



# MRC ★ In Touch

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## Featured Article

### **Maui County Health Volunteers Contribute to Six Projects at the Martin Luther King Day of Service**

Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated that "life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" The Maui County (HI) Health Volunteers knew the answer to this question after they participated in the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

On January 19 and 21, 2013, nine Maui County Health volunteers contributed 28 hours to six projects hosted by local organizations. The leadership of Maui County Health Volunteers had been looking for ways to link their volunteers to hands-on community projects. As a direct result of networking with other volunteer groups, they were connected with the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

The volunteers participated in the following projects:

1. Built a Keiki (Children's) Garden at a Homeless Shelter
2. Renovated apartments for use by low income families at Habitat For Humanity's Day of Destruction
3. Created a new Community Garden at the University of Hawaii-Maui College with the Sustainable Living Institute of Maui
4. Repainted buildings and curbs and supervised students at Hale Makua Nursing Home
5. Made 350 healthy lunches with Haleakala Lions Club and Maui United Way for participants, judges, and presenters at a conference for Health Occupations Students of America
6. Cleaned up old Maui High School by landscaping, cleaning up litter, painting, and beautifying the future site of an environmental resource center.

The Maui County Health Volunteers note some major benefits of volunteering when no disaster is present. First, during "down time" when there is no disaster to respond to, volunteering is a good team-building activity for members since it provides them opportunities to get to know each other. Second, working outdoors is healthy unto itself because it involves physical activity. And third, community partnerships grow awareness about the MRC's purpose—especially if volunteers are wearing their MRC logo-wear. Hands-on volunteer projects are also connected to the Surgeon General's Priorities for public health, which guide non-

emergency MRC activities nationwide.

## **MRC/NACCHO Connections**

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### **MRC Volunteers Help Make the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit a Success!**

More than 120 MRC unit leaders received travel scholarships from NACCHO to attend the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta March 12—15. These attendees also volunteered for several hours throughout the Summit, assisting attendees throughout the registration process, sharing their expertise at the MRC Booth, and serving as room monitors for various sessions throughout the four days.

NACCHO would like to thank sincerely those MRC volunteers who helped make the 2013 Summit a success. The presence of so many MRC volunteers at the Preparedness Summit emphasizes the strength and influence of the MRC network throughout the country.

For those who were unable to attend the Preparedness Summit, [slides and recordings](#) from the Summit are available. We hope that many more MRC representatives will be able to join us for next year's Summit, April 1—4, 2014 in Atlanta!

## **Announcements**

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### **Don't Miss: The Myths and Misconceptions of the Human Behavioral Response to Disasters**

Paula Delaney, Unit Leader of the Monroe County (MO) MRC recommends the webinar, "[Myths and Misconceptions of the Human Behavioral Response to Disasters.](#)" Paula says that the webinar drew the attention of her MRC and that volunteers were buzzing about all they learned after watching it!

## **DCVMRC Outreach**

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### **DCVMRC "Out and About"**

DCVMRC recently exhibited with volunteers from Howard University MRC at the American Medical Students Association conference in Washington, D.C. on March 15–16. They also had a booth at the Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta on March 13–14. Both events allowed the DCVMRC to spread the word about the great work of the MRC to a larger audience and to meet potential new volunteers. Don't be

shy about hosting a booth at your local events to inform community members about your MRC unit!

### **Calling Physicians Assistants!**

The American Academy of Physician Assistants is very keen to find out more about PAs volunteering with the MRC. Please contact [Tracey.Smith@hhs.gov](mailto:Tracey.Smith@hhs.gov) at DCVMRC if you are a Physician Assistant MRC volunteer!

To submit information for either MRC: In Touch or MRC: In Focus, please contact Alyson Jordan at [ajordan@naccho.org](mailto:ajordan@naccho.org) or (202) 783-5528.



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