



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Office for Aging

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Broome County Joins Nationwide Effort to Recognize Impact of National Service

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Broome County Executive Jason Garnar joined local leaders across the country in a nationwide bipartisan initiative to highlight the impact of national service in tackling local problems. Today, Garnar joined volunteers, agency representatives and school leaders at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary in Binghamton.

“National service is a vital resource for Broome County,” said Garnar. “AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers make our counties better places to live. As County Executive, I am grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of these exceptional citizens, who are helping make Broome County stronger, safer, and healthier.”

Today in Binghamton, Garnar recognized more than 400 Senior Corps volunteers and AmeriCorps members in Broome County who dedicate their time through the Foster Grandparents Program (FGP), Senior Companion Program, RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) and AmeriCorps programs, providing vital support by mentoring children, improving access to health care, addressing the opioid epidemic, sustaining our parks, assisting with food security, supporting the independent living of those frail or elderly, and helping Broome be a stronger, safer, and healthier community.

“Over the past year, Foster Grandparents have devoted 50,000 hours of volunteer time to help 150 children succeed in 19 elementary schools, Head Start programs and day care centers across Broome County,” said Vince Fox, Program Manager for the Foster Grandparent Program. “Teachers have reported that special-needs children have shown gains in reading, math and social development because of the volunteer ‘grandparents’ love and encouragement.”

The Foster Grandparent Program is organized through the Broome County Office for Aging. Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School is a volunteer site with six Foster Grandparents serving in six classrooms, kindergarten through 4th grade.

National Service Recognition Day is a nationwide bipartisan effort to recognize the positive impact of national service, to thank those who serve, and to encourage more citizens to give back to their communities. This day is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and Cities of Service.

As the federal agency for service and volunteering, CNCS annually engages millions of Americans in service at more than 50,000 locations through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and other programs. National service participants address the most pressing challenges facing our counties and nation. From helping communities recover from natural disasters, fighting the

opioid epidemic, restoring parks, strengthening public safety, to tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged students, national service members get things done.

Across the nation, local leaders are participating in a variety of activities, including visiting national service programs, hosting roundtable discussions, issuing proclamations, and communicating the impact of national service through social media. By shining the spotlight on the impact of service and thanking those who serve, local officials hope to inspire more residents to get involved in their communities.

“National service shows the best of the American spirit – people turning toward problems instead of away, working together to find community solutions,” said Lisa Schuhle, Director of the Office for Aging, Broome County. “Today, as we thank national service members for their commitment, let us all pledge to do our part to strengthen our county through service and volunteering.”

For more information including background and a list of participating county officials and mayors, visit [NationalService.gov/RecognitionDay](https://www.NationalService.gov/RecognitionDay).

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