



InterCorps Council
of Minnesota
SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

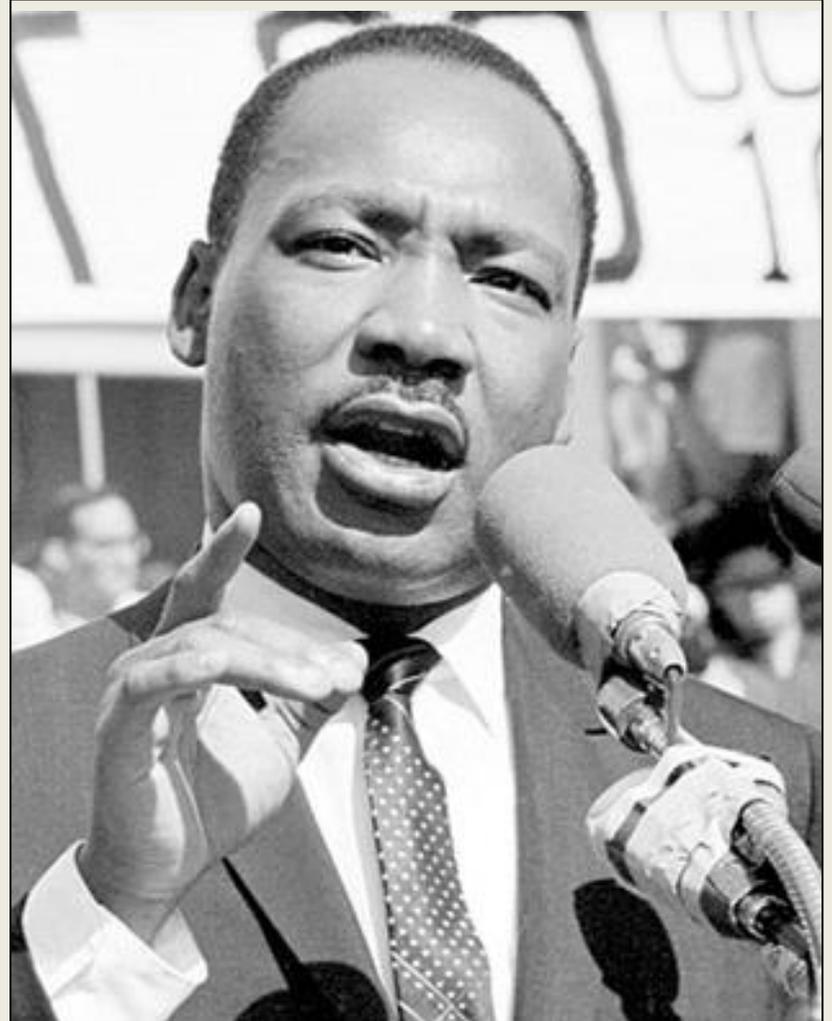


January 18th, 2016

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

“Life's most
persistent
and urgent
question is:
**'What are
you doing
for others?'**”

- *Dr. Martin
Luther King
Jr.*





InterCorps Council of Minnesota

Promoting Service, Empowering Communities

Since 2010, the InterCorps Council of Minnesota (ICC) has provided AmeriCorps members in Minnesota with a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for the yearly Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning and coordinating service events around the National Day of Service and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service took the efforts of all five ICC committees working in concert in order to put together successful, memorable, and impactful service events. In conjunction with their committee chairs, ICC members dedicated many hours to planning and executing the many service opportunities available for AmeriCorps members to participate in around the state.

This year, to honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. volunteers throughout the Twin Cities, AmeriCorps members spent January 18th serving their communities. Even though the temperatures managed to only creep just above 0°, they still went out regardless. 131 volunteers served over 440 hours with 5 local organizations at 7 locations. Activities ranged from packaging food to sorting donated clothing to helping run a major community event.

The impact of the day's activities was extensive. Volunteers supported organizations that are making headway all across the Metro are. Below is a short synopsis of how AmeriCorps members spent their Day of Service throughout the state of Minnesota.

