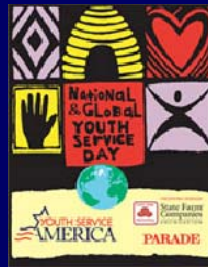


# Blue Print

For the Future of Michigan Volunteer Centers

March/April 2007



National Youth Service Day is fast approaching. How will your center step towards engaging youth?

**Mission: The Volunteer Centers of Michigan strengthens, develops and connects volunteer centers throughout the state.**

## National and Global Youth Service Day

On April 20-22, millions of youth will participate in National & Global Youth Service Day (N & GYSD), the largest service event in the world. This program supports youth on a life-long path of service and civic engagement, and educates the public, media, and elected officials about the role of youth as community leaders. Volunteer centers throughout Michigan can use N & GYSD to promote and enhance their youth programming, establish new partnerships with community organizations and become part of the Youth Service America network.

Youth Service America wants to provide volunteer centers with the best resources possible so you can engage young people in N & GYSD and service throughout the year. For resources and planning materials on how your center can be involved in N & GYSD check out the links below

- Register your N & GYSD 2007 Project - <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/partner/profile/login.cfm>
- Map to Find Projects in your Area - [http://www.ysa.org/nysd/local\\_celeb/nysd\\_localceleb\\_parent.cfm](http://www.ysa.org/nysd/local_celeb/nysd_localceleb_parent.cfm)
- Planning Materials - <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/resource/planning.cfm>
- Templates, Letters, and Tools - <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/resource/templates.cfm>
- Engage Media and Public Officials - <http://ga1.org/ysa/home.html>

## Celebrating Volunteerism

Celebrating Volunteerism 2007 will be held on April 18 from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm on the fourth floor of the Michigan Capitol Building in Lansing. The event will include highlights of remarkable volunteer stories, the presentation of the Michigan Volunteer Champion Awards, and a keynote address celebrating the impact that volunteers have on Michigan and its communities. To ensure that your center takes full advantage of this advocacy opportunity, we recommend the following:

1. **Send a recent newsletter and an annual report to your elected officials before you come to Lansing** – An excel spreadsheet with the state and federal elected officials contact information and a set of labels with their addresses is available on the MNA website at <http://www.mnaonline.org>
2. **Recognize your elected officials** – Nominate them for a Michigan Volunteer Champion Award, instructions and forms can be found at [http://www.connectmichiganalliance.org/servemichigan/award\\_nominations.cfm](http://www.connectmichiganalliance.org/servemichigan/award_nominations.cfm)
3. **Make an appointment with your elected officials**- Call ahead to schedule a meeting, prepare your notes and talking points. Remember meeting with an aid is just as important meeting with the representative.
4. **In meetings and communications with elected officials, share the successes and struggles of the organization as well as the nonprofit sector** – A fact sheet regarding the Michigan nonprofit sector and the policy issues of concern to the sector are available on the MNA website at <http://www.mnaonline.org>
5. **Remember to say thank you!** – In our case thank them for the Volunteer Investment Grant (VIG) to learn more about VIG visit - [http://www.michigan.gov/mcsc/0,1607,7-137-6116\\_8159-20807.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mcsc/0,1607,7-137-6116_8159-20807.html)

## Resources & Opportunities

### Red, White & Green Climate Change Grant

Youth Service America and the Civil Society Institute are excited to announce the second round of the Red, White & Green Climate Change Grant. This opportunity offers \$500 to young people in the United States between the ages of 15-25 and to organizations that engage youth ages 15-25. Applicants are expected to **develop and implement a service-learning project about climate change that engages their community, policy-makers and candidates running for election in 2007 and 2008**. Projects should be youth-led, and must take place between May 1 and October 31, 2007.

