

Fifth Annual Delaware Week of Service April 6-12 Will Celebrate Spirit of Volunteerism with Events across the State

DOVER – The fifth annual Delaware Week of Service, which will take place April 6-12 and coincides with National Volunteerism Week, will be celebrated with volunteer events across the state.

The Delaware Week of Service expands on the weekend of service that Gov. Jack Markell and his wife, Carla, hosted in January 2009 in lieu of the traditional Inaugural Ball. Since then, the Markells have hosted an annual Week of Service and a special Governor's Week of Service during the governor's second inauguration.

"The annual Week of Service highlights the incredible outpouring of kindness displayed toward friends, neighbors and total strangers every day across our state," Gov. Markell said. "Our volunteers make an incredible impact on our state, whether they are mentoring children, renovating buildings, cleaning up our natural resources, delivering meals to seniors or performing countless other activities. This week will allow us to highlight their contributions, but, as I am repeatedly told by volunteers, they personally get so much out of the experience of helping others. We are pleased to bring together the State Office of Volunteerism, the Governor's Commission for Community and Volunteer Service, and other organizations to continue building on the spirit of service that is helping Delaware to reach our potential."

In 2012, more than 188,000 Delawareans volunteered, contributing 23.3 million hours of service to nonprofit and community organizations, according to the Corporation for National & Community Service.

At <https://volunteer.delaware.gov>, organizations can register their needs and volunteer opportunities, and individuals and groups can log on and choose a project. Carla Markell urged those interested in being involved with the Week of Service to visit <https://volunteer.delaware.gov> and search for opportunities using the keyword "Week of Service." Both one-time and ongoing volunteer opportunities are posted.

"The website is a great way to track the progress we're making as a state of dedicated volunteers," Carla Markell said. "I look forward to working with the fantastic Delawareans who volunteer during our Week of Service and beyond."

Volunteering Opportunities

Week of Service

Governor Markell and First Lady, Carla Markell, are calling on Delawareans to seek out special volunteer projects to mark the annual Week of Service, April 6-12. Visit <https://volunteer.delaware.gov> often to find more exciting Week of Service events and for more ways to give back every day, visit <https://volunteer.delaware.gov>

Week of Service Opportunities

Sunday, April 6

Road cleaning by Zakat Foundation

10 a.m.-noon, meet at Central Green (the quad near the intersection of 896 and East Delaware Avenue in Newark). Look for Zakat Foundation tent.

ZF has adopted a road in Newark and volunteers clean up the

road three to four times a year. This is a great family outing. It usually takes 1-2 hours to clean, with picnic style food available at the end. ZF's adopted road is on the campus of University of Delaware. East Delaware Avenue, between West Main Street (formerly Elkton Road) and Library Road. This is the road parallel to Main Street. For questions or to register, call: (302) 533-2334.

Monday, April 7

2014 Great Closet Clean Out! A Great Dames Career Clothing Drive

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., several locations.

A Delaware Week of Service project sponsored by Great Dames, Inc. in collaboration with the State Office of Volunteerism, United Way of Delaware, NAWBO Delaware, and Pettinaro Relocation. What we need: Consignment-quality, new or nearly new, clean career clothing for women and men. Who will benefit: Wilmington Senior Center "City Styles Shop," Clothing Bank of Delaware, and Great Stuff (Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition). For more information, contact Heather Cassey, heatherhake@great-dames.com or (610) 389-4710.

Drop-off locations:

- Greenville Place Apartments, Tower I, 210 Presidential Drive, Wilmington
- Wilmington Senior Center "City Styles Thrift Shop," 1901 N. Market St, Wilmington
- United Way of Delaware, 625 N. Orange St., Wilmington
- Great Dames Headquarters, 706 Fox Hunt Drive, Kennett Square, Pa.

Tuesday April 8

Teen Volunteer Fair

7-8:30 p.m., Bear Library, intersection of U.S. 40 and Del. 7,

Bear

Many local organizations will be on hand to answer teens' questions about volunteering and get them started.

