

VOLUNTEER CENTERS OF MICHIGAN

Legislative Day
November 7, 2007

What happened?

Representatives from Michigan Volunteer Centers joined together at the State Capitol to share the impact of Volunteer Centers on local communities. Over 30 Michigan legislators and staff members attended the luncheon in the Mackinac Room of the Anderson House Office Building.

In the morning, Volunteer Center directors met with their local representatives, demonstrating the value of local centers to mobilize people and resources to deliver creative solutions to community problems. At noon, legislators from across the state gathered to realize the statewide impact of the network convened by the Volunteer Centers of Michigan.

Why does it matter?

The Michigan legislature is integral to the success of local Volunteer Centers. The Volunteer Investment Grant (VIG) through the Michigan Community Service Commission help support the volunteer infrastructure in Michigan by strengthening state and local volunteer clearinghouses. This year, the VIG award increased access to volunteer opportunities to 89% of Michigan citizens. The Volunteer Centers of Michigan developed initiatives to continue enhancing Volunteer Center capacity through leadership development and technology.

A Leadership Academy was implemented and mentoring support was provided for 5 new Volunteer Center directors. The VIG funding also allowed for the development of technology assessment and implementation plans for Volunteer Centers, of which 63% took advantage. Additionally, the Volunteer Investment Grant led to the creation of innovation grants for local centers as well as the development of the first statewide data collection system to track the impact of Volunteer Centers in Michigan.

Fast Facts in 2006-2007

- Volunteer Centers connected 21,602 citizens to volunteer opportunities
- 2,930 nonprofit organizations were served by the VCM network
- 914 businesses were connected to volunteerism
- Michigan Volunteer Centers are supported on average by 1.9 FTE paid staff and 2.4 FTE volunteers per center
- Each month in Michigan, there are over 6,000 volunteer opportunities for Michigan citizens