



PROGRAM NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Service in Schools hosts the 2015 Partner Fair

On Wednesday, October 14, Service in Schools hosted its 3rd Annual Partner Fair at Brooklyn Law School. This year, 14 partner organizations connected with educators from across the city at the event. Participants and partners formed new connections and deepened existing relationships as they shared strategies, resources, and opportunities to bolster community service and service-learning activities in their schools.

The fair enabled educators to learn from organizations about the many ways their students can make a positive impact on communities at the local, national, and global level. Partners provided information and resources to support participants in building a service-learning program, as well as strengthen programs already existing in schools. Specifically, partners discussed the professional development opportunities they provide, service-learning curricula and toolkits, as well as service activities for students.

In the words of one educator, “The Service Fair was extremely helpful and provided me with a variety of resources to support service within my school.” Service in Schools also managed its own table at the Partner Fair where we spoke with participants about the resources we offer, including the [\\$1,000 Service-Learning Grant](#), [Kids Care Club Grant](#), conducting school site visits, and more.



Educators talk with UNICEF, a partner organization, at the Fair



Participants at the 2015 Partner Fair

Service in Schools extends a big thank you to participating partner organizations at the fair, including [American Red Cross of Greater New York](#), [buildOn](#), [Citizen Schools](#), [Free the Children](#), [generationOn](#), [GlamourGals](#), [Gowanus Canal Conservancy](#), [GreenThumb](#), [Lead2Feed](#), [New York Cares](#), [NYC Service](#), [Reading Partners](#), [The Service Learning Project](#), and [UNICEF](#).

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

John Adams High School and John Adams YABC in Queens

In effort to improve their school environment, the students at John Adams YABC in collaboration with John Adams High School (JAHS) are leading a service-learning project to create a better and more welcoming space for learning. The project, now in its second year, began in a service-learning class in the YABC program and has since expanded to include the students in the JAHS Mural Club. Motivated to create a better school environment, students enrolled in the YABC program started addressing this issue by researching quotes from historic and important figures that could provide inspiration to students. The class then selected the quotes they felt would foster the most encouragement to students throughout the school. Finally, students painted murals in the school building featuring these quotes from inspiring individuals.



Students from John Adams paint a mural with an inspirational quote to create a better school environment

Students working on the mural project are collaborating with external organizations, generationOn and Global Kids. Through the continued partnership between John Adams, generationOn, and Global Kids students are hoping that this project will expand outside the school building to include areas in their local community to make a positive impact on fellow community residents as well.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Gowanus Canal Conservancy (Saturday, November 14 or Sunday, November 15)



[Gowanus Canal Conservancy](#) is seeking students in grades 3-12 to help turn and sift compost, collect litter, propagate seeds, weed gardens, and care for neighborhood street trees during Clean & Green Days. The volunteer-based Gowanus Canal Conservancy Clean & Green Program will meet on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15 from 11:00am-3:00pm. Email volunteer@gowanuscanalconservancy.org to sign up and help make the canal and its watershed more open, clean, and alive. Volunteers under the age of 18 must also have a parent/guardian sign the volunteer waiver available [here](#).

CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (CON'T)

Family Volunteer Day (Saturday, November 21)



A family enjoys their time volunteering on Family Volunteer Day

Family Volunteer Day.

[GenerationOn](#) and Disney Friends for Change invite families to kick off the holiday season with their loved ones by participating in the 25th Annual Family Volunteer Day on Saturday, November 21. Family Volunteer Day is a day of service that celebrates the power of families who work together to support their neighbors and neighborhoods. Each year, thousands of families use this day to teach children valuable, real-life lessons about compassion and caring. Volunteering can also be a great way for kids and adults to develop skills, learn more about their community, and make friends. After volunteering, participants can click [here](#) to share what they have done for a chance to win one of three \$1,000 gift cards or a family night out package. Volunteers can also use the Family Volunteer Day site to learn more about the benefits of family volunteering, find do-it-yourself (DIY) service projects, or search for volunteer opportunities in their area. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for

3

Joy Maker Challenge (Monday, November 23 through Wednesday, December 23)

Join [generationOn](#) for the Joy Maker Challenge, which connects youth ages 5-18 to meaningful, hands-on service projects during the holiday season. This month-long challenge doubles the impact of kids and teens engaged in service, as Hasbro will donate a toy or game to Toys for Tots for each act of service completed by youth, up to 1 million dollars worth. Participation is simple: first, click [here](#) to sign up a school for the challenge, as well as find project ideas and reflection guides. Then, the school must complete the project during the campaign time frame of November 23 through December 23. Finally, share the story of the participating school's service for a chance to win a service grant. One grand prize winner will be selected to receive a \$1,000 grant, and 20 runner-up schools will receive \$250 grants, all to support continued service in their school and community.



