

On January 19, 2009, Missouri Campus Compact awarded four member institutions Martin Luther King, Jr. Collegiate Challenge mini-grants through a larger grant provided by North Carolina Campus Compact and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Participating campuses included: Cottey College, Truman State University, University of Central Missouri, and University of Missouri – St. Louis.

The Challenge was to recruit 100 volunteers and randomly divide them into groups of 10. The team leaders each received an envelope that provided the information, location, and duties of their assigned service project. “We had 11 different groups, each at a different service site. They got to break up into different groups and do some team building as they got to know each other before their project was revealed to them,” reported Megan Hill, AmeriCorps*VISTA Member at University of Missouri – St. Louis.

Combined, the participating institutions recruited 788 volunteers and generated 4,245 hours of service at 38 different service projects. The projects were diverse and ranged from “extreme makeovers” for local community agencies to hosting a birthday party for a developmentally disabled man.

“This was another level of service-learning because our Collegiate Challenge was entirely student planned and executed,” said Eugenia Siegel, AmeriCorps*VISTA Member at Truman State University. “The student planning committee came back with positive things to say about the experience and would like to continue to do this on campus in subsequent years.” Josh Linn, a student at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, worked with troubled youth at the Juvenile Detention Center and said, “Overall it was a great experience, even just for the fact that we got to go out and give back to the community instead of just being inspired.” When asked if he would be returning next year, he stated, “I will probably be back here and bringing friends.”

The Collegiate Challenge tested the skills of the participants. One of the service projects at Truman State University was the construction of a fence for the Humane Society. Eugenia Siegel stated, “The students really didn’t have strong skills in construction. They went to Home Depot and only spent \$50 because the store graciously donated the rest of the materials. And, one of the Home Depot employees heard about what we were doing and came out to help at the project site.” Additionally, Tiffany Bumpers, AmeriCorps*VISTA Member at University of Central Missouri, reported that when students arrived at Habitat for Humanity, they didn’t realize that they would be building steel shelves. “A lot of the students called some friends in to help us. We had six more people show up.”

The service recipients were grateful to be included in this day of service. Linda Platt, AmeriCorps*VISTA Member at Cottey College, received a letter from the Housing Authority in Nevada, MO, where fifteen students hosted a Bingo event. A portion of the letter read:

“...I wanted to tell you what a success our Bingo event was!! The residents and the students had a great time—they are so excited for this project. I think we are off to a great start. Thanks again for all your help! We couldn’t have done this without you!”

In another instance, Tiffany Bumpers reported that she received a letter of thanks from one gentleman. “He lost his wife and his daughter in the same year and he was in a wheelchair,” she reported. “Several of the students went in and painted several of the interior rooms. When the guy got home, he was so happy that he wrote a letter to the students, thanking them.”

The legacy of Dr. King lives on through the actions of those who participated in this national day of service. Participants have already volunteered more time at the service project sites, illustrating that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Collegiate Challenge was a success. Missouri Campus Compact intends to participate in the Challenge again next year.

Missouri Campus Compact would like to thank all of the participating member campuses as well as those who helped coordinate this event:

Tiffany Bumpers – University of Central Missouri
Megan Hill – University of Missouri St. Louis
Linda Platt – Cottey College
Eugenia Siegel – Truman State University

The following is a list of the service projects, listed by campus:

Cottey College

(as reported by Linda Platt)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Service</u>
Behavioral Health Hospital for Youth	Wall-sized Mural
Housing Authority	Bingo Event Indoor Children's carnival for elementary youth Soup Bean Feed to educate the community as to the purpose and need to take a homeless count and information as to how the community could come together to help these people involved.
Battered Women's shelter	Extreme Makeover of community room
West Central Community Action Council	Poverty Simulation
Animal Shelter	Cleanup
Skills Unlimited	Birthday party for disabled adult
Habitat for Humanity	Drywall for Habitat houses
Community Outreach	County-wide Food Drive
Local Hospital	Blood Drive
Individual Disabled Adult	Home repair

