



# Massachusetts Service Alliance

November 2009

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2010

*Make it a day ON not a day off*

Are you organizing an MLK Day service project? Send your project information to

## AmeriCorps Opening Day 2009

Over 1,000 AmeriCorps members serving in over 100 communities across the Commonwealth attended Massachusetts AmeriCorps Opening Day at the Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center on November 6. Hosted by MSA, which serves as the state commission on community service and volunteerism, Corps members gathered to celebrate National Service.

Last year, AmeriCorps members served over 43,000 youth across the state, including tutoring or mentoring well over 11,000 children. They provided legal service assistance to over 4,500 individuals or families. They improved our environment in the Commonwealth by engaging in 235 preservation and beautification projects, and they helped to rehabilitate 170 homes. Dedicating well over a million hours of service, AmeriCorps members also engaged an additional 20,000 volunteers in service to the Commonwealth.

Following a Pledge of Service, Members had the opportunity to deepen their connection to the Massachusetts service movement by participating in tours of the Massachusetts State House and John Joseph Moakley Court House; getting to know fellow Corps members through networking activities led by Massachusetts VISTA leaders; and lending a hand through service projects at the Greater Boston Food Bank, the Esplanade and Franklin Park.

MSA and we will post your event on our website. Send project information to Kristen Nelson at [knelson@mass-service.org](mailto:knelson@mass-service.org).

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Youth Mentoring Day at the State House is January 21, 2010. For more details, visit [www.massmentors.org](http://www.massmentors.org).

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## MSA awarded a VIRE grant through HandsOn Network



The Massachusetts Service Alliance has received a \$75,000 grant from HandsOn Network and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to generate hundreds of untapped Baby Boomer volunteers to serve over 1,000 at-risk youth in Western Mass. This grant seeks to foster a connection between rural nonprofits that struggle to recruit and sustain volunteers, with the skills and knowledge of Baby Boomers affiliated as faculty, staff, or alumni of eight area colleges and universities. MSA will partner with the HandsOn Network affiliate ACT Volunteer Center of DIAL/SELF in Western Mass on this initiative. MSA will also work closely with Mass Mentoring Partnership (MMP), the state's umbrella organization for more than 165 mentoring programs addressing the needs of at-risk youth. MMP will be involved with outreach and technical assistance to mentoring organizations for this grant.

HandsOn Network and CNCS is investing \$1 million in 17 volunteer connector organizations and statewide agencies that manage volunteers, including state service commissions and associations of volunteer centers. Part of the Volunteer Impact Retention and Expansion initiative, this is the second investment of capacity grants that will provide needed resources to recruit, equip, train and mobilize 800,000 volunteers. For more information, visit <http://www.handsonnetwork.org/vire>.

## Commonwealth Corps Service Event

**COMMONWEALTH  
CORPS  
INSPIRE. UNITE. ACT.**

Commonwealth Corps is hosting its first regional event of the service year! Service members will participate in a group service project alongside Governor

Patrick and fellow Corps members creating fleece blankets, cards for children and soldiers, canvas murals, apple pies, teddy bears and more. The event will take place Friday, November 20, 2009. For more information e-mail [commonwealth.corps@state.ma.us](mailto:commonwealth.corps@state.ma.us).

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## Grant Announcement - Learn & Serve



The Corporation for National and Community Service has released a funding notice for its 2010 Learn and Serve America "Summer of Service" grants competition, implementing a new program authorized under the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. The new grant funding - totaling \$1 million dollars - will support innovative summer-time service-learning programs for students grades 6 through 9.

The Corporation anticipates awarding five to seven grants to support collaborative efforts to implement community-based service-learning projects during the summer months. To qualify for funding, projects will have to provide students with service-learning experiences that address environmental or disaster preparedness issues relevant to the community served and teach or reinforce academic, civic and leadership development for participants. Funding for this grant competition is contingent on the enactment of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget for the Corporation. Click here for more information about this funding opportunity and instructions on how to apply. The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. EST, December 10.

Learn and Serve America grants provide support to organizations that involve over 1 million young people in service-learning projects that simultaneously support student development and meet community needs. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov>.

### Massachusetts Service Alliance

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