



OFFICE OF MAYOR ANDY SCHOR
124 W. Michigan Avenue – Ninth Floor
Lansing, MI 48933

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MEDIA CONTACT: Valerie Marchand
517-230-4904

Mayor Schor Announces the Launch of Serve Lansing

Serve Lansing is a Citywide Community Service Plan that will Engage Residents in their Neighborhood

Lansing, MI – Mayor Andy Schor today announced the launch of Serve Lansing. Serve Lansing is a blueprint for citizens and community partners in Lansing to volunteer in their community. Serve Lansing is a call to our citizens to engage in community service and a commitment on behalf of the City of Lansing to identify community issues and, along with our partners, support and coordinate volunteers to address them. Serve Lansing partners include Michigan State University, the Capital Area United Way, the American Red Cross, Do1Thing, the Lansing Board of Water and Light, the Greater Lansing YMCA and the Michigan Community Service Commission.

“I originally announced Serve Lansing during my State of the City speech and I am thrilled for the program to begin as part of our new Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement with the help of our community partners,” said Mayor Schor. “This service plan will help connect our residents to build an even stronger sense of community through volunteer opportunities.”

The three initial focus areas of Serve Lansing are to *increase citizen engagement, community beautification: snow, grass, leaves, and trash, and emergency preparedness and response*. This plan is the first of its kind to be utilized in Lansing.

Lansing joins cities around the world in the Cities of Service coalition who have developed citywide service plans. Cities of Service is a national nonprofit organization that helps mayors build stronger cities by changing the way local government and citizens work together. Cities of Service coalition cities tap into the knowledge, creativity, and service of their citizens to help identify and solve pressing local challenges. The City of Lansing joined the coalition in 2014 and was one of seven cities awarded the Love Your Block grant. Lansing’s work in this program has been highlighted by Cities of Service and Lansing is now a mentor city for the next cohort of grantees. One of the Lansing neighborhood projects, the Holmes Street School Community Garden, was highlighted in an Urban Institute research study which showed that it increased

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community trust and cohesion. This study has been shared internationally and is currently featured on the European Union's URBACT blog and will be part of a presentation given by Andi Crawford at their conference in Lisbon, Portugal next week. Crawford will attend the conference on behalf of and at the expense of Cities of Service.

Serve Lansing invites all citizens of Lansing to create their own volunteer profile on the United Way's Get Connected portal. Find volunteer opportunities at <http://micauw.galaxydigital.com>.

If you have a volunteer opportunity that you would like promoted on the Serve Lansing calendar, email a short description, and graphic to Andi.Crawford@lansingmi.gov.

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