



## 25 Years of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

On Monday, January 20th, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) led MLK Day 2020, a national day of service dedicated to honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service – a "day on, not a day off." The 2020 MLK Day marked the 25th anniversary of the day of service.

Here are just a few of the MLK Day service activities Tennessee AmeriCorps programs and other service organizations participated in around the state.

### East Tennessee

- In Knoxville, members from [CAC AmeriCorps](#) and [Emerald Youth Foundation](#) served with [Appalachian Voices](#) to clean up the Third Creek Greenway and supported the MLK Youth Symposium at Austin East High School.



Photo credit: CAC AmeriCorps

- The [Appalachian Regional Coalition on Homelessness](#) (ARCH) AmeriCorps members were part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Dinner at the Carver Recreation Center in Johnson City and performed gutter repairs to a home in need of service in conjunction with Appalachia Service Project.



Photo credit: ARCH

### Middle Tennessee

- [Martha O'Bryan Center](#) (MOBC) AmeriCorps Members participated in feeding and serving the Nashville homeless population in conjunction with The Samaritan Center in Nashville.



- [Hands On Nashville](#) (HON) AmeriCorps members led MLK Day of Service projects across the city. Some led volunteers in picking up litter, planting trees, and building compost bins for nonprofit partners, while others led projects to create resources for local nonprofits serving homeless community members and low income families.



Photo credit: Hands On Nashville

- [South Cumberland Plateau VISTA Project](#) AmeriCorps members partnered with the Cumberland Center for Justice and Peace, a local nonprofit located in Cowan, Tennessee, to pilot a new workshop on non-violent action that is under development. The AmeriCorps VISTA members participated in the workshop, learned about the history of non-violence and how non-violent resistance can be used as a method for resolving conflict. They then gave constructive feedback on the workshop to help the Center refine the workshop for the general public.

## West Tennessee

- [Alder Teacher Residency](#) AmeriCorps members volunteered at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on MLK Day.
- [BRIDGES, USA](#)'s Bridge Builders and AmeriCorps members took part in a cleanup project coordinated by Memphis City Beautiful in the Soulsville neighborhood and at Carpenter Art Garden.
- [City Year Memphis](#) participated in multiple Memphis City Beautiful or Clean Memphis service projects in neighborhoods across Memphis. They also participated in events at the National Civil Rights Museum that Monday.
- [Porter-Leath](#) AmeriCorps members served in Memphis on Saturday, January 18th at the MLK Days of Service project with Overton Park Conservancy. Their project included spreading gravel on the limestone path in the Old Forest and trash pickup.



Photo credit: BRIDGES, USA

- The Collective-Memphis and Friends of the Library hosted a Read with the Stars service project event at the Hollywood library on January 18. They collected book donations, read to children, and more. The Collective-Memphis is [TFA-Memphis'](#) alumni of color organization. Many TFA-Memphis AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps alums participated.



- [Volunteer Memphis](#) led the fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Days of Service Event, which included multiple service projects and community cleanups throughout the Mid-South over four days. Thousands of volunteers took part to make a difference around the city.



*Photo credit: Volunteer Memphis*

Thank you to all who served in honor of the MLK Day holiday. More information and resources on this national day of service can be found at [MLKDay.gov](http://MLKDay.gov).

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[Volunteer Tennessee](#) is a 25 member bipartisan board appointed by the Governor to encourage volunteerism and community service. Volunteer Tennessee pursues its mission through administration of AmeriCorps grants, training and collaborations and coalitions with public and private organizations interested in volunteerism and service. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

AmeriCorps is a program of the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS), a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs and leads the nation's volunteering and service efforts. For more information, visit [NationalService.gov](http://NationalService.gov).