 youth leaders, 20 college students and 20 youth from across the city to cook a fresh and nutritious meal for two family shelters and Mission Main Community Center, deliver the meals to the shelters, provide nutritional information and recipes to shelter residents and educate the shelter children about Dr. King. Volunteers will also provide cleaning and maintenance services to the shelters and engage children with music and instruments on MLK Day.

Organization: Spontaneous Celebrations

Project Name: Peace of Youth

Location: Boston

Project Summary: Spontaneous Celebrations' Peace of Youth project will recruit 50 volunteers to empower participants in their high-school age program to educate and unite a diverse group of youth and adults in Jamaica Plain, Roxbury and Boston through a workshop and reflection on Dr. King's organizing against racism, poverty and violence. Volunteers will then create buttons, banners and murals that promote nonviolence, social justice and youth power followed by conducting door to door outreach to educate residents about youth opportunities that keep them away from violence and collecting donations for a canned food drive organized by the youth volunteers to benefit the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Organization: United Way of North Central Massachusetts

Project Name: Martin Luther King Day Regional Collaborative

Location: North Central MA

Project Summary: UWNCM will generate 600 volunteers to engage in a series of service projects throughout the week of MLK Day including an MLK Challenge event where teams of volunteers identify community issues and work together in teams to address them, an MLK Day event to recognize the accomplishments from the week and reflect on Dr. King and provide over 2300 hours of service throughout the week of MLK Day.

Organization: University of Massachusetts Boston

Project Name: MLK Day of Service: Building Our Community

Location: Dorchester

Project Summary: University of Massachusetts Boston will recruit 150 volunteers from the Dorchester community to serve on MLK Day at youth and senior centers renovating the facilities, engaging youth in leadership programs, interacting with the elderly, providing entertainment and performance and reflecting on Dr. King's message of community.

Organization: WATCH CDC

Project Name: Healthy Homes Community Barnraising

Location: Waltham

Project Summary: WATCH will coordinate an energy efficiency and healthy home "barnraising" for a 3-family building. 30 volunteers will be recruited to weatherize, reduce trash generation and reduce toxins exposure via low cost, simple changes to the homes.

Organization: Wheelock College

Project Name: Small College, Big Service

Location: Dorchester

Project Summary: On MLK Day, approximately 100 volunteers and Jumpstart corps members will travel to 3 low-income preschools in Mission Hill and Dorchester to engage in service activities identified by the preschool directors as meaningful projects that will allow their staff to better support the children and families that attend the school. Projects will include painting classrooms and cubbies, cleaning rooms, restoring books and creating bulletin boards to connect families with future service opportunities.