



The Power of We
Consortium
AmeriCorps*VISTA Project

News Release

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Power of We Consortium VISTAs Honor Dr. King with Service to Increase Nutritious Food Access

LANSING, Mich. --- The Power of We Consortium (PWC) AmeriCorps*Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) Project did what it does best on January 19th and served with other local volunteers to support food access in one of the Capitol City's food deserts, South Lansing. Eighteen volunteers gathered at South Lansing Community Development Association's (SLCDA) headquarters in Grace United Methodist Church and spent the afternoon priming, painting and assembling farm market sign boards for the spring. Efforts expanded while volunteers waited for paint to dry to include cleaning and repairing the sanctuary, washing church windows and painting a youth center bathroom.

As part of the Michigan Dept. of Community Health and Food Stamp Nutrition Education projects, the Benjamin Davis farm market will make use of the sign boards as advertising methods for local farmers to share their goods with community residents. Brett Gerrish, VISTA member at SLCDA, describes the service project as, "an opportunity to help build a sustainable food source in an area classified as a food desert while also providing us with the chance to give back to Grace United Methodist Church for all the support they have given to our work over the years".

As President Obama calls the nation to service, AmeriCorps and other volunteer programs are gaining attention, particularly from fresh graduates looking for useful resume experience and a way to pay back loans. For more information on the PWC VISTA Project and ways to serve while earning money for school, log on to <http://www.ingham.org/ce/CD/home.htm>, share your thoughts on the PWC VISTA blog at <http://pwcvistaproject.blogspot.com/> or call PWC VISTA Project Coordinator, Mary ZumBrunnen at (517) 887-4594.

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