

NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Residents Mark 25th Anniversary of King Holiday With Service

Oregon Volunteers supports day of service with mini grants

Portland, Ore. – Oregon is preparing for a big Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on January 17, 2011—the 25th anniversary of the holiday. Volunteers across Oregon will take part in projects in their communities, joining hundreds of thousands of Americans by serving others and making the holiday “a day on, not a day off”. Oregon Volunteers, the state commission on voluntary action and service, joins great organizations throughout the state in leading the service initiative.

“Oregon values the same principles Martin Luther King devoted his life to advancing—equality, social justice, and opportunity for all,” said Oregon Volunteers’ Executive Director Kathleen Joy. “Throughout the state, our communities are thrilled to be a part of this day of service. Dr. King’s inspiration and sacrifice calls for us to join together in service, creating equal opportunity for every individual to enjoy happiness.”

Oregon Volunteers has granted mini-grants to eight service projects in support of the holiday. 2011 MLK Day Mini-Grant recipients include:

Bend - AmeriCorps HOPE and Human Dignity Coalition

An open mic night will be held at a local restaurant featuring story telling and tabling with a focus on appreciation of diversity and the life and teachings of MLK Jr.

Portland - Clara Barton VISTA and Hands On Greater Portland

Community volunteers and residents will refresh the Volunteers of America Men's Residence Center with new paint in 11 rooms.

Eugene - AmeriCorps HOPE, Lane County Department of Children & Families

Improvements will be made on a youth space for Lane County Department of Children and Families by engaging adults and youth in painting the space to reflect youth interests and choices. The event will include music, and an educational presentation.

Portland - AmeriCorps HOPE and Outside In

Transitional youth will work to create a book of stories and poems that will then be presented in an assembly to Chief Joseph Elementary School students to learn from one another and understand the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr.

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Tigard - Oregon State Service Corps & Community Partners for Affordable Housing
The community and youth will work to improve a community center and playground to launch them as the location for after school activities.

Bend - Oregon State Service Corps and the Bend Community Center
A Bike Shed Service Day will take place to fix and maintain bikes for the homeless community while connecting the community in a MLK Day reflection period.

Corvallis - Building Bridges VISTA and Linn Benton Food Share
A food drive will be held using volunteers stationed at local grocery stores in Corvallis and Albany to collect food benefiting the Linn Benton Food Share. A reflection period on the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. will follow the event.

Newberg - AmeriCorps HOPE, LOVE Inc., and Boy Scouts of America Troop 777
The community will join together to create handmade blankets, pillows and inspirational cards to be delivered to the homeless in the community.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Federal holiday, and organizers see the milestone as a perfect opportunity for Americans to remember Dr. King's life and legacy and to honor him by taking action to solve problems in their communities.

Organizations are encouraged to register their service projects with Oregon Volunteers at www.oregonvolunteers.org/volunteer/mlk
A list of registered projects in Oregon is posted on the Oregon Volunteers website, along with MLK Day resources, learning tools and more.

The Corporation for National and Community Service leads the annual MLK Day of Service, working with the King Center in Atlanta and thousands of nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, and schools and businesses nationwide. Projects are taking place in all fifty states and include delivering meals, refurbishing schools and community centers, collecting food and clothing, signing up mentors, reading to children, promoting nonviolence, and more.

[Oregon Volunteers is the Commission for Voluntary Action and Service](http://www.oregonvolunteers.org) promoting and supporting AmeriCorps, volunteerism and civic engagement to strengthen Oregon communities. For more information about Oregon Volunteers and AmeriCorps, please visit <http://www.oregonvolunteers.org>

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service each year through its core programs, Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, *United We Serve*. Visit nationalservice.gov for more information.

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