



# GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY 2019

## Impact Report

**G**lobal Youth Service Day, celebrated each April, gives youth a voice by participating in and designing service projects that are important to them! Instead of youth being recipients of service by adults, they have the chance to be active change-makers in their neighborhoods and communities.

In Genesee County, the United Way and our Youth Genesee Serves initiative spearheaded efforts to engage schools and youth-serving organizations in meaningful, impactful GYSD projects. Students, teachers, staff, AmeriCorps members, parents and other community volunteers joined up to prove that youth can make a big difference!

Just check out some of the accomplishments from right here in OUR community...

- **Atherton Jr./Sr. High School** students set out to grow and donate vegetables to a local soup kitchen using a hydroponics system
- **Barhitte Elementary (Bentley)** students cleaned and repaired bathrooms and updated old murals to inspire happiness and pride within the building
- **Bentley High School** students improved their food and clothing pantries, creating private, comfortable spaces for families to get the items they need; they also constructed recycling containers to promote better waste management
- **Brownell STEM Academy (Flint)** K-2 students participated in a Kindness Rocks project and spread kindness throughout the school and community
- **Doyle Ryder Elementary (Flint)** students made no-sew blankets to benefit Hurley Medial Center youth patients

- **Durant-Tuuri-Mott Elementary (Flint)** students helped make blankets for the North End Soup Kitchen and volunteered there, serving meals and helping organize food and clothes
- **Eisenhower Elementary (Flint)** students and partners created a pollinator education space for the school and the public to use
- **Freeman Elementary (Flint)** students made blanket bundles, complete with a book and student-made bookmark which were donated to kids in the foster care system
- **Genesee STEM Academy (Flint)** 4th grade students assembled fleece blankets which were donated to the Flint YWCA Safehouse for victims and families of domestic and sexual assault
- **Grand Blanc Academy** students showed their appreciation to a strong community partner organization, Heritage Baptist Church, by planting flowers, picking up trash and beautifying church grounds
- **Grand Blanc High School** students designed and implemented a variety of service projects, including: presenting a workshop on body image and positive messaging to girls at the Boys and Girls Club, taking family portraits at a local shelter, campaigning to end the use of disposable straws in the district, spearheading a recycling campaign, collecting and donating gently used sports equipment, and sending care packages to Marines stationed overseas
- **Greater Galilee Baptist Church** Youth Ministry participants served a snack bag and provided care bags at the Catholic Charities Center for Hope
- **Holmes STEM Academy (Flint)** 3rd grade students provided a hot lunch for the community volunteers who make a difference in their school each day as a token of their gratitude
- **Indian Hill Elementary (Grand Blanc)** engaged the entire student body in several grounds beautification projects and the creation of a large piece of art displaying the students' unique character strengths
- **International Academy (Flint)** student, staff, parents, and community members worked together to clean and beautify the campus, resulting in increased school pride



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**United Way**  
of Genesee County  
Serving Genesee & Shiawassee Counties

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

**24**  
local projects

**1,891**  
youth volunteers

**4,516**  
local hours of service

**\$114,841.88**  
local value of service to the Genesee County community

# Youth and Service

- **Myers Elementary (Grand Blanc)** 3rd graders collected, packaged, and mailed 100 "Miracle Boxes" for deployed troops through Desert Angels, Inc.
- **Neithercut Elementary (Flint)** held a student-led day of rebuilding and beautifying the community garden with the 5th and 6th grade students
- **Pierce Elementary (Flint)** students participated in a community playground and garden clean up
- **Prince of Peace Missionary Baptist Church (Flint)** youth and community volunteers cleaned vacant lots and removed trash in a two block radius to reduce the blight and make the surrounding community cleaner and safer for the residents
- **Southwestern Classical Academy (Flint)** students in the vocational skills training class made warm blankets for senior citizens in the community to show them that people care about them
- **Southwestern Classical Academy (Flint)** students completed a school clean-up, picking up litter, beautifying the grounds, and creating a mural
- **West Shore Elementary (Lake Fenton)** 1st grade students turned an overgrown butterfly garden back to a functional outside learning space.
- **Whaley Children's Center (Flint)** youth completed a project to raise awareness about foster care and the need for residential facilities by completing a public art project with a local artist

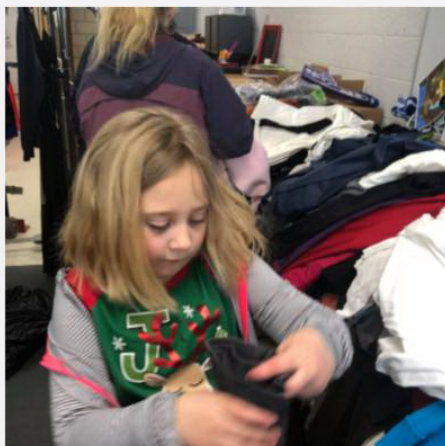
[This project ]"helped them feel more connected. I believe it opened their eyes to the real world and what is out there. Not just in their community but outside of. I also know for sure they were inspired of the support our community had of their projects. So many people were willing to support youth doing great things."  
- Teacher

"After the cleanup the youth were excited about the work they provided and still continued to pick up trash."  
- Youth Group Leader

"The children were able to share their ideas with caring adults freely and not feel judgment. One child shared their experience and how they thought it should be represented in picture form and had so many people agree and love the idea that it made them really proud."  
- Organizational Leader

"The students were very proud of the work that they were doing. They were very ready to share what they were doing and who it was going to benefit. The students asked thoughtful questions both during and after their visit."  
- School Staff

## YOUTH GENESEE SERVES GENESEE SERVES



## GYSD Around the World

**1,577** Projects **95** Countries  
**758,829** Volunteers  
**116,763** Youth Volunteers  
**181,623** Hours Served  
**\$4,618,673** Value of Volunteer Time

