



AmeriCorps Climate R.E.A.D.Y.

March 2024 Newsletter

Happy April everyone! Time to look back on the exciting month of March we just had, filled with lots of time outside and celebrating the AmeriCorps program the week of March 10th!

AmeriCorps Week

Week of March 10th



March 11

Mental Health Monday

Some wellness activities our team likes to incorporate into our routines include mindfulness and meditation, physical exercise, spending time in nature, and creative endeavors. We are specifically learning together how to practice mindfulness by engaging in group guided meditations every Monday at the beginning of our day. We have found it to be incredibly relaxing so far!

March 12

Timeline Tuesday and Service Day

Today, members reflected on what inspired us to serve. We also participated in a service day teamed up with AMUS, where we cleaned up and boarded up a property. The house was located near the Gordy Howe Bridge, an area that the city is looking to revamp, and had suffered from serious fire damage and was no longer inhabitable. Our team and AMUS' team spent this day filling a combined total of 75 bags of yard waste and litter, in addition to an entire dumpster's worth of debris. We also boarded all the doors and lower windows on the home.



March 13

Wins Wednesday

Today we took note of our accomplishments as a group thus far, which were 43 rain barrels, 43 rain gardens, and 43 each of air purifier and dehumidifier installations by that point since our program's conception. We also joined AMUS and spent a few hours together exploring the city on a scavenger hunt. We were guided towards destinations including Hart Plaza, Heidelberg Street, The Belt, and the Motown Museum.

March 14

Day of the A

To close out our week, we went roller skating together after working on an intervention!



We are constantly looking to improve our methods and make our interventions more long lasting. One new improvement we've been working towards is finding a more efficient way to caulk over large gaps in the foundation (where caulk can become excessive). One solution we have found is to use backer rod, a solid yet flexible foam filler that we can stuff into the cracks and then add caulk on top of. When caulk is used on its own in gaps that are too large or too deep, the caulk will fall into the gap as it settles. This means that sometimes holes in the caulk will form, rendering the process of caulking unhelpful, as water can seep through the holes towards the foundation. By stuffing the crack, we help make the caulked seal more secure.

As warmer weather continues to approach, the team is in full swing on completing interventions. Since we are looking to get as many as our budget allows before the summer heat arrives, the team has been trying to do two days a week of intervention work instead of one, where each intervention day we are typically serving multiple households. This means we started interventions on seven new homes in the month of March, all while leafletting additional flyers and onboarding new residents into the program as well. We hope to keep up these numbers and more this coming month, and are vigorously scheduling walkthroughs to get as many priority residents served as possible.