Deadline: March 9, 2007. For more information visit: [http://www.ysa.org/awards/award\\_grant.cfm](http://www.ysa.org/awards/award_grant.cfm)

### Community Improvement Grants from Hamburger Helper

Hamburger Helper is looking to lend a helping hand to neighborhoods nationwide with its "My Hometown Helper" grant program. Individuals from communities and organizations across America can submit a written essay of 250 words or less describing how the "My Hometown Helper" Grant would help improve their community project. Requests for funding must be sponsored by a municipal or civic organization or public school. *Deadline: May 31, 2007 Maximum Award: \$15,000.*

For more information visit <http://www.myhometownhelper.com/>

### FREE Copies of "Family Serve: Volunteer Opportunities for Families" Now Available

The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network is offering FREE copies of "Family Serve: Volunteer Opportunities for Families." This publication, which was included in the recent Family Volunteering Toolkit, is packed with ideas for families to help others while strengthening family ties. It provides information on the value of family volunteering, tools to assist families in identifying their gifts and interests and offers a variety of volunteering ideas for the family. Volunteer Centers are limited to 5 copies in order to adequately distribute this publication. If you are interested in receiving copies, please e-mail with quantity needed, as well as a full address to [VCNNnews@pointsoflight.org](mailto:VCNNnews@pointsoflight.org).

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## Technology Resources

### Graphic and Web Design Toolkit

Whether you create Web and print graphics for your nonprofit in-house or outsource them, understanding the basics can save you time, money, and frustration. Use this toolkit to find tools, tips, and tricks for looking good on a budget. Visit <http://ga0.org/ct/ZpSy55E1vSrl/> to learn more about this resource.

### Web Based Reporting System

I-CAN!™ E-File will help you do your taxes for FREE in English or Spanish. You don't have to be a computer expert to take advantage of I-CAN!™ E-File. Simply answer a few questions and this great resource will prepare your tax forms for you and E-File them. Visit <https://secure.icanefile.org/> to learn more about this resource.

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## Calendar of Events

- March 2 – BoardWALK: Building Your Board,  
United Way of Southeast Michigan, Southfield  
[www.uwsem.org/volunteer/boardwalk.html](http://www.uwsem.org/volunteer/boardwalk.html)
- March 8-9 – VCM Retreat, Holiday Inn Express and Suites, Okemos
- March 26-28 – Points of Light Foundation Regional Meeting,  
Chicago Illinois
- April 13 – BoardWALK: The Effective Board Team,  
United Way of Southeast Michigan, Southfield  
[www.uwsem.org/volunteer/boardwalk.html](http://www.uwsem.org/volunteer/boardwalk.html)
- April 15-21 - National Volunteer Week  
[www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/](http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/)
- April 17 - Celebration of Community Service Luncheon, Community  
Volunteer Services – United Way of Saginaw County, 11:30  
a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - [www.unitedwaysaginaw.org/](http://www.unitedwaysaginaw.org/)
- April 18 - CMA Celebrating Volunteerism Event, Lansing  
[www.connectmichiganalliance.org/servemichigan/new.htm](http://www.connectmichiganalliance.org/servemichigan/new.htm)
- April 20-22 National Youth Service Day  
[www.ysa.org/nysd/](http://www.ysa.org/nysd/)
- April 25 - Volunteer Appreciation Dessert, Albion Volunteer Service  
Organization, 6:30 p.m. - [www.avso.forks.org/](http://www.avso.forks.org/)

Does your Volunteer Center have a great story or event planned for National and Global Youth Service Day? Submit your photos and stories to the Volunteer Centers of Michigan and you could be featured in future editions of this resource and other publications of the ConnectMichigan Alliance. Submit best practice articles and pictures for the May issue to Brandon Seng, no later than April 15, at [bseng@connectmichiganalliance.org](mailto:bseng@connectmichiganalliance.org)

Tell us what you think! Send your feedback on this newsletter to Brandon at [bseng@connectmichiganalliance.org](mailto:bseng@connectmichiganalliance.org).

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