



## Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Community Service Projects 2019

Community service is an essential component of the Institute's year-long program. During the Institute's Summit and then in our weekly meetings, we read stories about people who gave back to their communities from the book, *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*.

We work together with our young people to decide what service projects they want to support or create in their communities. It's very important for them to look for opportunities to give back -- as a life-long lesson of service. We find that it's a great teaching tool - for them to learn to assess their communities, discover what organizations are already doing great work - and which organizations are most welcoming to our multicultural youth. Sometimes we join with other organizations, sometimes the youth create their own project. It's a discovery process.

This year we will have community service projects in the communities of **New Bedford, Newport and Ponce, Puerto Rico** as well as a global project with a school in **Guatemala**.

Last fall we organized a **Warm Clothing Drive for Border Wall refugees from Guatemala**. This was a meaningful project since Berta Paleaz is from there. Berta is a CCRI graduate and serves as a mentor/facilitator for our year long program. <http://www.riyli.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Community-Service-2018.pdf>

For **Dr. King Day of Service 2019** our youth joined with another organization to make sandwiches. <http://www.riyli.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/King-Service-Day-2019.pdf>

In 2018, we organized a **Food & Warm Clothing Drive for Hurricane Maria** environmental refugees from Puerto Rican who moved to Holyoke, MA. [http://shyli.co/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Sponsor thank you final-edited-2.pdf](http://shyli.co/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Sponsor%20thank%20you%20final-edited-2.pdf)

**In Hawaii**, our youth who attended a private school invited their more privileged classmates to join with them. Food Scarcity is the #1 issue facing their community. The private school students weren't aware of this issue. As a result, our youth leaders did their research, interviewed people who had received support and worked with us to produce a video to share their story. They wrote an article that we had published. The young leader of the group, then received a 4-year scholarship to Dartmouth College in NH - studying environmental science and communications.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkf4RE1w7GA>

**Article:** <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/SHYLI-Youth-Published-in-Today-s-Civil-Beat.html?soid=1106306587764&aid=4phekt91Gyk>

While we are pleased that high schools encourage/require students to take community service, it's so much more than that for us. Our goal during our year-round program is that we plant seeds for life-long lessons for listening to our communities and take action to improve them. We look for ways to build bridges with our multicultural youth and their communities with our service projects. We welcome the opportunity to plant seeds with many others to build bridges with the racial and economic divide and work towards a greater peace in the world. Our world will be a place we can be proud to pass onto our children and grandchildren.