

News Release

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Orange County, Calif.

Thousands of Orange County Mormons Will Mobilize April 25 for Annual Community Day of Service

On April 25, thousands of volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) across Orange County will participate in the annual “Mormon Helping Hands” Community Day of Service planned for all of Southern California. The volunteers, who are among more than 50,000 church members in the county, will carry out service projects with non-LDS friends under the direction of leaders in 16 stakes (a stake is similar to a Catholic diocese, made up of about seven congregations).

“While our church members are always involved in community service, this is the first time that many of our congregations are concentrating their efforts on the same date,” said Curtis Reese, President of the San Clemente Stake and the ecclesiastical leader overseeing the participation of members in Orange County.

Here are some examples of projects planned in various communities; volunteers will be wearing bright yellow “Mormon Helping Hands” vests:

- **Anaheim** -- preparation activities for painting the homes of seniors who are either disabled or economically disadvantaged -- carried out in cooperation with “Paint Your Heart Out” (pyho.org). For more information: Mariellen Sereno - (714) 273-5400
- **Cypress** -- clean up of a local nature park. For more information: Bob Barker – (562) 547-6042
- **Fountain Valley** -- painting of 1,500 fire hydrants. For more information: Lee Wirthlin – (714) 330-7199
- **Fullerton** -- constructing a complete park in two days under the supervision of KaBOOM (Kaboom.org). For more information: Mike Emley – (714) 242-5330
- **Garden Grove** -- providing about 100 support staff for the annual M.S. jog-a-thon/walk-a-thon at U.C.I. campus. For more information: Kenneth Merrill - (714) 317-2726
- **Huntington Beach** -- packing boxes of food for Orange County Food Bank, clean up and beautification of Oak View neighborhood, assembly of “Sandy’s Joyful Blankets” for young cancer patients. For more information: Don Garrick - (714) 848-0860
- **Laguna Hills/Laguna Niguel/Aliso Viejo** -- painting and clean up for the Aliso Viejo Family Resource Center as well as Boys and Girls Club community center. For more information: Sara Havranek – (949) 466-6575
- **Orange** -- clean up of the Eisenhower Park. For more information: Jeff Dunn - (714) 926-5491
- **Santa Ana** -- clean up of beach areas in Newport Beach. For more information: Pablo Paniagua - (714) 599-2837
- **Tustin** - going door to door with Orange County Fire Authority reps to confirm whether residents have working smoke detectors, and helping to install replacements, if necessary. For more information: Shellie Frey – (714) 335-6044.
- **Rancho Santa Margarita** -- landscaping and clean up at two high schools. For more information: Ken Gibson - (949) 233-5826.

More About Mormon Helping Hands

The Mormon Helping Hands program was officially established by the church in 1998 to aid in both disaster relief and community projects. Since then, hundreds of thousands of volunteers have donated millions of hours of service to their communities. The program has spread to every corner of the world. Large-scale service projects have been completed from South America to North America, Europe, Australia, Asia and most recently Africa, where, in 2007, nearly 100,000 volunteers worked together in a continent-wide “Mormon Helping Hands” project to clean up their communities.