



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 7, 2010

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GOVERNOR GRANHOLM DECLARES MICHIGAN'S AMERICORPS WEEK

Lansing, MI – Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has declared the week of **May 8, 2010**, as **Michigan's AmeriCorps Week**. AmeriCorps Week engages AmeriCorps State and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) service members in shining a spotlight on the significant impacts created by volunteers across the country during this fourth annual celebration.

Monday, May 10th the Power of We Consortium's AmeriCorps teams, in partnership with Ingham County Parks, will be clearing invasive species at Lake Lansing Park North from 9:00am to 1:00pm to prevent the spread of non-native plants that threaten the quality of the park's trails and ecosystem. Representatives from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will attend the workday in support of the program's efforts to restore and maintain the integrity of our region's green spaces.

Wednesday, May 12th, from 11:30am to 2:30pm, members will picnic on the South Capitol lawn with County Commissioner Brian McGrain, and then disperse for "walkability auditing" in partnership with the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council.

"Sidewalks in Lansing were installed between the 1920's and the present. The current condition of Lansing sidewalks has never been inventoried. A condition inventory will serve as the basis for a prioritized plan for sidewalk improvements. This information will be incorporated into Lansing's first-ever Non-Motorized Transportation Plan" says City Council member Jessica Yorke.

Monday, May 10th marks the launching of a YouTube Service Channel at www.YouTube.com/PWCvista. Regular updates are also available on the PWC AmeriCorps website at <http://www.ingham.org/ce/CD/home.htm>. Community members, service partners and other interested entities are invited to blog with the Project at <http://www.ingham.org/ce/CD/blog.htm>.

For more information about the PWC AmeriCorps State team, contact Emily Thompson at (517) 887-4596 or email ethompson@ingham.org. For more information about the PWC VISTA team, contact Mary ZumBrunnen at (517) 887-4594 or email mzumbrunnen@ingham.org. For more information about the Power of We Consortium, contact Peggy Roberts at (517) 887-4691 or email proberts@ingham.org.

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BACKGROUND:

The Power of We Consortium (PWC), a sustainable model for community improvement, is transforming Michigan's Capital Area by brokering relationships, information, and resources to tackle the community issues that are beyond the capacity of any single organization to address. Membership includes community and faith-based organizations, municipalities, learning institutions, and businesses. The PWC also supports both an AmeriCorps VISTA Program and an AmeriCorps State Program.

AmeriCorps is commonly described as the "domestic Peace Corps." Individuals, called members, commit to a specific term of service—usually one year—and are housed in nonprofit organizations, schools or other agencies. Members range in age from 17 to 70+ years of age and represent a wide spectrum of other demographics. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn an education award to pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. During their service, members may also be eligible to receive a modest living allowance, health insurance, childcare, and student loan deferment.