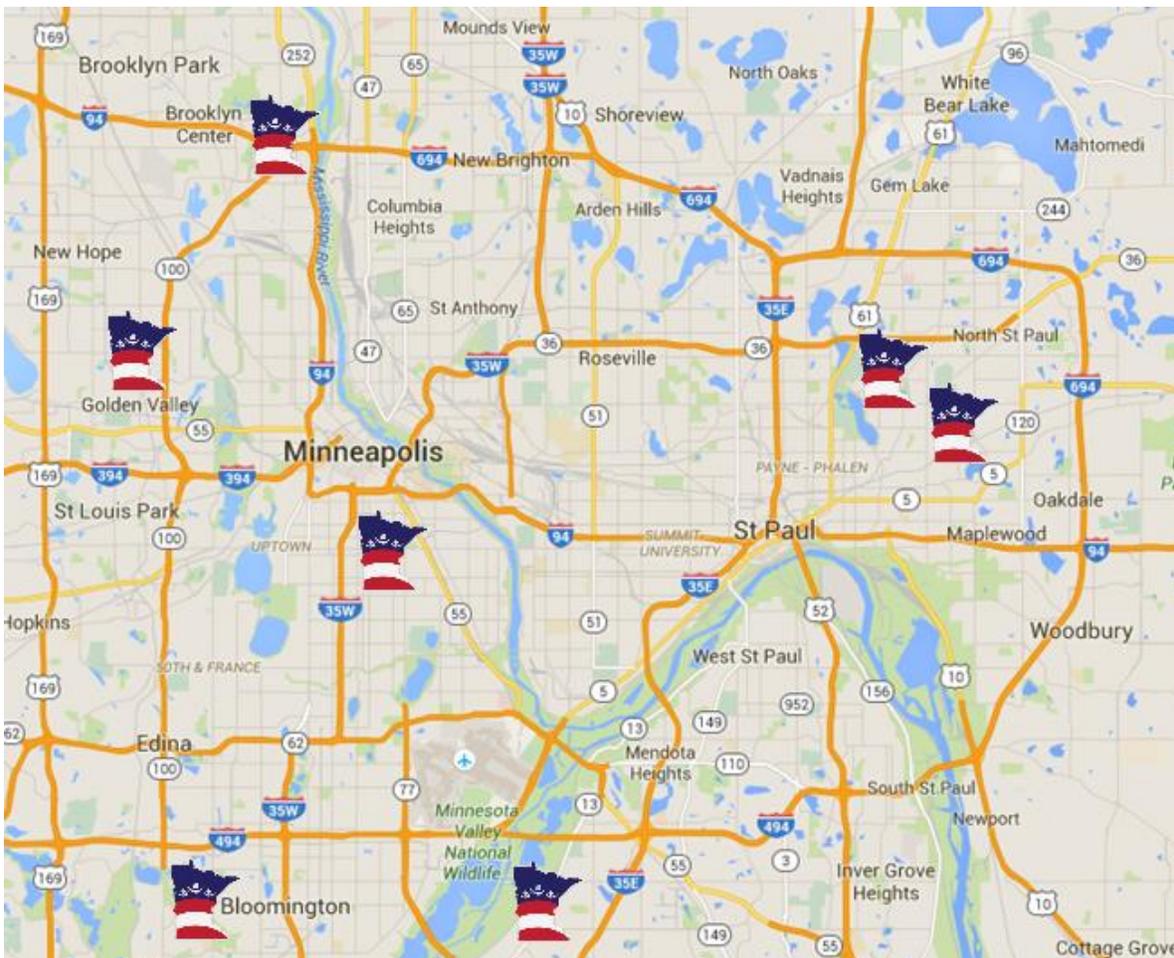


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SUMMARY

We had **131 AmeriCorps members** put in over **440 volunteer hours** on MLK Day with **5 organizations** at **7 service locations**. Together, we sorted, organized, and packaged over **75,000 pounds** of food, organized **5,000 pounds** of clothing and household items, and helped set up an event that served over **800 people!**





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LOCATIONS

Arc's Value Village

With multiple locations all around the Metro area, Arc Value Village is a chain of thrift stores specializing mostly in clothing and household items. A major part of the Value Village is a major source of funding for The Arc Greater Twin Cities, a non-profit organization that helps make life better for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

AmeriCorps volunteers volunteered at the St. Paul, Bloomington, and Brooklyn Center locations. Volunteers unpacked and sorted various donations including clothing, accessories, household items and more. They also helped get some of these items ready for the sales floor. All together volunteers managed to sort and organize nearly 10,000 pounds of clothing and household items.





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Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes works to help people of all backgrounds meet their basic food needs by serving nutritious meals to people who are hungry all across Minnesota. The organization provides hospitable locations in locations with the most need and partner with other like-minded organizations to help their guests receive their basic needs and achieve self-sufficiency. Volunteers worked together to serve guests hot meals, help keep the location clean, and provide guests with kindness and conversation.

Second Harvest Heartland

Started in 2001, Second Harvest Heartland is one of the country's largest, most innovative food banks. Second Harvest Heartland uses efficient operations and a fleet of trucks to be an integral member of Feeding America, a network of over 200 food banks working together to fight hunger in the U.S. Heartland supplies over 1000 food shelves, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, senior community centers and children's feeding programs in Minnesota and western Wisconsin each year. Volunteers who spent their time here worked alongside community members to package and prepared over 4,700 pounds of food for shipping across the Midwest.

Open Door Pantry

The Open Door is the largest non-profit food shelf in Dakota County serving almost 6000 individuals each month through a multitude of programs. The Open Door specializes in ending local hunger through a healthy





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food at their Pantries in Eagan and Lakeville. They also have programs to deliver food to low income families, promote food access through local gardens, and link families to social service agencies. Americorps volunteers worked specifically in their Eagan pantry portioning out over 90 lbs. of flour, rice and sugar, sorting 60 lbs. of dog and cat food and cleaning out 4 commercial-sized coolers.

Powerhorn Park Neighborhood Association

PPNA works to enhance the quality of life in the Powderhorn Park neighborhood by encouraging community engagement, embracing a diversity of voices and fostering economic and community development. Each year PPNA partners with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to put on a major event on MLK day to honor Dr. Kings legacy and bring families together. AmeriCorps members volunteering here assisted in setting up booths, serving food, and directing crowds for this event that hosted almost 900 people.



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REACTIONS

- 88% of volunteers said they enjoyed their experiences
- 80% believed they made a difference in the community they volunteered in
- 78% said that these events were an excellent way to highlight their commitment to national service

✚ **“The chance to hang out with goofy, creative and awesome kids was a major highlight of today.”**

✚ **“It was beautiful watching so many different people in a community to support each other.”**

✚ **“It was interesting to finally meet other Reading Corps tutors. The job site was well organized. The staff were appreciative. It was a really good experience. I will definitely try to do it again.”**

✚ **“Really enjoyed meeting other Corps members and enjoyed their enthusiasm about their service experience and also enjoyed meeting the Arc employees!”**

