

Global Youth Service Day Needs YOUth!

Want to meet other kids, have fun, and join the ranks of the millions of young people, ages 5-25, who are making a difference in their communities by being a part of the largest youth service event in the world?

If you answered yes, the Global Youth Service Day Youth Planning Coalition would like to recruit you to volunteer for Hanover's 4th Annual Global Youth Service Day.

Global Youth Service Day is an international service event spanning three days, April 15-17th. GYSD mobilizes millions of young people all over the world to provide volunteer service for their communities. Local non-profits, government agencies and community groups have registered projects, just for GYSD and they need young people help them to fulfill their missions and make a difference in Hanover by signing up and serving.

Projects can begin, take place on, or culminate on GYSD and address different issue areas including, but not limited to, animal welfare, neighborhood enhancement, the environment, veterans services, health and wellness and help for the hungry and homeless. Youth can choose from on-site or portable projects that can be done in their own homes and at their convenience. Youth are also encouraged to create their own projects by pinpointing a particular interest or passion and then researching community needs that may compliment that concern.

Kyle Wood, 16, and, his sister, Kaley Wood, 9, of Mechanicsville, along with their parents, Cheryl and Kevin Wood, are hosting their own project called Mulch for Mutts that will benefit Hanover Humane Society. The project, which resulted from of Kaley's desire to help animals, will involve getting flower beds and gardens at the Humane Society ready for spring by weeding, planting and spreading mulch. The goal of the project is to provide a calming, clean area for Humane Society dogs to exercise and spend time away from their kennel environment. The Woods need lots of hands to make the project happen.

Mrs. Woods is helping her children recruit volunteers for the event. "Mulch for Mutts is a service project geared towards enhancing the curb appeal of the Hanover Humane Society," Mrs. Woods said. "Our goal is to bring new life to the flower beds and gardens. Please come join us as we bring the wonders of spring to the Hanover Humane Society."

"Global Youth Service Day is about tapping into our young people's leadership abilities and providing the opportunity for young people to take active roles as citizens," said Laura Robertson, Youth Service Specialist. "Our youth are a valuable asset and, from working with them, it is clear to me that they are willing and excited to participate in service activities. They are genuinely interested in improving their communities."

Hundreds of youth are needed for GYSD projects. Visit www.hanovervolunteers.org to view projects and sign up to serve. For more information regarding GYSD, contact Laura Robertson, Youth Service Specialist, Hanover County Department of Community Resources, at larobertson@co.hanover.va.us or 804-365-4180.