



Hands On
CHARLOTTE

Action Items

**A monthly newsletter for
Hands On Charlotte volunteers**

February, 2010

www.handsoncharlotte.org

HOC's MLK Event Biggest Ever!



Simply put, the community's response to Hands On Charlotte's MLK Week of Service in January was beyond all expectations. In 2009, approximately 460 volunteers participated in our annual service event to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We had hoped for

around 900 volunteers in 2010, and ended up with more than 1,300! Here are some of the highlights:

Saturday, Jan. 16: Corporate volunteers from Duke Energy and Accenture teamed up to improve the safety and energy efficiency of homes for five families in need throughout the city. Meanwhile, hundreds of people assembled and addressed care packages for troops stationed overseas through Project Yellow Ribbon. In the Thomasboro community, teen volunteers created snack bags to distribute to elderly residents of their neighborhood.

Monday, Jan. 18: Dozens of volunteers gathered at Crisis Assistance Ministry to help sort through donations of clothing and housewares while high school students who are part of HOC's CharlotTEEN program presented elementary school students with a morning of educational programming about Dr. King and community service.

More than 30 volunteers worked at the McCrorey Family YMCA to paint the afterschool activities room.

Friday, Jan. 22: Volunteers from The Home Depot (the presenting sponsor for MLK Week of Service) braved the cold and rain to meet at the Performance Learning Center and help build a low-ropes course for the school, which serves high school students from the area who have difficulties adapting to traditional school environments.

Hands On Charlotte would like to thank all the sponsors, volunteers, and especially the Volunteer Leaders who helped make our MLK Week of Service possible. We'll see you again in 2011!



HOC Welcomes Rob Hammock

Hands On Charlotte is excited to announce that Rob Hammock has joined the organization as our Director of Strategic Partnerships.

Rob recently moved to Charlotte from Atlanta, where he worked in nonprofit affordable housing finance. He has experience in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors, and has a passion for community development by utilizing partnerships to empower low-income communities. At HOC, Rob will be working to increase collaboration with our partner agencies whose missions focus on reducing poverty and increasing economic opportunity.

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Over 9,800 Coats!

The annual WSOC-TV Steve Udelson's Coats for Kids coat drive was a great success with nearly 10,000 coats donated to Crisis Assistance Ministry in early January to help out families in need this winter. Hands

On Charlotte volunteers played a critical role in the effort, helping to collect the coats at fire stations around town and transport them quickly and efficiently to CAM.

HOC would like to thank all the volunteers who made the time to visit the fire stations, load up their cars, trucks and vans with hundreds of coats per pick-up, count the coats and deliver them to our friends at Crisis Assistance.

MLK 2010: The Week in Pictures...



Top row (l-r): Over the course of HOC's MLK Week of Service, more than 100 of our volunteers spent time at Crisis Assistance Ministry; more than 500 care packages for troops were assembled by volunteers; dozens of people helped plant trees at Bradford Park in Huntersville

Middle row (l-r): The activity bus of Greater Enrichment Program gets a creative coat of paint; an intrepid volunteer works in the crawlspace of a home to install a vapor barrier; Home Depot volunteers dig holes for the posts of a new ropes course at the Performance Learning Center

Left: HOC volunteers bring the walls to life at the McCrorey YMCA's after-school activity room

Previous page: Teen volunteers create an MLK-inspired mural for the Hands On Charlotte office

... and Words

"Helping other people makes you feel good because you're doing something for someone else, without thinking of yourself first." — Zion Torrence Hill, age 9, who helped fill snack bags for elderly residents of his Thomasboro neighborhood

HOC News & Notes

Orientations go online: HOC is now offering an online version of our new volunteer orientation session. People taking advantage of this convenient new tool will still have to wait until a background check is completed before they can sign up for projects, but we expect many more volunteers will be joining HOC and giving back to our community as a result of this technology. Thanks to Hands On Charlotte VISTA member Ryan Mitchell for creating the online orientation.

BIG Project returns this month: Now that the weather is starting to turn warmer, HOC will be bringing back our popular monthly BIG Project at the end of February. The BIG Project is a large-scale volunteer project designed to engage as many as 100 volunteers to help

improve and maintain a CMS school campus. It is typically scheduled for the fourth Saturday morning of the month. The first BIG Project of 2010 will take place at McAlpine Elementary School on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 10am until 1pm. Check out the HOC web site for more details.