Truman State University
(as reported by Eugenia Siegel)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Service</u>
Manor Care	The Challenge Team was asked to do heavy spring cleaning at the nursing home in the morning, and to work with the residents, including the Alzheimer’s patients, in the afternoon. They purchased board games and packs of cards to donate to Manor Care.
Adair County Humane Society	The Challenge Team was asked to build a fence around the outdoor dog pavilion to keep out the snow, wind and rain. The fence was not to exceed four feet in height. This group had most of their supplies donated by The Home Depot in Kirksville, and the store even sent one of their employees with them to help with construction. The fence was completed just within the time limit.
Victim Support Services	The Challenge Team was sent to VSS to clean out the safe house five-car garage and provide extra storage in the garage space. Students worked with VSS employees to clear out the junk in that space, and two team members built a shelf/storage bin holder with lumber.
Foster Care	The Challenge Team had to make a healthy dinner for 10 families (around 70 people), package it, deliver it to the Foster Families meeting that afternoon, and provide family activities for the kids and their foster parents. Students bought food from Wal-Mart and HyVee, and also got donations (carry-out boxes and bread) from local restaurants. They bought movie rental gift cards for the families with older children, and even provided a \$10 HyVee gift card for the foster infant in the bunch. This group used the largest amount of money, and received donations from businesses, individuals, and other challenge teams.
Salvation Army	The Challenge Team was to thoroughly clean the Salvation Army food pantry, organize that space and help them restock from their unpacked truck delivery. This group went to the local Aldi and purchased foods that the SA was running low on to round out the food pantry’s stock. In the afternoon, they worked with patients at the Twin Pines Adult Care Center.

University of Central Missouri
(as reported by Tiffany Bumpers)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Service</u>
Community Clothes Closet	clean and organize clothing store
Survival House	paint, clean and organize room
Habitat for Humanity <i>(2 groups volunteer at this location)</i>	built shelves, clean organize warehouse
Johnson County Sheltered Workshop (Thrift Store)	sorting clothing, clean store, organized seasonal products.
Johnson County Sheltered Workshop (Recycling)	sorted recyclables, cleaning building space, working with clientele.
Johnson County HELP	winterized homeless shelter
West-Central Independent Living Solutions	painting the interior of a client's home
Warrensburg Manor Care	visited with residents, for example; playing games, talking, painting nails, etc.
Salvation Army	cleaning store, sorting clothing, organizing store space
Veteran's Home	visiting with residents, serving lunch, playing games, etc.

University of Missouri – St. Louis

(as reported by Megan Hill)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Service</u>
City of O'Fallon	Volunteers made Valentine's Day cards that are distributed to the elderly and helped mulch in the city greenhouse
CASA	Volunteers split into groups and competed to see who could post the most flyers/advertise the most for CASA's two major spring fundraisers.
Mary Ryder Home	Volunteers painted a hallway, organized storage space, and did general cleaning.
Washington Elementary	Volunteers from an African American student group from a local Elementary School (Glenridge) joined forces with UMSL/community volunteers to renovate the library. A new reading space was added including new mats/rugs, comfy chairs, and a mural made by the Glendrige kids. The entire room was given a makeover with accent painting, reorganization, and posters that categorized books. Volunteers also labeled the 100+ books donated to the library and the kids were able to listen to UMSL's Chancellor George read one of those books.
St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center	This team had the mission of teaching and doing research with the residents about Dr. King. They were split up into groups that then created presentations to give to the large group at the end of the day. Students also helped make design plans for their library renovation.
St. Vincent's Home for Children	The volunteers planned an MLK Trivia day for the residents and had a joint birthday party for a child there and MLK.

University of Missouri – St. Louis - continued

<p>Shalom House</p>	<p>Volunteers here cleaned/organized the kitchen space and then spent time talking with the residents and providing them some valuable resources because of their social work experience.</p>
<p>Wayside Community Garden</p>	<p>Volunteers helped canvas the neighborhood to spread the word and circulate excitement about the community garden coming in the spring. They also helped in some of the planning/mapping out of the garden.</p>
<p>MLK Drive Clean-Up</p>	<p>Volunteers helped clean from North Grand to Skinker (approx. 3.5 miles)</p>
<p>St. Louis County Food Bank Bail Out</p>	<p>A group of young men from the Juvenile Detention Alternative program collected food from the UMSL neighborhood (over 300 items). The food went to a group of families whose Normandy apartment burned down during bad weather.</p>

