

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 11, 2011**

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## **2011 Global Youth Service Day Mini-Grant Awards Distributed**

(Lincoln, Neb.) The mini-grant project goal is to engage Nebraska youths in service to their local communities in conjunction with Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), April 15-17, 2011; the largest service event in the world celebrating the contributions youth make to their communities 365 days of the year. A successfully funded project is to be a one-day or continuous service project with a service-learning component. Funding is from the State Farm Foundation GYSD Grant (\$2,000) and resulted in eleven projects being funded. The ServeNebraska Corporation for National Community Service Disability Grant (\$1,900) funded 7 projects.

In early March, AmeriCorps Members lead by the InterCorps Council rallied their communities across Nebraska to apply for and participate in Global Youth Service Day Mini-Grant application. A volunteer grant review committee reached consensus on funding recommendations for the Global Youth Service Day Mini Grant submissions and awards were announced to the selected organizations in late March.

Some of the organizations funded shared what they will be doing for Global Youth Service Day in their communities.

- Southeast Community College Student Senate and Multi-Ethnic Student Organization will provide leadership and manpower to work with middle school students from the Beatrice Community Youth Center to plant six trees at the YMCA.
- The Life Skills Special Education class at Broken Bow Middle School will purchase items such as baskets, grocery and craft items and ribbon and assemble and decorate the baskets. They will then deliver spring baskets to senior citizens in the community.
- The GLW Youth Advisory Board will clean up the green spaces around Kamp Kaleo's Recreation Center and Service Learning Center. The youth will plant bushes; shrub rose beds and native grasses and prepare a garden for planning.
- The Pine Ridge Job Corps plans to team up with the local Dawes County 4-H members to make and install a new 4-H visitor welcome sign on Hwy 20, east of Chadron. The Job Corps students will utilize their learned skills from painting, carpentry, cement mason and craft labor to build and erect the sign.
- The Fairbury Youth Involvement Center will hold their project during a Lock-in. The focus is to make personal hygiene packages for the People's City Mission. The youth will also spend time playing games, having snacks and discussing the importance of giving your time to something bigger.
- Midland University's project is designed to educate youth and the public on sexual assault/abuse prevention and to spread awareness about this serious issue. The many youth involved will present at Midland's Day of Learning and Achievement on date rape awareness. Students will then reach out the community to provide businesses with coasters and posters with "Watch Your Drink" message and emergency contact numbers.
- The Kearney Family YMCA will promote Healthy Kids Day in the Community. Their funds will be used towards a one mile fun run followed by exploring vendors, games and activities that will help teach about living a healthy lifestyle.
- The Boys and Girls Club of America will plant a garden and maintaining it throughout the summer. The club is providing a cooking class for youth this summer with the produce harvested to be used in the dishes prepared. The club has a very diverse population of youth and one of the goals of the project is to enable collaborative working environments and fulfilling planning and initiative activities.

- Willard Community Center will gather with the West A Neighborhood Association to clean up roadways, parks and private property with homeowner's permission to keep the area clean of garbage.
- Cedars Youth Services Youth Action Committee is creating an incentive "Success Store" to reward good behavior. The project involves organizing and shelving the items that have been donated and are appropriate for youth. Their day will begin with a Junior Achievement Representative speaking on how to setup and maintain a successful small business.
- First Lutheran Church began a project in 2010 called Club EDEFY in partnership with the People's City Mission. They will use their award to continue their work in remodeling the location as a safe and fun place for the children to play. The remodel focuses on accessibility for all the children who reside at the Mission.
- The West Central District Health Department will involve youth K-12 on April 15-17 who are economically disadvantaged in planting and cultivating a community garden located in a lower income neighborhood. The produce will be used for meals with the summer backpack program.
- The University of Nebraska, Omaha Allwine Prairie Preserve Butterfly Corridor will provide the opportunity for youth to be actively engaged in conservation activities within the Omaha Metro area to learn about the status and ecology of tall grass prairies in Eastern Nebraska including species of conservation concern.
- Hart of the Matter is a youth serving youth project that involves two groups of students fostering and developing relationships between children with disabilities and other Ackerman Elementary students. They will work together to create a mural that is as large as a normal sized gymnasium.

ServeNebraska mobilizes Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.

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