

Contact: Andrew Doba
adoba@dycd.nyc.gov
(212) 442-5979 or (347) 622-2914

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Doing Their Part for Woodside

*Young People and Area Residents Take Part in the 3rd Annual Summer of Service
Volunteer Initiative*

Woodside, Queens – Young people and area residents volunteered their time around Woodside today as a part of the City’s Summer of Service initiative. Summer of Service, which is organized by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and NYC Service, is a five week program that encourages young people to take an active role in their community. Youth volunteers in Woodside began aiding in the clean up of Woodside Memorial Park, Shoncke Park and the Steinman Triangle, in addition to painting over graffiti in the surrounding area. The service project, which is being administered by Woodside On-the-Move (WOTM), will engage over 200 young people and area residents over the next five weeks.

“Summer of Service is a program that taps into one of the most powerful sources of positive change in our City – our youth,” said **DYCD Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav**. “Often an entire community can get energized when our young people begin public service projects like cleaning up and clearing out different spots in their neighborhood. It sounds simple, but giving back is definitely contagious.”

“This year marks the third *Summer of Service* for our City’s youth, and the projects they have planned address the City’s most pressing issues, from improving public health to protecting the environment, so we know that their service will make a difference where it matters most,” said **NYC Chief Service Officer Diahann Billings-Burford**. “I applaud the young people who will serve their communities this summer and encourage them to make a lifelong commitment to giving back through service and volunteerism.”

Summer of Service is made possible by a generous grant from the Neuberger Berman Foundation. This summer, 16 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) will administer projects that will engage nearly 2,000 elementary, middle and high school youth volunteers and more than 1,300 area residents. Projects vary in scope from organizing a farmer’s market on Staten Island to training young people to promote health and wellness in Northern Manhattan.

“Neuberger Berman is thrilled to continue its role as the sponsor of Summer of Service, funding the creative, varied and important initiatives, such as this one, taking place across our city over the summer,” said **Elizabeth Rabii Cribbs, Treasurer of the Neuberger Berman Foundation**. We strongly believe in the value of community service and are so

proud to be able to support the efforts of the thousands of youth and community members engaged in these programs.”

“Community Service is a core competency that Woodside on the Move, Inc. values,” said **Rosa Reyes, Executive Director of Woodside On The Move**. “Positive youth development is essential for the growth of the youth in our communities. Our Summer of Service Project takes a holistic approach. Students hone their leadership, presentation, writing and social skills through participating in all aspect of the projects from planning the events through weekly meetings, shopping excursions, documentation of all activities, etc. Students learn about the value of giving back to their communities through volunteerism and civic activities. WOTM provides quality youth development opportunities through a variety of community related social and interactive activities which include offering services in graffiti removal, park and area clean-up, recycling programs, free community service events and volunteer opportunities at other senior service agencies.”

NYC Service was launched by Mayor Bloomberg in April 2009 to meet his State of the City pledge for New York City to lead the nation in answering President Obama’s national call to service. The program has three core goals: help more New Yorkers connect to service opportunities more easily, target volunteers to address the city’s greatest challenges and promote service as a core part of what it means to be a citizen of the greatest city in the world. NYC Service aims to drive volunteer resources to six impact areas where New York City’s needs are greatest: strengthening communities, helping neighbors in need, education, health, emergency preparedness and the environment. New Yorkers can find opportunities to serve their communities by visiting www.nyc.gov or by calling 311.

DYCD supports New York City’s afterschool and youth workforce development programs throughout the five boroughs. The agency also oversees funding for anti-poverty programs, such as adult literacy and immigrant services. For more information, please go to www.nyc.gov/dycd or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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