

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL “OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE” MOBILIZES YOUTH ACROSS STATE TO EFFECT COMMUNITY CHANGE

FALL RIVER, MA — The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship, an AmeriCorps organization that places Fellows who commit to a year of service at non-profit organizations, schools, and city agencies across Massachusetts to create, lead, and manage youth development projects, will host Opportunity To Serve, their second annual statewide day of service today at five locations across the state. The event will mobilize more than 250 volunteers of all ages to participate in Boston, Brockton, and Fall River. Millions of children and youth in the United States and in more than 80 countries are planning service and service-learning projects that highlight the positive contributions young people make throughout the year as a part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Global Youth Service Weekend.

Last year, the Massachusetts Promise Fellowship celebrated its tenth year as a program by participating in Global Youth Service Day with the first annual Opportunity To Serve. This year, they have expanded on last year's event with a new initiative that incorporates youth voice throughout the process. This has involved the creation of a Youth Board that has overseen the project since its inception, taking the lead on all planning, marketing, & recruitment. Today's event will consist of five individual projects taking place simultaneously across the state, selected through a competitive RFP process, with proposals that were co-written by youth and reviewed by the Youth Board. The Youth Board has also been integral in planning today's events through promotion, logistics, and volunteers.

**The Opportunity To Serve: Youth PEACE Day** will include team building/training opportunities with workshops that highlight America's Promise, team building activities, trust building activities, and a variety of other workshops. Youth will have the opportunity to strengthen their leadership group and interact with leadership clubs from different parts of Bristol county. They will have a chance to exchange ideas about how they are fulfilling America's Promise in their city/town. In the afternoon, the youth will be participating in a community service project in Fall River. Service Projects include: volunteering at a nursing home, doing a trash pick-up, or putting together a "Sports-a-palooza" for St. Vincent's Home. A few students will be chosen from the day to present what they learned on April 28, 2010 at the South Coast Civic Engagement Summit at UMASS Dartmouth.

**WHO:** Youth & Adult Volunteers, AmeriCorps Members & Alumni, area college students  
**WHAT:** Opportunity To Serve: Youth PEACE Day  
**WHERE:** 72 Bank Street Fall River, MA 02720  
**WHEN:** Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Registration at 10:00am, Projects ongoing 10am – 4pm

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**The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship** believes that all young people in the Commonwealth have a right to the resources that they need to be successful in life, including a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, an effective education, and an opportunity to serve. We deliver these 5 promises to youth by training emerging leaders who commit one year of service to support and provide these needed resources to youth throughout the Commonwealth. For more information, visit [www.masspromisefellows.org](http://www.masspromisefellows.org).