Name: Eugenia Seigel

Campus: Truman State University

Host hours: 40 x \$20/hr = 800

Volunteer Staff Hours: 145 @ \$20/hr = 2,900

-Planning Committee

-Other Volunteers

BUDGET INFORMATION				
Please detail your use of MLK Challenge grant funds. Awarded amount should not exceed 30% of the total project budget, while total matching funds = 70%.				
Category	MLK Day Grant Funds Used	Matching Funds		Total
		Cash	In-Kind	
Sub/mini-grants	506.31			506.31
Salaries and Benefits of staff # hrs/ week x \$#/hr. x # weeks				
Volunteer Staff Time			3700	3700
Travel and Meetings				
Materials/Supplies		40	400	440
Contractual and Consultant Services				
Printing			100	100
Other (specify): Food			430	430
TOTALS	506.31	40	4630	5176.31

Name: Linda Platt

Campus: Cottey College

Host hours: 70 x \$20/hr = 1400

Volunteer Staff Hours: 250 @ \$20/hr = 5000

-Planning Committee

-Other Volunteers

BUDGET INFORMATION				
Please detail your use of MLK Challenge grant funds. Awarded amount should not exceed 30% of the total project budget, while total matching funds = 70%.				
Category	MLK Day Grant Funds Used	Matching Funds		Total
		Cash	In-Kind	
Sub/mini-grants	396.23			396.23
Salaries and Benefits of staff # hrs/ week x \$#/hr. x # weeks				
Volunteer Staff Time			6400	6400
Travel and Meetings				
Materials/Supplies	65			65
Contractual and Consultant Services				
Printing				
Other (specify): Radio PSA Time			61	61
TOTALS	461.23		6461	6922.23

Name: Tiffany Bumpers

Campus: University of Central Missouri

Host hours: 30 x \$20/hr = 600

Volunteer Staff Hours: 250 @ \$20/hr = 5000

-Planning Committee

-Other Volunteers

BUDGET INFORMATION				
Please detail your use of MLK Challenge grant funds. Awarded amount should not exceed 30% of the total project budget, while total matching funds = 70%.				
Category	MLK Day Grant Funds Used	Matching Funds		Total
		Cash	In-Kind	
Sub/mini-grants	599.22			599.22
Salaries and Benefits of staff # hrs/ week x \$#/hr. x # weeks				
Volunteer Staff Time			5600	5600
Travel and Meetings				
Materials/Supplies		76.26	40	116.26
Contractual and Consultant Services				
Printing			40	40
Other (specify):				
Food			400	400
T-Shirts			945	945
TOTALS	599.22	76.26	7025	7700.48

Name: Megan Hill

Campus: University of Missouri - St. Louis

Host hours: 75 x \$20/hr

Volunteer Staff Hours: 140 @ \$20/hr

-Planning Committee

-Other Volunteers

BUDGET INFORMATION				
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Category	MLK Day Grant Funds Used	Matching Funds		Total
		Cash	In-Kind	
Sub/mini-grants	591.62			591.62
Salaries and Benefits of staff # hrs/ week x \$#/hr. x # weeks				
Volunteer Staff Time			4300	4300
Travel and Meetings				
Materials/Supplies				
Contractual and Consultant Services				
Printing				
Other (specify):				
Food		85	250	335
T-Shirts		1163.75		1163.75
UMSL Theater Space			1640	1640
TOTALS	591.62	1248.75	6190	8030.37

Name: Jason Bolinger

Campus: Missouri State University

Host hours: 50 x \$20/hr

Volunteer Staff Hours: @ \$20/hr

-Planning Committee

-Other Volunteers

BUDGET INFORMATION				
Please detail your use of MLK Challenge grant funds. Awarded amount should not exceed 30% of the total project budget, while total matching funds = 70%.				
Category	MLK Day Grant Funds Used	Matching Funds		Total
		Cash	In-Kind	
Sub/mini-grants				
Salaries and Benefits of staff # hrs/ week x \$#/hr. x # weeks				
Volunteer Staff Time				
Travel and Meetings	246.14			246.14
Materials/Supplies				
Contractual and Consultant Services				
Printing				
Other (specify):				
Food				
T-Shirts				
UMSL Theater Space				
TOTALS	246.14			246.14