



Issue #16- March/April 2009

VOLUNTEER CENTERS OF
MICHIGON

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

Vision: The Volunteer centers of Michigan ensures all volunteer centers have the capacity to positively impact every Michigan community and their citizens through volunteerism.

National Volunteer Week

April 19-25, 2009, National Volunteer Week, offers opportunities to thank some of America's most valuable assets - our volunteers - and to recognize the myriad of ways they improve our communities. National Volunteer Week reflects the power that volunteers have to "inspire by example" - volunteers both encourage those they help and motivate others to serve! This week also draws attention to the power of volunteerism and community service to resolve social problems across the country. Find out how you, too, can participate or plan an event during the week's many offerings, including Earth Day, April 22, and Global Youth Service Day, April 24-26.

Earth Day will mark the beginning of the [Green Generation Campaign!](#) This two-year initiative will culminate with the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in 2010. With negotiations for a new global climate agreement coming up in December, Earth Day 2009 must be a day of action and civic participation, to defend the Green Generation's core principles:

- A carbon-free future based on [renewable energy](#) that will end our common dependency on fossil fuels, including coal.
- An individual's commitment to responsible, sustainable consumption.
- Creation of a new green economy that lifts people out of poverty by creating millions of quality [green jobs](#) and transforms the global education system into a green one.

Under the umbrella of the [Green Generation](#), thousands of events are currently being planned in schools, communities, villages, towns and cities around the world. As in 2008, on April 19th Earth Day Network will celebrate [Earth Day on the National Mall](#) in Washington, DC, plus large-scale volunteer events in ten other US cities in partnership with Green Apple Festival. Our partners in Tokyo, Buenos Aires, Beijing, and Manila, among others, are planning large events where everyone can participate. [Find an event or activity near you!](#)

Global Youth Service Day, immediately following National Volunteer Week, celebrates the positive contributions that millions of young people are making in their communities. [Global Youth Service Day](#) (GYSD), April 24-26, is the largest annual service event in the world. GYSD is organized by [Youth Service America](#) with the [Global Youth Action Network](#) as its key partner and a consortium of international organizations and over 160 national coordinating committees in participating countries and Lead Agencies in the U.S. Learn more about [the partnerships that make Global Youth Service Day possible](#). During Global Youth Service Day, youth around the world organize community service projects to address the needs of their local communities through service, to be recognized for their contributions, and to be a part of a global youth service movement. GYSD is celebrated in over 100 countries in every region of the world.

Youth Service America is the middle of a series of GYSD Service Project Planning webinars. These web presentations walk through the nuts and bolts of planning and implementing a highly successful service project. The first two sessions - "Where Do We Start? Planning for GYSD" and "Bringing People on Board: Partnerships & Volunteer Recruitment" are now available their website: <http://ysa.org/GYSDWebinars/tabid/341/Default.aspx/>



Future sessions include:

- March 3 - Fundraising & Grantwriting

- March 17 - Public Relations: Media & Web Communications
- March 31 - Engaging Public Officials & Civic Engagement
- April 14 - What's Next: After Global Youth Service Day

An increased number of spots are now available for each call. You can register for future sessions at: <http://tinyurl.com/GYSDwebinar>. Each session is presented twice at 2:00pm EST and 3:30pm EST.

If you are planning a GYSD project, register your project at: <http://www.gysd.org/howtopost>. Registering your service project(s), enables Youth Service America to highlight your project through the Global Youth Service Day media campaign, and share your efforts with other GYSD volunteers. Thousands of local partners and organizers just like you are planning projects that address important community needs. Even if you have just begun to plan your project, go ahead and register, so that they can begin to share these materials with you. You can always update your project if the details change.

