

Generational Volunteering



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America's Fraternal
Benefit Societies

MAY 2, 2009

JOIN HANDS DAY is the only national day of volunteer service that specifically targets developing relationships between youth and adults through projects designed to improve communities. Sponsored by America's Fraternal Benefit Societies, JOIN HANDS DAY brings young people and adults together and begins the process of developing understanding and trust across generations. It is a day to begin the year-round process of building relationships and making contributions in your neighborhood.

On May 2, 2009, local National Mutual Benefit branches once again took part in this significant "Fraternal" day to make a difference in their own neighborhoods. From entertaining nursing home residents to improving the environment, NMB branches and their partners made an impact again this year. The photos below represent just a few of the projects they participated in.



FAR LEFT: Branch 73 of Spearfish, South Dakota, and the Our Saviors Lutheran youth group improved their community by painting a local residence during a "Paint the Town" project. **SECOND FROM LEFT:** Branch 613 of Appleton, Wisconsin, joined with Equitable Reserve Association Assembly 2 in Kaukauna, Wisconsin, to participate in the Pig-to-Pig Walk, a fundraiser benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. **CENTER:** U.S. troops open their care packages assembled and sent by members of Branch 3 of Wausau, Wisconsin, who partnered with the Peace United Church of Christ Boy Scout Troop.

Get Involved

You may want to get involved in this special day of service if:

- You are a teacher and need adult volunteer mentors for your students.
- You are a high school student and have a service project you have always wanted to pursue.
- You are involved with a youth group and need adult assistance.
- You are a group of adults interested in mentoring young people and teaching them about volunteerism.

Why Participate?

- Volunteers will join you to work on specific causes of mutual interest or concern.
- You can help improve your community.
- You can build relationships with other organizations or businesses.
- You can learn the value of volunteering and personally make a difference.
- It's fun and rewarding!

Project Ideas

The projects you could pursue are unlimited. Here are some areas to start your brainstorming:

- Homelessness or poverty
- Environment or animals
- Improving schools and education
- Helping others

Resources

If this sounds interesting but you need a little help, go to the JOIN HANDS DAY Web site at www.joinhandsday.org. You will find many resources on the Web site to help you plan, such as:

- How to locate a project
- How to get involved
- Project ideas
- Planning guides

There are many reasons to participate in JOIN HANDS DAY. Take a look at some of the projects that were registered in 2009 and start planning for one of your own events for May 1, 2010! ♦



SECOND FROM RIGHT: Madison Branch 400 and NMB Home Office staff joined Sennett Middle School students and Madison School and Community Recreation to hold a sports tournament. The money raised purchased school supplies for Sennett and stuffed animals that were donated to the St. Mary's Hospital pediatric unit. **FAR RIGHT:** Branch 101 and Boy Scout Troop 108 of Brodhead, Wisconsin, partnered to improve the environment by cleaning up a stretch of County Highway G.