



Monthly BRIEFING

MARCH 2009 | CORPS YEAR 2008-09

CITY YEAR DETROIT

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www.cityyear.org

CITY HEROES: VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY

The format of the City Heroes program is to have one day of curriculum on a particular social issue, followed up by a day of community service related to that topic.

On February 7, 2009, 80 of our City Heroes came out to learn about Violence in Society. They explored how harmful language perpetuates violence, learned about violence statistics, and creatively thought of ways to express their desire to stop violence in their communities.

We were joined by speaker Freddie Roscoe from Pioneers for Peace. Pioneers for Peace is an organization that reaches out to youth and communities, informing them about the potential negative consequences of risky life choices and gang violence.

The Heroes took a great deal out of the day and eagerly listened to the speaker and participated in the activities.



Above and below: The Moccasins team makes a poster in response to what they learned on February 7th. Comcast Team Member Sierra Barber leads the team.



In late March, our Heroes will have a chance to positively make an impact in response to what they learned. (Our February 21st service day was cancelled due to a snow storm.)

They will volunteer at a Salvation Army Thrift store in the east-side of Detroit. Of the many things the Salvation Army does, proceeds from the thrift store benefit rehabilitation programs for those affected by substance abuse, relational conflict, homelessness, and other issues.

In addition, we will revamp a food pantry at the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park. The Ruth Ellis Center is an organization that reaches out to LGBTQ youth and young adults who are homeless due to violence and not being accepted by their families because of their sexual orientation.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Peace is not something you wish for. It's something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away."

-Robert Fulghum

WORD OF THE MONTH

Pioneer
"py-uh-nir"
Noun

1: A person or group that originates or helps open up a new line of thought or activity or a new method or technical development.

2: One of the first to settle in a territory.

MONTHLY TIDBIT

In the United States, almost 16 million adolescents -- including 70% to 95% of children in our inner cities -- have witnessed some form of violent assault, including robbery, stabbing, shooting, murder, or domestic abuse.

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.

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CITY YEAR DETROIT

BUILDING DEMOCRACY THROUGH CITIZEN SERVICE, CIVIC LEADERSHIP & SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

PITW OF THE MONTH

Putting Idealism to Work # 179

The Indian human rights leader Mahatma Gandhi once said, "My life is my message." Those are five powerful words. Think about that—to become what you believe in. To become what is sought. If you cherish peace, be a peaceful person. If you honor justice, treat others fairly. If you think "Putting Idealism To Work" is a great slogan, become idealism—become an idealistic person. Remember "Putting Idealism To Work" # 79. "It's never what we say, it's always what we do." They say actions speak louder than words...

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rummage Sale/Bake Sale—
March 6-7, 2009
Zion Lutheran Church
123 Albany Street, Ferndale, MI

Healthy Lifestyles Program Day—
March 14, 2009

Heroes Showcase—
March 19, 2009
17425 2nd Ave, Detroit, MI 48203

Healthy Lifestyles Service Day—
April 18, 2009

Global Youth Service Day—
April 25, 2009

End of Year Retreat—
May 1-2

JOIN US!

Interested in seeing the 2009 Comcast Team in action? Want to meet the Comcast team and our City Heroes? We invite you to come see the work we do with our youth. We would love to see you at the Heroes Showcase on Thursday, March 19. Please see the invitation for more info. Or join us at one of our Saturdays. Please contact Elizabeth Gray if you would like more information.

e: egray09@cityyear.org c: 313.478.1686

STARFISH STORY

One of City Year's Founding Stories is the Starfish Story, which tells of a young girl who picks up starfish off of the shore and throws them back into the sea. Though she cannot save all the hundreds of starfish on her own, she can make a difference to each starfish she takes the time to kneel down and cast into the sea. 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 Patrick Vaughn:



The story begins with one of my Heroes participants. His name is Carl. He is an alumni of the program (which means he has participated in the program before.) He is a great kid. He is on my team this year and when we first started, he seemed to just be there for the community service hours and not to improve himself as a citizen.

So, the City Heroes program has been going on for about a month. Carl to me seemed to just be coasting through the year and not really taking an interest in what we were doing. But a couple of weeks ago when we introduced the idea of the Heroes Showcase, Carl really took to it. (The Heroes Showcase is an opportunity for the City Heroes to show their families what they have learned so far in the program.)

He started giving his input and sharing what he thinks and then it seemed to me that he realized that people do listen to him. And it made me feel good because he was able to discover this on his own, which I hope means it will carry on throughout the year.

LOOKING AHEAD: END OF YEAR RETREAT



The City Heroes Teams from City Year Cleveland, CY Columbus, and CY Detroit during a site visit to Camp Nuhop, February 3, 2009.



Comcast Team Members Adonis Porch and Ashley Morris demonstrate a team-building exercise with CY Cleveland and CY Columbus corps members.

We are gearing up for our annual City Heroes End of Year Retreat, which will be held in May at Camp Nuhop in Perrysville, OH. City Heroes from City Year Cleveland and City Year Columbus will join us. The retreat will be an excellent opportunity for our City Heroes to meet others and to reflect on their 5 months of service to their communities. We hope to take 40 of our 80 Heroes. Right now we are planning several fundraising activities to make this goal a reality.



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