Michigan Giving & Volunteering Celebration 2009

Michigan has a rich history of giving and volunteering, with a high rate of its residents giving to and volunteering with community nonprofits every year. This annual event celebrates the Michigan spirit of giving and volunteering, honoring outstanding citizens and state leaders who take an active giving and volunteering role in their communities, and highlighting the latest giving and volunteering stats for the state. The Michigan Volunteer Champion Awards will also be presented. Boxed lunches will be provided at the conclusion of the program. This year the Michigan Giving and Volunteering Celebration will be held on April 22, 2009 at the State Capitol Building (4th floor, Lansing, Michigan) from 11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

In addition, Michigan Campus Compact is celebrating our 20th anniversary this year. As part of their affiliation with Michigan Nonprofit Association, MCC will be celebrating at the Annual Giving and Volunteering Celebration. [Click here](#) to register for this event. For more information, contact [Tiffany Aurora](#) at 517-492-2400.

Resources and Opportunities

Michigan Nonprofit SuperConference

Michigan is experiencing one of the greatest economic transformations in recent history. The pressures on nonprofits to compete and change themselves cannot be overstated. Now, more than ever, we have to tune our skills, learn new ways to be effective, and come together as a community to help transform Michigan. We are excited to offer Michigan's nonprofit community a diverse array of plenary sessions, workshops and networking opportunities, and quality speakers from across the country. This year's theme, *Fueling Efficient Nonprofits*, was carefully selected to address the need for Michigan nonprofit leaders to operate efficiently and effectively in this tough economic climate and transforming state and national landscapes. SuperConference will be in Dearborn, MI, May 5-6, 2009. Full conference registration information including speaker information, workshop descriptions, agenda, and fees is available online at www.mnaonline.org/conf2009. Questions can be directed to Kari Marciniak, Training and Events Manager at 517-492-2415 or kmarciniak@mnaonline.org.

The 2009 National Conference on Volunteering and Service, taking place June 22-24 at the Moscone Center - West in the heart of San Francisco, is the world's largest gathering of volunteer and service leaders from the nonprofit, government, and corporate sectors. Come to the San Francisco Bay Area to tap into the renewed enthusiasm for volunteering to meet critical community needs and participate in vital conversations about the future of service and volunteering in America. Come away inspired, refreshed and energized! This year's theme - "Civic. Energy. Generation." - reflects the tremendous excitement in our nation today as people of all ages and backgrounds unify in a powerful movement to bring about social change.

ServeNext Hiring Campus Organizers

ServeNext is hiring Campus Organizers in seven states. The organizers will mobilize students and constituents to build the grassroots support for the Serve America Act. <http://www.servenext.org/CampusOrganizer/>

Survey Reveals More US teens Volunteer than Work Part Time

According to a new random national telephone survey by Harris Interactive, American teens are setting an example for

their parents through their volunteer work. Click on the following link to read the article:
<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-teen-philanthropy,1,1817209.story>

March is Women's History Month

Did you know that women make up 83% of the VolunteerMatch volunteer network? Women have long been pioneers in the fields of volunteering and philanthropy. Working relentlessly to change the world around them, and to advocate on behalf of their rights, many women of past and present are reminders that it takes just the spark of inspiration and a dash of determination to impact your community and make a mark on history.

The Millennial Pendulum: A New Generation of Voters and the Prospects For a Political Realignment

CIRCLE Director, Peter Levine, along with Constance Flanagan and Les Galloway of Penn State University, authored a new report "The Millennial Pendulum: A New Generation of Voters and the Prospects for a Political Realignment." The report was funded by the New American Foundation and was officially announced at an event on February 18, 2009 in Washington DC. The report finds that the Millennials (born after 1982) are starting their adult lives much more progressive on economic issues than any generation from the early 1960s to today. The historical analysis shows that each generation has held a fairly stable attitude toward economic issues that has remained durable even as major economic and political events have occurred. Each generation has grown somewhat more conservative as its members have moved through life, but the Millennials are starting to the left of previous generations and are therefore likely to move the country leftward for decades to come. To download the report, please visit:
<http://www.newamerica.net/files/'MillennialPendulum'FINAL.pdf>

Project Idea: Earth Hour 2009

Earth Hour 2009 is a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community. A call to stand up, to take responsibility and to get involved in working towards a sustainable future. Iconic buildings and landmarks from Europe to The Americas will stand in darkness. People across the world will turn off their lights and join together in creating the vital conversation about the future of our precious planet. Over 64 countries and territories are participating in Earth Hour 2009. This number grows every day as people realize how such a simple act, can have such a profound result in affecting change. Join us for Earth Hour 2009 - turn off your lights at 8.30pm Saturday, March 28. Learn more about Earth Hour, and how to run your own Earth Hour at: <http://www.earthhour.org/action/>



