



**Global Youth
Service Day**



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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United Way
of Genesee County

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Flint Day of Service

Event unites AmeriCorps, MSU, MCSC, United Way, City of Flint and more

- WHEN:** **Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16**
Project times vary, see details below
- WHERE:** **Flint, Mich.**
Project locations vary, see details below
- WHAT:** **Around 200 volunteers will be participating in five different service projects around the Flint community as part of National Volunteer Week, Global Youth Service Day and Michigan State University's Global Day of Service.** Following the projects on Saturday, volunteers will gather at the Flint Farmers' Market for a reflection and celebration from 3-4:30p.m.
- WHO:** **Participants will include:** Flint AmeriCorps members; Flint youth and community members; students from Michigan State University, Kettering University and University of Michigan-Flint; Michigan Community Service Commission; Crim Fitness Foundation; United Way of Genesee County; edible flint; and City of Flint Blight Management.
- MEDIA:** For day-of media interviews at the projects, please contact Jessi Adler at 517-230-9923 to make arrangements.

5 PROJECTS:

Mapping Our Future – Friday, April 15, 3:30 - 5:30p.m.

Brownell/Holmes STEM Academy, Durant-Tuuri-Mott Elementary, Eisenhower Elementary, Potter Elementary

Flint youth will be partnering with the Flint Community Schools Corps AmeriCorps members and the Crim Fitness Foundation to conduct walking audits around the schools, focusing on sidewalks, safety and Safe Routes to School.

Keep the Corridor Clean – Saturday, April 16, 9a.m. – 2 p.m.

University Avenue Corridor

Kettering and UM-Flint Students will join AmeriCorps Urban Safety Corps members and neighborhood volunteers to beautify the University Avenue Corridor, focusing on making the neighborhood safer, especially for kids.

Spring-up for edible flint– Saturday, April 16, 11a.m.-3 p.m.

MSU-E Demonstration Garden, corner of W Fifth Avenue and Begole Street. (across from Hurley Medical Center)

MSU students and volunteers will assist Flint residents in preparing 12 garden beds, building raised garden boxes, and constructing greenhouse tents from recyclable plastic water bottles.

**Keeping Flint Beautiful and Blight Free – Saturday, April 16, 11a.m.-3 p.m.
Various Sites (600 Block of Bloor Avenue, #820-832 Victoria, CBC Recycling Site, Civic Park School Area)**

MSU students and volunteers will coordinate with City of Flint Blight Management and the City VISTA Program to remove blight and clean up residential areas and neighborhood spaces.

**Rain barrel beautification – Saturday, April 16, 11a.m.-3 p.m.
Flint Farmers' Market, 300 E. First Street**

Flint youth will be painting and decorating rain barrels which will be donated to local residents to be used to water lawns and gardens.

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BACKGROUND:

Established in 1988 by Youth Service America, **Global Youth Service Day (GYSD)** celebrates and mobilizes the millions of young people who improve their communities through service. GYSD is the largest service event in the world and the only one dedicated to the contributions that children and youth make 365 days of the year. GYSD is celebrated each April in more than 135 countries on six continents, with young people working together to address the world's most critical issues and change their communities.

The **Michigan Community Service Commission** utilizes service as a strategy to address the state's most pressing issues and empowers volunteers to strengthen communities. In 2015-2016, the MCSC is granting more than \$7 million in federal funds to local communities for volunteer programs and activities. The MCSC is funding 29 AmeriCorps programs. The Governor's Service Awards, Mentor Michigan and My Brother's Keeper–Michigan are also premier programs of the MCSC. The MCSC is housed in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Michigan State University Spartans have a proud tradition of service. To harness the power of volunteerism, the annual SPARTANS WILL. POWER Global Day of Service brings together Spartan alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends around the world to work in their local communities. With generous sponsorship from the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) and other campus departments, transportation to all service sites, as well as Flint will be provided for this special day of service.

Founded in 1922, the **United Way of Genesee County** currently supports more than 40 programs with direct grants, helping more than 55,000 people in Genesee County. The agency's investment model is based on Education, Health, Financial Stability and Basic Needs. In 2014, the total economic impact through direct and leveraged funds exceeded \$11.6 million.