

PRESS RELEASE

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MINI GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

Charleston, W.Va. –Volunteer West Virginia is now accepting applications for Day to Serve Mini-Grants. Nonprofit organizations that wish to host a Day to Serve volunteer project may be eligible for up to \$250.

Each year during the fall volunteers from towns like Jane Lew, Elkins, and Morgantown throw on old clothes, work gloves, and step out to make a difference. Last year more than 10,200 West Virginians joined with neighbors, friends, and family to clean up trash, install smoke alarms, and spruce up small towns. In 2016, West Virginians served over 42,070 volunteer hours for Day to Serve. Projects varied from Adopt-A-Highway clean-ups to gathering volunteers to assemble little free libraries in local communities.

This year grants are available for grassroots and nonprofits to host volunteer projects during the Day to Serve time period, September 9th-October 10th. To apply visit <http://www.volunteerwv.org>. Applications for support will be reviewed to determine eligibility and approved for funding. If you already have a project planned during this time, register your project on the Day to Serve website to help raise awareness and recruit new volunteers for your cause, <http://www.daytoserve.org/>.

The Day to Serve event began in 2012 as a collaboration between the Governors of West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and the Mayor of Washington D.C. The initiative invites all

citizens, faith groups, businesses and community organizations to join the cause. Community members and local organizations are encouraged to meet the needs of people in their own backyards.

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About Volunteer West Virginia

An agency of the Office of Education and the Arts, with Secretary Gayle Manchin, Volunteer West Virginia is the state's Commission for National and Community Service. The agency challenges West Virginians to strengthen their communities through service and volunteerism by identifying and mobilizing resources, promoting an ethic of service, and empowering communities to solve problems and improve the quality of life for individuals and families.