



PROGRAM NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Service in Schools Awards 100 Schools with a \$1,000 Service-Learning Grant and Six Schools with the \$500 Kids Care Clubs Grant

Service in Schools would like to congratulate the 100 schools citywide that were awarded the \$1,000 Service-Learning Grant! This year's selection process was especially competitive as Service in Schools received over 200 impressive applications. Grant recipients proposed many great ideas to implement school-led service and service-learning activities to impact communities locally and globally, further enhancing their own school's culture of service. The Service in Schools team looks forward to visiting the grant winning schools and seeing students put these service project proposals into action.



In addition, Service in Schools congratulates the six elementary schools that were awarded the \$500 Service in Schools Kids Care Club Grant, creating the second cohort of Service in Schools clubs. To kick off the Clubs program, Service in Schools, [generationOn](#), and the [Service Learning Project](#) led a training session for the selected club facilitators on Wednesday, December 16. At the training, facilitators learned everything from taking the first steps to get their club started, to incorporating service-learning into their club's projects. The Service in Schools team and generationOn staff are excited to support the facilitators and their student club members as they engage in school-led service and service-learning activities throughout the year. We look forward to featuring the progress of the Service in Schools Kids Care Clubs in future newsletters.

Service in Schools extends a big thank you to all educators who applied for a grant. We sincerely appreciate and recognize the time they took to apply in effort to bolster the service activities in their schools. Click [here](#) to see the list of the schools who were awarded the grants.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School in Manhattan

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School (JKO) participates in many local and national community service projects. The school's Community Service Club and National Honor Society meet biweekly to plan, prepare, and lead school-wide service projects that benefit the community. Recently, JKO participated in the "Light the Night" fundraiser walk for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, through which students were able to raise nearly \$500 for the organization.

Currently, JKO students are planning a "Game Night" fundraiser and food drive, in which students will get together to raise money for New York City Harvest. The price of admission to the event will be two food items,



JKO students participating in the Light the Night fundraiser walk

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT (CON'T)

which will be donated to City Harvest and distributed to New Yorkers in need. The students will be making announcements about the Game Night Food Drive and teachers will be asked to promote the event in their classrooms.

Additionally, JKO students in the Genetics class are learning about cancer cells and about patients whose cells were used in medicine without written consent—specifically, a woman named Henrietta Lacks. These students will be reaching out to the Lacks family and will be planning a fundraiser to donate money to the Henrietta Lacks Foundation, which provides financial assistance to individuals in need who have contributed to scientific research, often without their knowledge or consent. Through their many service activities, JKO students are excited to make a positive change in the world.

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CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Find Your Park Day of Service: MLK Day (Saturday, January 16, 2016)

Join the [Student Conservation Association](#) (SCA) for Find Your Park Day of Service at Gateway National Recreation Area in restoring the Jamaica Bay waterfront. SCA is mobilizing volunteers from coast to coast in celebration of the [National Park Service Centennial](#) to honor the National Park Service and give back to public lands. The event will take place on Saturday, January 16 from 9:30am-2:30pm. Large groups are welcome; free lunch and free Find Your Park t-shirts will be provided for the first 500 volunteers to register. This Find Your Park Day of Service will be the first of five major events taking place in the NYC area in 2016 as part of the [ConSERVE NYC](#) initiative. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the event, or contact [Ann Pedtke](#) for more information.



Students Rebuild Challenge (Deadline: Saturday, April 30, 2016)

[Students Rebuild](#), a program of the Bezos Family Foundation, has launched the [Healing Classrooms Challenge](#), a global effort to help Syrian children who have been displaced from their homes because of the civil war recover, grow, and develop. To participate, students can make and mail in pinwheels. The Bezos Family Foundation will match each pinwheel with \$2—up to \$400,000—for the [International Rescue Committee's](#) (IRC) Healing Classrooms program. The IRC will also deliver a selection of the pinwheels to Syrian children. The Challenge deadline is April 30, 2016. To learn more and participate, click [here](#).



Volunteers make pinwheels for the Healing Classrooms Challenge.

Rebuilding Together NYC (Ongoing)

[Rebuilding Together NYC](#) is a non-profit for safe and healthy housing that brings volunteers and communities together to provide free repairs to low-income homes and community centers in all five boroughs of New York City. The Rebuilding After Sandy program helps low-income New Yorkers recover from Hurricane Sandy by providing free repairs to homes and community centers damaged by the storm. Volunteer opportunities are available for high school students ages 14 and older; volunteers under the age of 18 must have one adult supervisor per five volunteers on site at all



CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (CON'T)

times. While those with construction experience are especially needed, volunteers with all levels of construction experience are welcome. Sign up to volunteer [here](#).

Become a Volunteer Tutor with Reading Partners (Ongoing)

[Reading Partners](#) is an organization dedicated to unlocking the skills of students who struggle with reading. It provides one-on-one reading instruction to elementary school students reading below grade level to help them succeed in school and in life. Reading Partners believes that regardless of a child's environment, given the right support and resources, all kids can learn to read. The organization is looking for tutors ages 14 and up, who will receive research-based, structured lesson plans designed to focus on the individual needs of the students. There are 300 students waiting to be matched with a tutor, so sign up and bring a friend to make meaningful change in the community. To volunteer, click [here](#).



RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

Generation Citizen: Action Civics Curriculum



[Generation Citizen](#) (GC) strengthens the nation's democracy by empowering young people to be engaged and effective citizens. GC fulfills its mission by partnering college volunteers also known as "Democracy Coaches" with classroom teachers to lead middle and high school students through a semester-long project in which they create and implement plans to solve problems they face in their own communities. The Generation Citizen "action civics" curriculum is Common Core-aligned, endorsed by the National Council on Social Studies, and designed to bring civic education to life through student-centered inquiry and action. Democracy Coaches work with their classes twice a week over the course of one semester. The program concludes with an end-of-term "Civics Day" field trip in which students present their projects to local elected officials and community leaders. Teachers interested in bringing Generation Citizen into their school or class(es) this spring semester can contact New York Site Director David Pechefsky at dpechefsky@generationcitizen.org or 718-755-5714.

Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots

[The Jane Goodall Institute](#) brings youth-led service-learning experiences into classrooms through its global environmental and humanitarian youth program, [Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots](#). The program provides a network of resources that engage youth with their local ecosystem through the development of meaningful service campaigns. The Roots & Shoots innovative professional development model, service-learning tools, and emphasis on hands-on, high-impact service create a transformative experience for both educators and their students. Learn how to start a Roots & Shoots [service campaign](#) and click [here](#) to see examples of campaigns schools have participated in. Click [here](#) to apply for a \$200 mini-grant to support service-learning work. For questions, contact rootsandshoots@janegoodall.org.



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.