

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Tim Smith
t.smith@neu.edu, 617.257.7999

MEDIA ADVISORY

2ND ANNUAL “OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE” MOBILIZES YOUTH ACROSS STATE TO EFFECT COMMUNITY CHANGE

SOUTH END, 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 22nd 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: Restoring Lenox! is a youth-based initiative to revamp, repair, and rejuvenate the LEARN @ Lenox Afterschool Program building and area located at St. Augustine/St. Martin's church in lower Roxbury. The project seeks to take the ideas and desires of the young people involved in the Afterschool Program, and bring them to life through the aide and support of volunteers. The youth would like to clean up, repair, and breathe new life into the building and area in which they spend their time. They would like to make the area more welcoming, kid-friendly, and clean. The desired outcome would be to have a side lawn area that is clean and cleared out, with free space for kids to use safely, have the basketball hoop set up, and to also have the fences repainted. Inside we would also like to have some walls repainted, and book shelves reorganized.

WHO: Youth & Adult Volunteers, AmeriCorps Members & Alumni, area college students
WHAT: Opportunity To Serve: Restoring Lenox!
WHERE: 31 Lenox Street Boston, MA 02118
WHEN: Saturday, April 24th, 2010. Registration at 9:15am, Projects ongoing 9:30am – 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.