Student participants create cards for the Joy Maker Challenge

The Heart of America Annual Youth Service Awards (Nomination Deadline: December 1 and 15, 2015)

[The Heart of America Foundation](#) works to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to learn and grow. Heart of America has served a generation of over one million students in need by distributing more than four million books and transforming over 325 school libraries, cafeterias, and educational spaces in high-need areas across the United States.



The Heart of America Foundation's Christopher Reeve Service Award is presented in honor of actor and activist Christopher Reeve, and is presented each year to an extraordinary youth, age 13 to a senior in high school, who has demonstrated tremendous courage, compassion, and caring in serving his or her community. Award recipients receive a \$1,000 scholarship for postsecondary education. Nominations for the Christopher Reeve Service Award are accepted annually from October 1 through December 15. Click [here](#) to nominate a deserving candidate. In addition, The Gee Whiz Kids® Service Award honors exemplary children age 12 and under who represent the best of their schools and communities. Nominations for The Gee Whiz Kids® Award are accepted annually from September 15 to December 1. Click [here](#) to nominate a child.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (CON'T)

GlamourGals (Ongoing)

[GlamourGals Foundation, Inc.](#) inspires and organizes teen volunteers to provide ongoing companionship and complimentary beauty makeovers to women living in senior homes, creating a venue for engagement between generations. The vision is to end elder isolation by engaging teens in skill-building experiences and promoting their development as leaders in their communities. The NYC office of GlamourGals invites your high school to establish a club and become a chapter. Starting a GlamourGals chapter is a great way for teens to do community service while developing leadership and communication skills, making friends of all ages, and fighting elder loneliness. To learn more, click [here](#) or email Contact@GlamourGals.org.



A GlamourGal teen volunteer poses with a senior showing off her manicure at a recent makeover

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (Ongoing)



[Friends of Van Cortlandt Park](#) invites teachers to bring students of all grade levels to the third largest park in New York City for a unique service-learning experience in a beautiful natural setting. Whether they visit just once or again and again, students are sure to have fun while learning the importance of preserving nature. Information about student programs, including “Forester for a Day,” “Garden Exploration,” “Freshwater Ecology,” and more is available [here](#).

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

Service-Learning Webinars

The [National Service-Learning Clearinghouse](#) is a one-stop resource for educators’ service-learning needs. This online database is maintained by the Generator School Network, and provides a number of webinars on service-learning. In particular, the [Introduction to Service-Learning Webinar](#) is recommended for educators looking to start service-learning in their school or in need of a helpful refresher. Meanwhile, the [Common Core & Service-Learning Webinar](#) is a great resource for educators interested in tying service-learning to Common Core standards.

Youth Service America Webinar and Toolkits

[YSA](#) (Youth Service America) offers youth and their adult mentors free tools and resources to make a difference with high-quality, high-impact service and service-learning projects. YSA is hosting a webinar for students and teachers on Thursday, November 19 at 7:00pm focused on integrating schools’ youth-led service projects with the 4 C’s (creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication). Click [here](#) to learn more and to register. On the YSA [website](#), educators can access the free-of-charge Semester of Service Teacher Toolkit, an extended service and learning framework to engage students in addressing problems of local, national, or global importance and their root causes. The toolkit allows teachers to engage students in a semester of meaningful teaching and learning through service. Also on the [website](#), children and young adults can access the Youth Changing the World Toolkit (also free-of-charge), which will help young people develop their own service or service-learning projects from creation to completion.



CONTACT THE SERVICE IN SCHOOLS TEAM

Does your school have a great service project to share? If so, the Service in Schools team wants to know!

Invite the Service in Schools team to visit your service project

We want to see your students and school community in action. Email the Service in Schools team at ServiceInSchools@schools.nyc.gov with two weeks' notice and we'll schedule a visit to your school to learn about your project and see the impact you're making on the community.

Share Your Service Story

Email a summary and photo(s) of your service story to the Service in Schools team at ServiceInSchools@schools.nyc.gov and your school could be featured in the "School Spotlight" section of next month's Service in Schools newsletter.

Mission: Service in Schools strives to expand the number of NYC students engaged in transformative community service and service-learning experiences that enable them to use their voice, skills, and critical thinking to strengthen communities.