



**THE
MISSION
CONTINUES**



ROOTED IN SERVICE

2019 EARTH DAY NATIONAL SERVICE CAMPAIGN

IMPACT REPORT



WHO WE ARE

At The Mission Continues, we empower veterans to continue their service and empower communities with veteran talent, skills and preparedness to generate visible impact. We're investing in veterans, equipping them with the tools and resources to lead a growing veteran volunteer movement. Through networks, training, and pathways, veterans can continue to serve while creating meaningful impact in under-resourced communities.

WHY WE REPORT FOR DUTY ON EARTH DAY

The Mission Continues veterans and volunteers came together at more than 25 Earth Day projects in under-resourced communities across the country with targeted projects to maximize impact on conservation and clean up where it's most needed. Earth Day helps remind us that what we sow in our earth will take root. Each thing we do can help or hurt our home in many ways. We believe through veteran-led service and collective action in our local communities, we can take an important step to protect our future generation from living in a world beyond repair.

OUR IMPACT

33

Veteran-led service events

28

Cities made greener

3,394

Hours of service

652

Total volunteers

Our combined service totaled

\$83,798

worth of community impact*

*Based on Independent Sector estimate of the value of a volunteer hour at \$24.69/hour in 2018

TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY, OUR EFFORTS FOCUSED AROUND:

NATIONAL &
LOCAL PARKS



COMMUNITY
GREEN SPACES

EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES



URBAN
AGRICULTURE



ROOTED IN HARLEM, NY

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER: Mosaic Prep Academy

The New York 1st Service Platoon celebrated earth day by revitalizing underused space at Mosaic Prep Academy, an East Harlem school that serves as the platoon's operational partner. Nearly 75 veteran-led volunteers, including those from Goldman Sachs and Harry's, came together to enhance both the indoor and outdoor facilities of the academy and:

- Re-paint four classrooms and the school auditorium;
- Demolish dilapidated tables and benches on the school's back patio; and
- Build new raised garden beds, picnic tables, adirondack chairs, benches and install privacy fencing.

ROOTED IN ARLINGTON, TX

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER: Boys & Girls Club of Greater Tarrant County

Partnering with the Boys & Girls Club, the Arlington 1st Service Platoon is committed to increasing access and opportunities for recreation, fitness and learning for community organizations serving low-income families. In celebration of Earth Day, over 50 veteran-lead volunteers hosted a service project to teach local youth about community service. Together with volunteers from USAA, the team set out to create sustainable change for the club and community, and:

- Build picnic tables, planter beds, and garden boxes;
- Construct an outdoor reading loft; and
- Organize an indoor storage closet, paint the club's library, and more.



"This Earth Day service project means a lot to me because it will impact the school greatly. We used to host family events on our outdoor patio but we can't use the space in the way that we want to because of all the damaged furniture. Now that you all are building new benches, picnic tables, chairs, and garden beds we can host families on the back patio once again and teach our scholars about agriculture and farming. It's going to mean so much to our parents and scholars."

— DR. LISETTE CAESAR
PRINCIPAL, MOSAIC PREPARATORY ACADEMY

"It is always nice coming out on Earth Day for a Mission Continues project. We live on an awesome planet that we often take for granted, and Earth Day is our reminder to treat it better. Everyone doing a small project, like this, in their own neighborhood can add up to something with global impact."

— JOSHUA KAPUSTA
PLATOON MEMBER, DETROIT 2ND SERVICE PLATOON



ROOTED IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER: San Francisco Recreation & Parks

In honor of Earth Day, San Francisco 1st Service Platoon opted to lend a hand to the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department in the La Grande Community Gardens. The Department has a backlog of work needing to be done, and gardens tend to be lower on the priority list. Veteran-lead volunteers teamed up with community residents to grow their ability to be food independent, and:

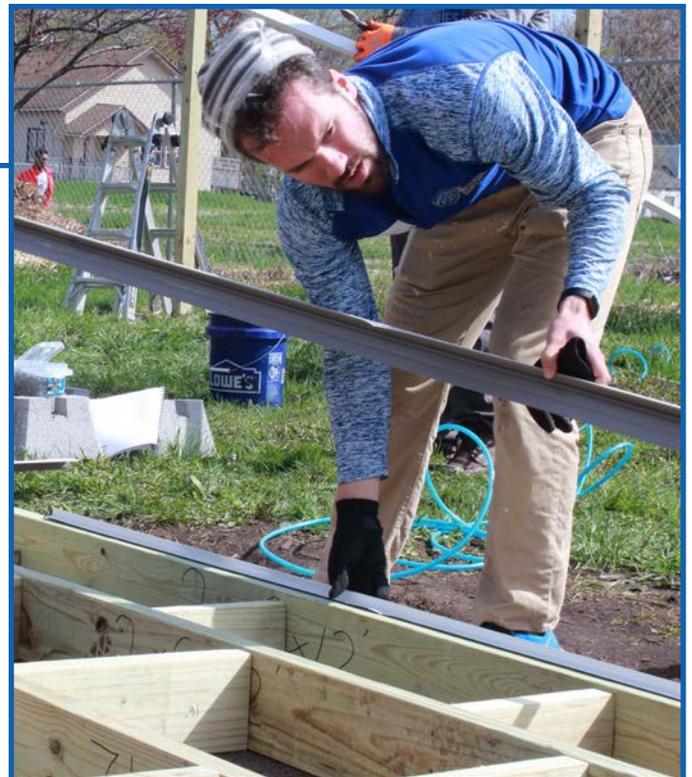
- Demolish outdated garden beds;
- Build four large new garden beds for the community; and
- Install protection around the beds to keep gophers from destroying crops.

ROOTED IN DETROIT, MI

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER: Motor City Blight Busters

The Detroit 2nd Service Platoon continued their work on "Operation Beyond The Blight," a long term goal of creating a sustainable Detroit through community service and the reclaiming of green space. Over 50 veteran-led volunteers celebrated Earth Day and came together in the Old Redford neighborhood to:

- Construct a new deck for a community resident and remove the blighted, broken deck previously attached to the house;
- Build picnic tables in public community space for residents to gather; and
- Weed, compost, and mulch community gardens and pathways, and construct a rainwater catchment system and shade structure.



ROOTED IN BALTIMORE, MD



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER: Harlem Park West Community Association

The Baltimore 1st Service Platoon mobilized over 80 volunteers to invest in a greener Baltimore and focused their efforts on the Harlem Park West neighborhood. The platoon also set out to lay the groundwork in Harlem Park West for the upcoming Mass Deployment, Operation Charm City Charge. Together with volunteers from CarMax, Starbucks, and Target, the veteran-lead volunteers committed to ongoing maintenance of the neighborhood, and to:

- Mow the lawn of the Community Walk Through Theater;
- Plant 100 annual and perennial plants and flowers, and build raised flower beds in the community garden and public spaces; and
- Mulch the public areas, as well as collect and remove over 100 bags of trash and weeds.

“Our Earth Day event was a great opportunity to engage with local community leaders. I was able to grasp a clear picture of what resources were limited in Harlem Park West and the vital role that The Mission Continues plays in filling those gaps. I also gained a better understanding of what residents are looking at as opportunities in the community, and how much they appreciate the presence and work that [the platoon] provides.”

— **TERRELL LEWIS,**
BALTIMORE 1ST SERVICE PLATOON

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS





REPORT FOR DUTY WITH US IN YOUR CITY:

Get involved by visiting www.missioncontinues.org/events

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