



Keystone SMILES staff and AmeriCorps members came together January 20, 2025 to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The day was filled with service projects from Armstrong, Erie, Mercer, Jefferson, Venango and Clarion Counties. Thank you to everyone who served their communities as a "Day on, Not a Day Off"



Staff and AmeriCorps members from Knox and Oil City along with Venango County Youth Philanthropy members celebrated their service accomplishments at the Allegheny Grille, Foxburg, PA



AC Valley Youth AmeriCorps members traveled to Knox to help prepare packets for the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day scheduled for May 2025. The Youth members were also joined by Knox, North Clarion, Weed and Seed members, and Keystone SMILES staff. Together they assembled packets for 6 different teaching modules that will benefit approximately 900 second graders. A total of 10 AmeriCorps members and 4 staff participated at this service site. A total of 64 cumulative hours served.



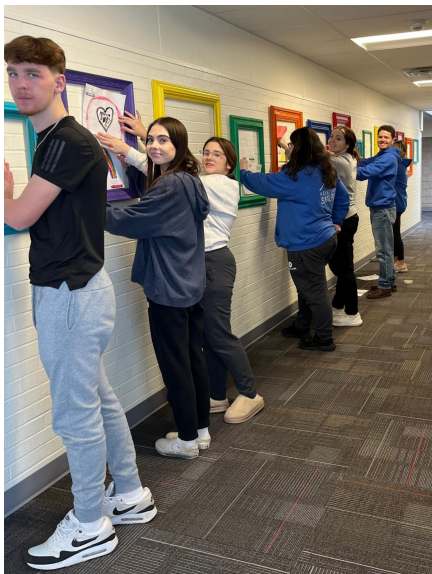
Punxsutawney Youth members served at the Chamber of Commerce in their hometown. They helped to clean and organize.



**Clarion, Jefferson, Erie,
and Crawford Counties**



Youth and adult AmeriCorps members from Girard School District met at the Elk Valley Elementary school to complete various projects. They organized the food pantry and cleared furniture that was left over from last year's renovations. They also deep cleaned the sensory room, hung student drawings and organized books for the One Book, One School program. A total of 9 AmeriCorps members spent a cumulative 36 hours making Elk Valley Elementary a better place for the 522 children it serves.



AmeriCorps members from Fairview School District served at the Food pantry at the Fairview Presbyterian Church. They took all the items off the shelves, wiped them down and reorganized the food. They also cleaned the floors and wiped down the 4 industrial grade refrigerators. AmeriCorps members Clara and Jasmine spent a cumulative 12 hours on this service project.

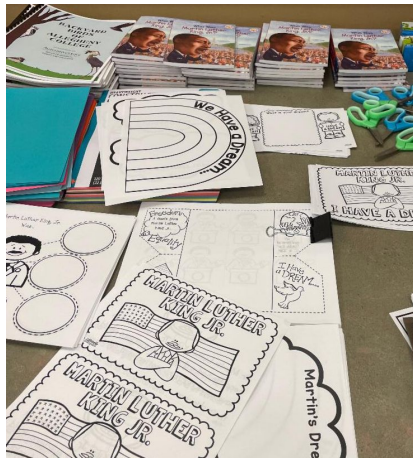




AmeriCorps member Venus from Crawford School District served at Allegheny Community College helping with activities for children, and helping out wherever else needed to make the event a success. "It was nice to see the community come together for such a good cause. The overwhelming and uplifting joy I felt was like no other. I'm so grateful that I was a part of something so special."



Fairview School District members Amanda and Sean served at the Second Harvest Foodbank in Erie. They packaged backpacks for Erie children in need. The backpacks have enough food in them for a child to have breakfast, lunch and dinner for the weekends when school is not providing meals.



Clothing Donations, Erie County

Iroquois members Charlie and Noah serving in the Iroquois School District helped to organize and categorize clothing donations from the community. There were a number of coats, sweaters, gloves, hats and more that had to be sorted and organized. "It was honestly refreshing and comforting just to see how kind and generous our community is for those in need, especially during these colder months!"
-Charlie





Mercer County

Staff and AmeriCorps members from Zion Education Center Sharpsville Gardens Children Center, and Northwestern School District came together to join forces to kick off the groundwork for Gigi's Heavenly Care, a soon-to-be infant and toddler program. They also traveled to the library in Farrell to honor Dr Martin Luther King, Jr through unity, action and purpose. A presentation was presented by Mr. Roland, a long time AmeriCorps supporter in the community.



Weed & Seed Program. Venango County

AmeriCorps members and staff deep cleaned the space where the Weed & Seed after school program is located in the Free Crossing Methodist Church. The House of Trades team removed a pool table to create more space in reparation for STEM tables being constructed for the program, the carpets and floors were scrubbed and boxes of Halloween costume donations were taken to Hope 21 for storage. While at Hope 21 (a free clothing boutique for the community), they were able to clean since they solely rely on volunteers. This consisted of wiping down all the racks, toys, windows and mirrors. They also swept, vacuumed and moped the entire space. 3 Keystone SMILES staff and 3 AmeriCorps members helped to get the job done, culminative of 24 hours of service.



STEM Tables, Venango County

The House of Trades, Weed and Seed, and Youth Philanthropy members and staff have been making STEM tables for the after school program in Oil City. The tables will enable the members to put STEM supplies when prepping for youth activities, the supplies will be readily accessible by the youth and members during STEM time.



Veteran's Wheelchair Ramp, Armstrong County

The House of Trades team constructed and installed a wheelchair ramp for a Veteran in Parker, PA. This project took place over several days. The ramp was assembled in the House of Trades shop in Knox. The team had to remove the pre-existing steps and level the ground before installing the ramp.



Painting, Clarion County

Clarion Family Therapy recently acquired their own facility which needed a few upgrades. Keystone SMILES AmeriCorps members from Knox and Oil City are helping to put a fresh coat of paint on walls. It is estimated to have the project completed in a week. 25 gallons of paint is needed to complete the project. A total of three AmeriCorps staff members and 14 members are assisting with the project. A thank you to Therapist Marilyn Wynkoop for joining us in our picture on MLK Jr. Day of Service.



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