Wednesday, April 9

Clean-Up at Little Sisters of the Poor, Salesianum students volunteering

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Little Sisters of the Poor, 185 Salem Church Road, Newark. Event full; closed.

Twenty Salesianum students will visit Little Sisters of the Poor for volunteer service. To learn how about volunteering for this organization, contact Mary Cella, volnewark@littlesistersofthepoor.org

Volunteer Orientation at Habitat ReStore

5:30-6:30 p.m., Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 544 Webbs Lane, Dover.

The orientation will highlight the role of the ReStore in Habitat's overall mission, as well as the many different volunteer opportunities that are available in the ReStore. For more information, contact Allison at (302) 346-0220 or email restore@centraldelawarehabitat.org. Find out more about ReStore, at www.centraldelawareahbitat.org.

Friday, April 11

Governor, his staff and Cabinet at Habitat for Humanity Build

9:30-11:30 a.m., Gov. Jack Markell, his staff and Cabinet members will assist Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity on a build at 7 Fourth Street, Frederica. They will do drywall and exterior work.

South Dover Elementary trail clearing and garden development. Event full; closed.

The South Dover Elementary “Honey Bee” service club, along with parents, AmeriCorps members, and possibly military members will clear trails around the school and start a garden. This also coincides with Global Youth Service Day. For more information, contact Monica.fisher@delaware.gov

Saturday, April 12

State Parks Park Clean-up. Event full; closed.

9-11:30 a.m., Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, in partnership with Wilmington Head Start, Warner Elementary School, the 76ers, the 87ers, the Boys and Girls Club, Project Chance Club, civic organizations and Wilmington State Parks, will re-mulch the playground near 18th and Van Buren streets across from Warner Elementary. For more information, contact DNREC at (302) 739-9193 or glen.stubbolo@delaware.gov

Habitat for Humanity Builder’s Dash

8 a.m., Fordham Brewery, 1284 Mc D Drive, Dover. Event will include a 5K walk/run, beer samples and tours from Fordham and Old Dominion Brewing Company, music, food, and more.

To become a Builders Dash sponsor or for more information, call (302) 526-2366 or email stwilley@centraldelawarehabitat.org. Additional information is available at www.centraldelawarehabitat.org

Paws for People’s Easter Bone Event

12:30-3 p.m., Blue Hen Bed & Breakfast, 1202 Nottingham Road, Newark. To learn more, (302) 351-5622 or visit www.PAWSforpeople.org

Reach Academy Clean-Up

9 a.m.-noon, Reach Academy for Girls, 170 Lukens Drive, New Castle. School clean-up and flower planingto beautify the

area. To learn more, call Amanda Hendrickson at (302) 654-3720 or Amanda.hendrickson@reach.k12.de.us

Christina River Watershed Cleanup

8 a.m.-noon, join an army of volunteers collecting riverside litter. Visit ChristinaRiverCleanup.org to sign up for a stream near you. These include the Christina River, Naamans Creek, Red Clay Creek and White Clay Creek. Those who help will receive a free T-shirt, while supplies last, and credit toward any volunteer requirements they may have. For more information or to register, www.ChristinaRiverCleanup.org or call (302) 838-1897.

A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children Food Drive (closed event)

Nemours/A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children will embark on its first Nemours Cares Day as it culminates an employee food drive to benefit the food closets at all State Service Centers, as well as the families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House while their children are hospitalized. Basic food items will be collected along with gift cards that can be used at local grocery stores. Nemours volunteers will gather, sort and deliver the food on April 12 to the Hudson State Service Center in Newark, the Williams State Service Center in Dover and the Milford State Service Center. To learn more about the drive, contact John Grabusky, jgrabusk@nemours.org or call (302) 444-9056. No more event volunteers are needed.

For more information, go to <https://volunteer.delaware.gov>, or contact Carrie Hart, Volunteer Service Administrator, at (302) 857-5006.