Disney program continues: The "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" program — whereby volunteers can earn a free day at a Disney theme park — continues on. Disney is looking to give away one million tickets through this program. Many Hands On Charlotte volunteer projects qualify for this program, but to participate you must register at www.DisneyParks.com and sign up for projects through that website (as opposed to the HOC website). We've had a few hiccups with the online signups since they kicked off on January 1, as the Disney site is not always in perfect sync with the HOC site. But thousands (yes, thousands) of volunteers have signed up for HOC projects already, and we expect many more will continue to do so.

HOC Projects with CMS

Going into the current school year, HOC made a decision to increase the amount of support our volunteer programming offers to low-resource schools within the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools system (CMS). As a result, we now have a number of tutoring and "lunch buddy" projects at schools like First Ward Elementary School, Walter G. Byers Elementary School, Albemarle Road Elementary School, Harding University High School, and more.

In order to sign up to participate in any of these school-based projects, HOC volunteers must take one simple, quick extra step — getting approval to volunteer by CMS. Here's how to that happens:

- Go to the web site www.CMSVolunteers.com and enter the requested information to register.
- From the list provided, select the school or schools at which you would like to volunteer.
 - If you've lived in North Carolina for the past 7 years, you will receive a confirmation from CMS via email; forward the email to HOC and you'll be able to sign up for the school project.
 - If you've lived outside NC, you'll have to log back in to [CMSVolunteers.com](http://www.CMSVolunteers.com) after a couple of days to check your status; email HOC when your status is approved and we'll clear you to sign up for the project.

Our schools need volunteer support, so join HOC at one of our school-based projects today!

Community Grapvine

Every month, we will list volunteer opportunities that are not currently among HOC's monthly projects, but still provide a valuable way to assist local non-profit or community service organizations. If you are interested in helping, please contact the individual listed in the description. Hands On Charlotte assumes no responsibility for these activities.

Fairy House Festival: This event is organized by Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation, and volunteers are needed at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve on Saturday, February 13, to help with face painting, cookie decorating, crafts, and more. There are two shifts available — 9:30am until 1pm and noon until 4:30pm. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to participate. For more information or to sign up, contact Lori Saylor at Lori.Saylor@mecklenburgcountync.gov or 704-336-5478.

Men's Shelter of Charlotte: Volunteer groups can help hundreds of homeless men by providing breakfast, lunch or dinner. By sponsoring a meal your organization will ensure that homeless men receive three hot, nutritious meals daily and help to reduce the Shelter's food service so that it can redirect funds to direct services. Groups can provide direct funding for meals costing \$500 - \$600 each, bring food or meal donations for 275 men, or provide funding, donations and volunteers to help prepare and serve a meal. For more information please contact Linda Miller 704-334-3187 ext 111 or Linda.Miller@MensShelterofCharlotte.org.

Welcome to our New Volunteers!

These individuals have gone through our new volunteer orientation from mid-December through January. Welcome to HOC!

Kala Adams	Ayoka Campbell	Meredith Hoke	Jason Moore	Lindsey Rutz
Alan Adamson	Heather Claremont	William Hundley	Joanna Moore	Rafael Salas
Raphiella Adamson	Amy Davis	Melissa Jacobs	David Moss	Amishi Shah
Mary Allegrucci	Kana Duplak	Corey Johnson	Robert Ogden	Katie Sherman
Renee Allen	Karla Eaves	Alma Jones	Sheila Pacholski	Janet Smith
Rodney Almeida	Molly Everett	Gina Kleine-Jaeger	Linda Pelcastre	Hermes Soyez
Chad Amodio	Kevin Farmer	Kasha Klinegores	Charlotte Peterkin	Natasha Stovall
Fawn Apgar	Dwinda Franks	Sana Klyachkin	Jackie Pieper	Kathleen Talbert
Christina Ashby	Mario Garcia	Eric Knollmeyer	Peter Podavini	Jodie Todd
Beth Blickenstaff	James Gardner	Tia Konzer	Diana Rahe	Juan Troya
Charri Bradley	Christopher Goodnight	Jania Massey	Kristjan Rahe	Dionne Tucker
Kurt Brechnitz	Trish Haller	Ashley McClung	Lee Rendleman	Michael Yates
Aynsley Brockway	Ebony Harley	Alyson McKeen	Jackie Rodney	Deidra Young
Pepper Brundage	Latoya Harrison	John Miller	Tricia Rodney	
Heath Bullock	Juliana Henao	Hawa Mohamed	Pat Rourke	

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Hands On Charlotte

strengthens our community and enriches lives by mobilizing a diverse,
committed corps of citizens in direct, volunteer service.

February 2010

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