



Team serving City Heroes

# Quarterly BRIEFING

FALL 2008 | CORPS YEAR 2008-09



give a year.  
change the world.

## CITY YEAR DETROIT

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[www.cityyear.org](http://www.cityyear.org)

## INTRODUCING THIS YEAR'S COMCAST TEAM



Hi Comcast! We are the City Heroes Team at City Year Detroit. We are so excited that you are our sponsor. This year we will be serving powerfully in the metro Detroit area. The City Heroes team organizes and runs a Saturday service-learning program for high school students throughout metro-Detroit. We also participate in various service projects in the community and are connected to the Cody-Rouge neighborhood in Detroit. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you throughout this year. Thanks for all of your support. We greatly appreciate it!

### The 2008-2009 Comcast Team



**Angela Baeckeroot**  
Program Manager  
Hometown: Ferndale, MI  
Future Social Worker



**James Green**  
Service Leader  
Hometown: Walled Lake, MI  
Future Politician



**Adonis Porch**  
1st Year Corps Member  
Hometown: Detroit, MI  
Interests: Dance, Acting, Singing



**Ashley Morris**  
1st Year Corps Member  
Hometown: Montgomery, AL  
Future Elementary Teacher



**Dana Stuckey**  
1st Year Corps Member  
Hometown: Detroit, MI  
Future Children & Family Arbitrator



**Elizabeth Gray**  
1st Year Corps Member  
Hometown: Detroit, MI  
Future Policy Maker, Community Organizer



**Patrick Vaughn**  
1st Year Corps Member  
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA  
Future Certified Public Accountant or EMT



**Mandy Traaseth**  
1st Year Corps Member  
Hometown: Brooklyn Park, MN  
Interests: Youth, Theater, Making a Difference



**Sierra Barber**  
2nd Year Corps Member  
Hometown: Detroit, MI  
Future Elementary Teacher

## QUOTE

**"I can DO anything, BE anything, CREATE anything, DREAM anything, BECOME anything because you believe in me."**

-Dalton Sherman  
5th grader, Dallas, TX

## WORD

### ASPIRE

[uh-spy-uh]  
(verb)

**To seek to attain or accomplish a particular goal.**

## TIDBIT

### Youth

**(those younger than 18 years) compose 30% of Detroit's population, or 247,732 individuals, and 25% of the total population of Michigan and the U.S.**

## PUTTING IDEALISM TO WORK

### PITW #7: "Delight" people — exceed expectations!

In the business world the old standard was customer "satisfaction." But in today's demanding world who wants to be just "satisfied"? No one! Today, people need to be "delighted", not just in the private sector, but in every aspect of modern society, including government and non-profits, like City Year. If national service as a whole and City Year in particular does not delight the American public, neither will survive — nor should they! At the same time, we must also realize that when the service of young people delights American communities, it changes the way people view young people — and that gives young people real power. How do you know when you have delighted someone? When you have exceeded their expectations. In everything we do, plan and implement, make sure that it passes the "delight" test — exceeding everyone's expectations!

**City Year, Inc.**, a proud member of the AmeriCorps network, is a national service program that unites diverse 17-24 year olds for a challenging year of full-time service, leadership development, and civic engagement.

Through transformative service, City Year corps members break down social barriers and build stronger communities.

If you would like more information about City Year or how to volunteer call us at **(313) 874-6859**. You can also visit us at our website: [www.cityyear.org/Detroit](http://www.cityyear.org/Detroit).

### 2008-2009 SERVICE PARTNERS

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# CITY YEAR DETROIT

**BUILDING DEMOCRACY THROUGH CITIZEN SERVICE, CIVIC LEADERSHIP & SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

## OUR HEROES

- We have been hard at work this fall recruiting high school students for the City Heroes Program. We have visited over 15 schools throughout metro-Detroit. Our goal was to recruit 80 applicants for the City Heroes Program. We now have 100+ applicants!
- To kick-off the year, 71 students came to the Heroes Training Academy Retreat December 12-13th. It is a delight to work with so many incredible high school students!
- Our Opening Day is January 10th, 2009. On this Saturday, our City Heroes will officially commit the next 5 months to serving their communities.

## FALL SERVICE DAY

The Fall Service Day was a great success! On Saturday, November 8th, 60 City Heroes prospects and participants did powerful service. Some of our youth volunteered in the Arts and Scraps warehouse sorting materials for craft projects. Some youth went to Angel's Place and raked up leaves outside. At St. Vincent de Paul's thrift store in Westland, students helped organize books, clothing, and other items in the store. The service that we were able to accomplish will have a great impact in these communities and for the people we served. We look forward to our next Heroes Saturday!



## STARFISH STORY

One of City Year's Founding Stories is the Starfish Story: A young girl walks along the beach the day after a storm. There are so many starfish left in the sand and the sun is beginning to dry them up. The girl begins to pick up starfish one-by-one and tosses them back into the ocean. A man approaches her and says, "You can't save them all, you know." In response the girl swoops down and picks up another, tossing it back into the ocean. She tells him, "I just made a difference to that one." The man is inspired by the young girl and rallies others to help her. Pretty soon the community puts all of the starfish back into the ocean. As City Year Corps Members, we can't save all the youth and communities we encounter, but we can make a difference to many. It is the people we touch that make our city year a memorable experience. Here is a Starfish Story from Comcast Team member Dana Stuckey:



"I hadn't worked with elementary aged children for quite sometime, so when I found out that my team was volunteering at Westside Christian Academy with 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders, I wasn't very excited about going. As I expected, the classroom had a few mischievous students and I happened to get the twins that the teacher had warned me about beforehand. I had to work with them as well as another student on their math work. Getting them to focus was so frustrating. They were throwing paper back and forth and one of the twins kept breaking his pencil lead purposely so he could get away from the table... I had them split off around the table and had every child try the first problem. One of the twins sped through the first couple. The other two were having problems, so I worked with them while the other focused on his work. Once the first twin was done he asked to help his brother. They became excited and high-fived every time they got a problem right. ...When it was time for me to leave, the boys asked me "Ms. Dana when are you coming back?" I couldn't give him an answer but I did say, "As soon as I can!" They both ran up and gave me a hug. It made me feel good that even just for one day I could get two boys to focus that had already been written off as bad students. It reassures me that with work, anyone can make a difference."

-Dana Stuckey



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

October 25, 2008 was Make A Difference Day, which is a national day of service held each year on the third Saturday in October. At City Year Detroit, prospects and past participants in our Young Heroes and City Heroes programs came out to do service with the Greening of Detroit. We planted 100 trees in the Livernois/8 Mile area of westside Detroit. The middle and high school students involved had a great time and served powerfully. The Comcast Team enjoyed planting trees and hanging out with our Heroes youth.



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