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ACTION REQUESTED

Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

March 12, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Secondary School Principals
From: Erick J. Lang, Associate superintendent 
Subject: ACTION: Distribution of Publication, *Be the Change. Volunteer*

Key Points

- Publications that provide an overview of community volunteerism and the benefits of student service learning (SSL) involvement will be delivered to your school during the week of March 15, 2010.
- This publication, provided through a partnership with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center, identifies the SSL graduation requirement and how students can find meaningful service opportunities in the community.
- This publication will be helpful to students and parents/guardians as they identify community organizations and opportunities for spring break and summer involvement.

Action

- Please distribute the trifold publication to every student in your school prior to spring break.


Questions

- Please contact Ms. Pamela A. Meador, coordinator, SSL Program, at 301-279-3454 or via e-mail.

EJL:pam
Attachment

Copy to:

Dr. Stetson	Directors of School Performance	SSL Coordinators
Community Superintendents	Ms. Ferrell	Dr. Newman
Ms. Blum	Ms. Meador	Mr. Prouty
Mr. Creel	Secondary School Admin Secretaries	

Approved: 
Frieda K. Lacey, Deputy Superintendent of Schools

*If you don't like the way the world is,
you have an obligation to change it.
Just do it one step at a time.*

—Marian Wright Edelman
American activist for the rights of children

What kind of changes do you want to see in your community and in yourself? Service can be more than counting down the 75 hours until graduation. Volunteering makes a real difference in the community and a big impact on your life.

Why volunteer?

- Meet people
- Have fun
- Address causes important to you
- Gain experience you simply can't get in school
- Use your skills or passion to help others
- Develop leadership and teambuilding skills
- Know you've helped impact someone's life

Get started now.

Contact the Montgomery County Volunteer Center:

MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Volunteer
240-777-2600

401 Hungerford Drive, 1st Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

E-mail: Volunteer@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov

Emergency Preparedness: Is Your Family Ready?

One way to make a positive change at home is to make sure your family is prepared for an emergency. Emergencies can include fires, tornados, blizzards, pandemic flu, and other natural or man-made disasters. Just a few hours of planning will make a big difference when disasters strike.

✔ **Put together an emergency kit.** Include items such as:

- Water
- Non-perishable food
- Medications
- Battery-operated radio
- Extra batteries
- Flashlights
- First aid kit

✔ **Make a plan for how your family will respond to emergencies.**

- Determine how you will contact your family if you're not together when a disaster strikes.
- Know where to go in your house if you have to create a barrier between you and the outside air.
- Pre-select several destinations in the event you have to evacuate.

✔ **Stay informed.** Sign up for Alert Montgomery at Alert.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov.

If you're interested in volunteer opportunities in emergency response, visit MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/EmergencyVolunteer.



Visit www.Ready.gov for more information.

EN ESPAÑOL

Para obtener una copia de este brochure en español, visite MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Volunteer.
240-777-2600



Hands On
NETWORK

Discover Student Service Learning
and rewarding service opportunities

Be THE Change. Volunteer.



Montgomery County
VOLUNTEER CENTER

The Montgomery County Volunteer Center

The Volunteer Center helps people find meaningful service opportunities based on their skills, interests, and experience.

Find a Service Opportunity

The Volunteer Center matches individuals, families, and groups to ongoing service opportunities and one-time projects. Search our online database for an organization near your home, a cause that's important to you, or an opportunity that matches your skills and interests.

Visit MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Volunteer.

e-Newsletter

Find out about the newest volunteer opportunities, the latest trends in volunteering, and the important updates on volunteer events.

Sign up for *Montgomery Volunteer*—the Volunteer Center's monthly electronic newsletter. Go to MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Volunteer and click on the box for "Montgomery Volunteer e-Newsletter."

Seasons of Service

Seasons of Service is a great way for the whole family to contribute to the community together. Seasons of Service events are:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (January)
- Earth Day
- Community Service Day (October)

Join fellow volunteers in a service project. Gather your friends and neighbors and create a project right in your own community.

Whether you're 10 or 100, the opportunities are endless!

- 👉 Clean up a park
- 👉 Visit with senior citizens
- 👉 Raise money for an organization
- 👉 Mentor a child
- 👉 Design a non-profit's website
- 👉 Translate information
- 👉 Serve on a board

Student Service Learning (SSL)

Service Learning is a Maryland graduation requirement. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students may begin earning this requirement during the summer after completing fifth grade.

Students can choose high-quality, meaningful service learning opportunities from these options:

- **School**—Specific courses and clubs
- **Community**—Organizations tagged "Approved SSL MCPS" and opportunities tagged "MCPS SSL Approved"

SSL allows students to do the following:

- Address real community need through preparation and action phases
- Develop personal responsibility and leadership skills
- Gain skills and knowledge through civic engagement and political participation
- Strengthen curricular objectives and character
- Reflect on service benefits to self and others

For more information, contact an SSL coordinator at any middle or high school. Download forms and read information at MCPSSSL.org.

Visit MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Volunteer to find high-quality SSL opportunities.

Give a little time
Make a big difference
MCPSSSL.org



Learn more at MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Volunteer