Twestival Take Stands at \$250,000

With proceeds counted from about two-thirds of its approximately 175 venues, organizers of Twestival - the fundraising event for users of the social-networking site Twitter - announced that the February 12 gatherings have so far raised \$250,000 for its beneficiary, Charity: Water, the *Guardian*, in London, reports on its PDA blog. Money raised from the first worldwide gathering of Twitter users will pay for safe drinking water for about 17,000 people in Africa and India, Twestival co-organizer Amanda Rose said. While noting that the event fell well short of its ambitious \$1-million goal, Ms. Rose said the Twitter campaign "does not end here."

Technology Resources

10 Steps for Planning a Successful Webinar

Online seminars, or webinars, are a dynamic, engaging way to convey information to a geographically dispersed audience on a budget. [Click here](#) to read the TechSoup article that will outline some of the major steps you can take to plan quality, affordable webinars at your nonprofit.

Using RSS Tools to Feed Your Information Needs

With RSS, or Really Simple Syndication, you can subscribe to your favorite Web sites, and when they're updated, the content is delivered to you. There are now almost as many ways to view RSS data as there are types of information to manage. What kind of consumer are you? What type of tool will help you manage your information most efficiently, day in and day out? Read this article to learn more. [View article...](#)

Calendar

March 2009	
3	MorePeaceCorps National Day of Action
25	POL/HON All Affiliate Conference Call?

28	Earth Hour 2009, 8:30pm
April 2009	
15	VCM Executive Committee Conference Call, 10:00 am-11:30 am
22	Celebrating the Michigan Tradition of Giving and Volunteering , Lansing, MI
22	Earth Day
19-25	National Volunteer Week
24-26	Global Youth Service Day
May 2009	
1	Volunteers Change the World, AVSO Appreciation Dessert, Albion, MI
2	Join Hands Day
5-6	Michigan Nonprofit SuperConference , Hyatt Regency- Dearborn, MI
June 2009	
22-24	National Conference on Volunteering and Service, San Francisco, CA

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Vista Snapshot

Please join the VCM staff in welcoming the following Americorps*VISTA members to the Volunteer Centers of Michigan team:

Mary Patterson is the AmeriCorps*VISTA at the Volunteer Resource Center in Port Huron. She is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan where she obtained a Masters of Social Work. She retired in 2005 after several decades as a social work administrator but is now thrilled to be back in human service field at such an interesting and challenging time. "Volunteerism has renewed vigor and thanks to this opportunity, so do I," she said.

Linda S. Gouda is serving at Michigan State University Extension office with Volunteer Muskegon/Oceana in Hart, MI where she grew up. She is enjoying the program expansion work that she has been assigned to, which includes the EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) Program, Helping Hands, Senior Emergency Trio and Volunteer Placement. "It is exciting to be involved in the fight against poverty here in Oceana County."

Laura Michaletz, lmichaletz@glcyd.org has relocated from Green Bay WI to spend her VISTA service in Marquette with the U.P Volunteer Network. Laura received her Bachelor's in Communications from Lawrence Tech University. Laura has been volunteering and giving back to her community throughout her life and gives credit to 4-H and Girls Scouts for introducing her to the power of volunteerism.

Midwest Retreat Thoughts

The staff of Volunteer Centers of Michigan would like to thank everyone who was able to attend the First Midwest Volunteer center Retreat. We were encouraged by the conversations and hope that you continue to think about and discuss best practices for your volunteer center. We hope that you will keep in mind the questions that were posed by Lisa Flick-Wilson:

- What are the emerging issues in your community where your volunteer center could be more involved in convening people around solutions?
- How can you cross boundaries to across the field to address these issues?
- How does the role of a convener align with your center's commitment to meeting critical community needs?

Volunteer Centers of Michigan is affiliated with Michigan Nonprofit Association.

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